

Dear Professor Tien,

Thank you for your reply of February 7. Unfortunately, the Task Force has ignored our request for a meeting to discuss the safety and health concerns for our colleagues. To ease the worries from colleagues, we propose the followings:

To reduce the burden of the University to issue surgical masks,

1. the University should keep the work from home policy until teaching is resumed; and
2. the Task Force should clearly define the essential services and the staff involved in departments, as we have received complaints that this is not clearly defined by the Task Force.

To reduce the risk of returning staff being infected,

3. all returning staff must be provided with surgical masks on daily basis, which are formally recorded by departments (staff not provided with surgical masks due to shortage must work from home);
4. returning staff are mandatory to wear surgical masks at all times;
5. departments must keep records of returning staff their daily body temperatures when entering their offices, and the records are submitted to HR for records and monitoring;
6. staff with body temperatures over 37.5C must be sent home and continue self-monitoring;
7. all toilets must be sanitized twice daily (morning and afternoon); and
8. lift buttons should be sanitized at 2 hours interval from 8 am to 6 pm.

We would be grateful if these essential safety and health procedures could be implemented as soon as possible.

Felix Ng

Chairman of HKU Employees Union

S W Cheung

Chairman of the Academic Staff Association

c.c. All Staff

bethchan at 2020/2/7 07:57pm:

Message from the Chairman of the Task Force on Infectious Diseases in reply to your e-mail below

Dear Chairman of the HKU Employees Union and Chairman of the Academic Staff Association,

It is important for me to make it clear that the 50,000 surgical masks given recently to

senior citizens belonged to, and were given out by, the HKU-Shenzhen Hospital and not the University.

The Hospital, however, has at the same time provided 10,000 masks to the University for its staff and students. It is also helping the University to obtain new supplies.

The University is fully aware of the masks problem, and is making very hard efforts to source new supplies. We are hoping to receive some new supplies soon so that we can arrange for further rounds of distribution to departments for their staff members.

Regards,
Professor Norman Tien
Chairman, Task Force on Infectious Diseases

From: Felix Ng <kyng@hku.hk>
Sent: 07 February 2020 10:41
To: covstaff
Cc: hkueu; asahku; henrywai; Yvonne Ho; ekmhau
Subject: Re: Work Arrangements on Infectious Disease

Dear Chairman of the Task Force on Infectious Disease,

It is reported in the news that HKU has given out 50,000 surgical masks to senior citizens recently. Ironically, the unions have received numerous complaints from HKU staff about their supervisors forcing them to return to work even they have expressed extreme difficulties in getting surgical masks. The unions have written to the Task Force a few times requesting the University to provide surgical masks to colleagues returning to office as basic protection and also to reduce the possibility of getting infected by asymptomatic carriers. We, therefore, would like to request a meeting with the Task Force to discuss the safety and health concerns of staff. Your earliest reply is much appreciated.

Regards,
Felix Ng
Chairman of HKU Employees Union

William Cheung
Chairman of the Academic Staff Association

c.c. Registrar
Director, Human Resource Section
Director, Safety Office