

**Dear Young Colleagues,**

**The MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION** on the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

***THE SITUATION***

COVID-19 has also appeared in Hungary and two international students of Semmelweis University have been confirmed to be infected by the virus. The students are currently at the Department of Infectology of the South Pest Central hospital in isolation, they are in satisfactory condition and have mild symptoms.

***THE DISEASE***

- Based on international experiences, most of the patients have mild symptoms with only 20 percent requiring hospitalization. **Data show that the virus is less dangerous for the young adult population, which includes university students, than the flu and its mortality rate is close to zero.** The virus, similarly to the flu, spreads by droplet infection and can be dangerous mainly for the elderly and people with severe comorbidities.
- Semmelweis University is the flagship of Hungarian health care education and is the largest health care provider. Therefore, it is our duty to prepare the health care professionals trained at the university for this noble vocation and for the daily task of facing patients and diseases.
- Since the work of Ignác Semmelweis our daily practices have been based on patient safety, the prevention and treatment of infections. This is true in case of the coronavirus, as well as in case of the seasonal flu. The basis of the usual procedures is the introduction of a visit ban, the observance of the general rules of hygiene and the proper use of the individual protective garment.

I would like to ask you to do everything you can respecting the intellectual heritage of Ignác Semmelweis and your oath in order to prevent others and patients being treated at our institution from getting infected.

***PREVENTIVE STEPS***

In the light of the above, I would like to draw your attention to the following rules:

- Do not travel to a country that is affected by the spread of the infection and do not to receive visitors from those countries until the new coronavirus epidemic subsides.
- If you arrive from a country affected by the epidemic, we request that you voluntarily stay away from the university and study at home for 14 days after returning to Hungary. Please inform the Dean's Office in such a case, so that your absence can be confirmed. Follow the same procedure if you have got in close contact with someone who has been confirmed to be infected.
- If you develop acute respiratory symptoms during these 14 days, stay at home, call your GP or the emergency medical service in your area immediately and follow your doctor's instructions.
- If you develop acute respiratory symptoms and/or have a fever, but none of the above conditions apply to you, you are not suspected of having a coronavirus infection, but most likely have the flu.

In this case, we advise you to stay at home until the symptoms improve for the benefit of the patients and fellow students.

***ISSUES RELATED TO PATIENT CARE AND EDUCATION***

In order to provide seamless patient care and education I have implemented the following measures:

- Anyone, who is required to stay at home for 14 days due to epidemiological reasons, is provided with the conditions of e-learning and is exempted from attending theoretical lessons during this period. Later, there will be opportunities to make up for the missed practice lessons.
- The community and educational areas are constantly disinfected. These areas are closed down every day between 10 pm and 6 am for disinfection.

Please, regularly check upon the latest information regarding the virus on Semmelweis University's website [www.semmelweis.hu/koronavirus/en](http://www.semmelweis.hu/koronavirus/en) .

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