

Frequently asked questions about the Corona virus 25 February

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1. What exactly is going on?

The unfortunate outbreak of the coronavirus in and outside of China has affected many people. Several governments have 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. The Italian government has also taken various measures in Northern Italy. TU Delft is keeping a close eye on developments, and we follow the [RIVM](#) and [WHO](#) guidelines.

2. Which countries are affected by the widespread transmission of the virus?

The following countries/regions are currently experiencing widespread transmission of the virus:

- China (including Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan)
- Singapore
- Iran
- Some municipalities in Italy: Codogno and surroundings; Sesto Cremonese; Pizzighettone; Soresina; Sesto San Giovanni; Pieve Porto Morone (Province of Lombardy) and Vo' Euganeo; Mira (Province of Veneto).

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. 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 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 study advisor, so that they are aware of your situation. If you don't experience health issues, 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. I have just returned from Singapore, Iran or the above-mentioned specific municipalities in Northern Italy, what should I do?

If you have recently been to one of the other countries or regions mentioned above and you have a fever with respiratory problems (coughing or shortness of breath), please contact your family doctor (by telephone) and follow any medical advice; we urgently advise you to stay at home for 14 days in this situation. Report this to your supervisor or study advisor. If you have a specific question in relation to your work or study and the coronavirus, discuss it with your supervisor or study advisor.

5. Should I worry about contact with students or staff who have just returned from China or from any of the other above-mentioned countries?

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. This also applies to people with fever and respiratory complaints who have returned from Singapore, Iran or the above-mentioned specific municipalities in Northern Italy. 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. We urge all students and staff to observe the hygiene measures properly. Additional hand sanitizer and disinfection wipes are available throughout the campus.

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

At the moment we strongly advise students and staff not to travel to China. The booking of trips to China through TU Delft has been stopped for an indefinite period of time, pending developments. For current travel advice for other areas, please visit the [website](#) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (in Dutch); take this advice seriously.

7. I would like to study at TU Delft, but I have problems with the submission of documents. I would like to apply for the academic year 2020/2021 but I have problems to submit the necessary documents before 1 April 2020.

In order to be able to complete the admission procedures properly, it is unfortunately not possible to extend the deadline of 1 April. This means that if you are unable to submit the necessary documents before 1 April 2020, no admission procedure can be started.

8. 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](#). Also contact your [faculty secretary](#) or director so that he or she is aware of your situation.

9. 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 travel 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 email 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 have any symptoms, 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.).

As you know, coronavirus infections are also occurring in countries other than China.

The following countries/regions are currently experiencing widespread transmission of the virus:

- China (including Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan)
- Singapore
- Iran

- Some municipalities in Italy: Codogno and surroundings; Sesto Cremonese; Pizzighettone; Soresina; Sesto San Giovanni; Pieve Porto Morone (Province of Lombardy) and Vo' Euganeo; Mira (Province of Veneto).

People who have visited these countries and travel to TU Delft, and suffer from respiratory complaints (coughing or shortness of breath), have also been asked to contact their family doctor, supervisor and study advisor and to stay at home for 14 days.

10. 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 by telephone.

Face masks

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.

11. 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.