

March 11, 2020

Dear AUArts Community;

At AUArts the health and safety of our community is our number one priority. With the situation changing daily, we are currently dealing with many uncertainties regarding COVID-19. The World Health Organization today made the assessment that COVID-19 can be characterized as a pandemic. While Alberta Health Services currently rates the risk of exposure to COVID-19 in Alberta as low, our Crisis Management Team from multiple areas across the university is working together to coordinate effective action to limit the potential spread of COVID-19 and develop response plans and measures to keep our community safe and well. With presumptive and confirmed cases now appearing in Calgary, we are accelerating our planning and closely monitoring the situation.

IF YOU OR SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS ILL

If you or someone you've been in contact with has travelled outside of Canada, particularly to mainland China, Hong Kong, Iran, Japan, Singapore, South Korea or Italy, Alberta Health Services advises you to watch for symptoms like fever, cough or shortness of breath in yourself or family members, and call [Health Link 811](#) at the first sign of symptoms.

If you or a member of your family/household has been advised by Alberta Health/HealthLink to self-isolate and obtain COVID-19 testing, remain at home, do not come to campus and follow AHS [self-isolation guidelines](#) until you receive negative results and stop showing symptoms.

CLASSES

I confirm that the university remains open and operational, and the risk of being exposed to the virus currently remains low. Students are expected to attend classes according to their regular schedule unless we instruct otherwise. As part of our Crisis Management Team planning we are working with our academic team to put contingency plans in place to ensure that students are not disadvantaged by this unprecedented global situation.

TRAVEL ADVISORY

The Government of Canada has issued advisories to avoid all non-essential travel to affected areas due to the spread of COVID-19. Travel advisories are currently in place for China, Hong Kong, Iran, Japan, Singapore, South Korea and Italy. The most up-to-date information on travel advisories can be found [here](#).

- **Business Travel:** AUArts has suspended all university related business travel to areas with travel advisories.
- **Personal Travel:** We urge all travelers to carefully consider their intended destinations for personal trips and check restrictions or quarantine measures that may be recommended or required upon arrival or return. Personal international travel is strongly discouraged.
- **Cruises:** [The Public Health Agency of Canada](#) is recommending that Canadians avoid all cruise ship travel due to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak.

INCREASED CAMPUS CLEANING

Our custodial staff have increased campus cleaning and disinfection of frequently used areas and touched surfaces such as door handles and elevators across campus. Computing and Technical Services has implemented daily sanitization of shared computer stations across campus.

PUBLIC EVENTS

As of March 11, 2020 AUArts has not cancelled any planned events. We are currently working with government regarding group gatherings and will follow guidelines and instructions as this situation develops.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

We encourage you to take the following preventative measures:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your face, eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, and then immediately throw the tissue in the garbage and wash your hands.
- If you do not have a tissue, sneeze or cough into your sleeve or arm.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Avoid close contact with people who are ill.
- Stay home when you are ill.
- Visit the Alberta Health Services website for more information.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Please refer to the following list of information and support resources related to COVID-19:

- Up-to-date information for Albertans is available on the [AHS website](#).
- [Health Link 811](#) **Health Link 811 is experiencing a high volume of calls, so please be patient.*
- [Government of Alberta](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)

In closing, I want to thank you for everything each of you is doing during this challenging period. Many people are understandably anxious about COVID-19 and the unknowns that it poses. Our response to COVID-19 requires a whole community approach, and I appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this rapidly-evolving situation. We will update you immediately if the situation changes.

Sincerely,

Dr. Daniel Doz

President and CEO