

Nagoya University COVID-19 measures

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During the national stay-at-home period imposed as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, in general, Nagoya University personnel who were engaged in activities other than those needed to maintain research activities were prohibited from coming to the university, and educational and research activities from April through July were severely curtailed. During this period, in response to the strong wishes of the current student body, we adopted a combination of face-to-face and online classes, and gradually these measures have been eased. The measures that have been adopted up to now for Nagoya University operations, educational activities and research activities are as follows.

1. University operations

As a rule, meetings at the university have been conducted online. Due to the lack of physical limitations, we think that these have gone even more smoothly than ordinary face-to-face meetings. Many people probably feel that their working hours have decreased as a result of conducting such meetings online.

2. Educational activities

Classes have been conducted mainly online using Zoom. To provide those attending online classroom lectures with the feeling that they are actually attending in-person classes, lecture notes containing blank spaces to be filled in were distributed in advance, and students attending the online class were asked questions and so on. Conversely, practical training classes needed to be conducted in person, so measures to prevent the "3 Cs" (Closed spaces, Crowded places, Close-contact settings) — namely, disinfecting hands and wearing masks and face shields — were put in place. The students seemed to be happy to see their classmates for the first time in a long while, and they seem to enjoy the classes.

3. Research activities

The progress of research that consisted primarily of experiments was in some cases delayed considerably, due to equipment needed for experiments not arriving on time, and difficulties in securing personnel and using shared university equipment. The easing of restrictions on research activities has meant that gradually it is becoming possible to conduct experiments again. At first it was not possible to conduct research that consisted primarily of analysis without coming to the university, but an analysis environment was put in place that allowed processes, checks and data acquisition to be done remotely, and as a result work efficiency has actually increased.

4. Advantages and disadvantages of online activities

The introduction of online activities has greatly reduced the number of outside trips, and this has enabled time to be used efficiently. On the other hand, meetings on separate topics were inserted into these new blocks of time, and so conversely the amount of time with nothing scheduled has disappeared. This seems to have reduced the time in which it is possible to think about matters at length. As this example shows, in many cases the introduction of online activities in response to the pandemic has produced both advantages

and disadvantages. In the post-coronavirus future, we should continue to use the expertise in online activities that we are now accumulating, in cases such as the following.

- Meetings held for discussion purposes should be conducted online to reduce travel time. However, some things would be difficult to do other than face-to-face, such as student guidance that requires communication and networking with new people.
- Research that consists primarily of analysis should be made more efficient by establishing an analysis environment that is time- and place-independent.
- An active effort should be made to hold public hearings and other open presentations online to enable participation by students who have graduated and are currently studying abroad. However, it would be difficult to hold online drinking parties with the participation of large numbers of people.



Establishment of analysis network environment



Online get-together