

Frequently asked questions about the Corona virus 12 February

Last updated: 11 February 2020, 16.00

1. What exactly is going on?

The unfortunate outbreak of the coronavirus has affected many people. The Chinese government has taken measures to prevent the infection and spread of the coronavirus. For example, leaving or entering cities in the Hubei province by road, train or air is prohibited. Throughout mainland China, public life has virtually come to a standstill and strict travel restrictions apply. There is less and less public transport. There are also fewer and fewer (inter)national flights. TU Delft is keeping a close eye on developments, and we follow the [RIVM](#) and [WHO](#) guidelines.

2. Should I worry about contact with students or staff who have just returned from China?

You can find more information about the contagiousness of the virus on the [RIVM website](#). Students and staff returning from China are asked to report to their [faculty secretary](#) or director (support staff) by telephone or e-mail and to contact their family doctor (general practitioner) by telephone. We also ask them to stay at home during a period of 14 days after the last day they were in China and not to come to the university. We advise them to take appropriate hygiene measures to prevent contamination of people around them. In doing so, they are made aware of the fact that during those 14 days it is important to keep an eye on whether they start coughing become short of breath, have lung problems and/or a fever. If that is the case, they are advised to contact their general practitioner by telephone, as well as their supervisor or their faculty secretary or director, so that they are aware of the situation.

3. I just got back from China, what should I do?

Contact your [faculty secretary](#) or director (support staff) when you are back in the Netherlands. We advise you not to come to the university, but to stay at home for 14 days as a precaution. We also advise you to take appropriate hygiene measures to prevent contamination of people around you. Also take a look at the [advice](#) from the Ministry of Health Welfare and Sport (HWS) on isolation at home. In the 14 days at home, it is important to keep an eye on whether you start coughing, become short of breath, have lung problems and/or a fever. If that is the case, contact your general practitioner by telephone, as well as your supervisor or your faculty secretary or director, so that he or she is aware of your situation. If you don't experience health complaints, you can come to the university after that 14 days. Just like with a normal flu, the advice is to go home if you feel that you are getting sick. Solutions will be sought for those who are unable to comply with educational obligations as a result of the measures.

4. Can students and staff members continue their travel plans to China?

At the moment it is not recommended to travel to China. The booking of trips to China via TU Delft will be halted indefinitely pending developments. If you have planned a private trip to China, please keep an eye on this [travel advice site](#) (in Dutch).

5. What is the advice for students and staff who are currently staying in China?

TU Delft calls on everyone who is now in China to come back to the Netherlands if at all possible. If you are currently in China, please contact the embassy. The contact details can be found on [this website](#) (in Dutch). Also contact your [faculty secretary](#) or director so that he or she is aware of your situation.

6. What is TU Delft doing to help prevent the spread of viruses that cause respiratory infections?

Because a relatively large group of students and staff at TU Delft regularly travels to and from China, it was decided to take extra measures in addition to the national policy.

An additional measure is the registering of students and staff who have been in China from 1 December 2019. For this, a request was sent by e-mail to all students and staff members, to which many people responded quickly. This inventory is only used by TU Delft itself. Based on this list, TU Delft approaches students and staff who returned from China less than 14 weeks ago to provide them with extra information and possible extra support where necessary.

We advise students and staff to stay at home in the period of 14 days after the last day they were in China and not to come to the university. They are reminded that during this period it is important to keep an eye on whether they start coughing, become short of breath, have lung problems and/or a fever. If that is the case, they are advised to contact their general practitioner by telephone, as well as their supervisor or their [faculty secretary](#) or director, so that he or she is aware of the situation. We also advise to take appropriate hygiene measures to prevent infection of people around them. If they do not experience any complaints, they can simply come back to the university after 14 days.

TU Delft will also distribute posters to draw people's attention to the hygiene measures they can take. Contact surfaces are, as always, cleaned daily. There will also be temporary extra cleaning in many busy places, with extra attention to, for example, doorknobs and stair railings. Extra soap dispensers will be placed in central places (near restaurants, entrances, etc.).

7. What can I do to help prevent the spread of viruses that cause respiratory infections?

The most important measures you can take to prevent the spread of the coronavirus are simple:

- Wash your hands regularly with water and soap
- Cough and sneeze into your elbow, not into your hands
- Use disposable tissues and throw them away.

These measures apply to the prevention of all viruses that can cause flu and colds. It is therefore important to follow them at all times. Stay at home if you have symptoms such as coughing, shortness of breath, fever and/or lung complaints and contact your family doctor (general practitioner) by telephone.

Mouth masks/caps

Some people choose to wear masks over their mouths as a preventive measure to help reduce the chance of being infected by random viruses. You may have noticed students, colleagues or passers-by who have chosen to take this preventative measure. This is quite common in Asian countries. It is worth bearing in mind that, since it is a preventative measure, wearing a mask is not a sign of someone being ill but rather of a healthy person taking steps to remain so.

So let's all continue to take care of each other and our health.

8. Where can I go if I have a question?

Should you have any questions that are not answered above, please contact 015 278 9111. If you have a specific question related to your work or studies and the coronavirus, you can also contact your [faculty secretary](#) or director.