March 16, 2020

Dear Partners,

As we enter a new week amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, all hands are on deck in a continued effort to offer our students the highest level of safety and support on the ground, so that they are able to achieve their academic goals here at the Hebrew University. Despite the global mood of uncertainty, stability and routine remain our focus, and we are thrilled to share that yesterday’s widespread launch of our online courses met with tremendous success. All RIS courses are being delivered at their regularly scheduled times, via Zoom, and student feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Additionally, all courses are being recorded and uploaded to Moodle, where students who have returned home can access them and continue their participation remotely.

In these unprecedented times, the value of our partnership is as evident as ever. We are tremendously appreciative of your reciprocal communication, the time and effort you have invested in openly and directly conveying your concerns, asking your questions, and updating us regarding your internal policies and decision-making. There is no doubt that we are mutually invested in the best interests of our students, and our continued collaboration is what ensures their ability to thrive despite the challenges they are facing—either through remote participation upon returning home, or through their continued participation on-site.

The situation is highly dynamic, each day bringing with it new directives, and as such our communication with students remains continuous. Yesterday morning we sent the following update to students detailing the revised directives of the Israeli government.

Dear Students,

We continue to closely monitor developments regarding the Coronavirus and to follow the instructions as issued by the Ministry of Health and the Government of Israel.

Pursuant to our previous email dated March 12th, we would like to update you regarding Israel’s most recent regulations effective today, March 15th:

1. In the event that individuals are required to leave their house, they must maintain a distance of at least 2 meters (6.5 feet) from others.
2. Gatherings of more than 10 people are prohibited.
3. All primary and secondary schools have been shut down starting today, regardless of the number of children per classroom. Similarly, all day care centers, special education frameworks, youth movements, and after-school programs are closed until further notice.
4. Aside from supermarkets and pharmacies, all malls will be closed.
5. Restaurants and hotel dining rooms will be closed — excluding those that offer takeout/deliveries — as well as bars, pubs, and dance clubs.
6. Gyms, pools, water and amusement parks, zoos, bathhouses and ritual baths for men, beauty and massage salons, event and conference venues, public boats and cable cars, and heritage sites will all be closed.

Detailed Ministry of Health restrictions can be found here, and you can follow our Facebook page for further information.

Please be reminded that the Office of the Student Life is here to help. We ask that you do not hesitate to contact the Student Life Staff for any assistance. In case of an emergency, call the Madrich on-call number: 0548820217.

Our student life staff is also available via email:

**Undergraduate Team:**
Leora Stilman (Social Coordinator) undergradlife@savion.huji.ac.il
Dan Ravitch danr@ravitron.com
Jessica Shammas jessica.shammas@mail.huji.ac.il
Chen Dahan chenda1266@gmail.com

**Graduate Social Coordinator:**
Eli Benjamin Israel gradlife@savion.huji.ac.il

**Support for International Research Students:**
Gal Lombrozo phdlife@savion.huji.ac.il

**Mechina Team:**
Galya Globerman (Social Coordinator) mechinalife@savion.huji.ac.il
Adi Lahat didouche92@gmail.com
Sandra Rumyantseva sandra.rumyantseva@mail.huji.ac.il
Duha Obeid Obeid.duha@gmail.com

**Sadarah Team:**
Duaa hirbawi sadarahlife@savion.huji.ac.il
Arkan Ameirh sadarahlife@savion.huji.ac.il

**Hebrew External Students Coordinator:**
Dan Ravitch hebrewlife@savion.huji.ac.il
We thank you for your cooperation and your patience as we navigate this dynamic situation. We understand that this may be a difficult situation and we’d like to remind you once again that you are welcome to reach out to us any time.

Moreover, an update was sent out to students this morning informing them that, in accordance with the most recent directives from Israel’s Ministry of Health, all campus libraries are now closed. The update included instructions for remote access to online books and journals, reading lists, etc. While Rothberg’s library is closed until further notice, our staff is available to answer phone calls and emails from students in need of technical support.

As always, we will continue to communicate further updates, and we welcome you to reach out in the interim with any questions you may have.

Most Sincerely,

Prof. Noam Shoval, Provost

Ms. Yafit Sherer, Vice Provost