January 7, 2021

Dear Students,

Following a serious surge in coronavirus cases in Israel, as well as the appearance of a particularly contagious strain of the virus within our borders, the government has announced a 2 week-long ‘full lockdown’ in addition to regulations already set in place. The full lockdown will begin the night between Thursday and Friday, January 8th at midnight, and will last for at least 2 weeks. During this time, authorities have signaled that coronavirus-related restrictions will be heavily enforced with increased police presence.

**THE LOCKDOWN INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING RESTRICTIONS:**

1. Entering another person’s home, except for immediate family members, is forbidden.
2. Movement is restricted to 1 kilometer (0.60 miles) from home, with exceptions for receiving medical care, demonstrating, legal proceedings, individual exercise, transferring a minor between separated parents, departure/return from a setting that is permitted, such as a wedding/funeral, essential work, etc.
3. All retail establishments, non-health-related cosmetic services (including hairdressers), zoos, parks, national parks, drive-in movies, and hostels/hotels/B&B’s will be closed.
4. Public bus transportation is limited to 50 percent capacity.
5. Workplaces that do not deal with customers face-to-face are limited to 50% capacity.
6. Restaurants are allowed to operate deliveries, but takeaway orders are banned.
7. Gatherings are restricted to 10 people outdoors and 5 indoors, with the exception of weddings, funerals, and brit milah ceremonies, which allow up to 20 people outdoors and 10 people indoors.
8. The education system will be closed, with the exception of boarding schools, special education programs, and some institutions for at-risk youth.

Our number one priority is our students’ physical and mental well-being. As always, the Office of Student Life is available 24/7 to answer any questions or concerns. Our email for general inquiries: madrichimlife@savion.huji.ac.il and our Emergency phone is 054-8820217. We recommend you stay up to date through our social media channel, where we post regular updates with relevant information. We also recommend that all students follow the Ministry of Health’s English website, which regularly updates its coronavirus guidelines.

**COVID-19 INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL UPDATE 05/01 - ENTRY INTO ISRAEL**

Entry Permits and Updated Directive for New and Returning International Students:
Due to the increase of Covid-19 cases and the resulting lockdown, we would like to advise you that the Israeli Government has issued an updated directive on travel regulations.

1. **Entry permits are not currently being issues for new students until 18/1/2021.** As a result, new students cannot currently enter the country.
2. **Returning** students with A2 visas who left Israel **less than 30 days ago** are permitted to enter the country with a valid entry permit.

All students and post-doctoral fellows (with the exception of Faculty of Agriculture students should contact, Ms. Mahyan Gon – mahyang@savion.huji.ac.il and Rothberg International School (RIS) students should contact Ms. Linda Lipstein - lindal@savion.huji.ac.il) who left the country less than 30 days ago and wish to return during this period are requested to complete the following form ASAP, if you have not already done so, in order for us to support you with your return preparations. If you have already filled out the form, no need to do it again.

Please note:

1. **Entry into Israel will only be permitted with a special entry permit (in addition to your visa) provided to new students by your Embassy/Consulate.**

   The International Office is here to assist returning students with requesting entry permits on your behalf directly to the Immigration Authorities.

2. Travelers from the UK, Denmark and South Africa are not currently permitted to enter Israel.
3. All students and post-doctoral fellows arriving from all countries will be required to self-quarantine as per the Ministry of Health Regulations in the university quarantine facilities (self-funded), with the exception of married students and married post-doctoral fellows who can self-quarantine in their own homes.

   The Rothberg International School will assist with reservations for your self-quarantine accommodation, food provisions, taxi transportation, as in the past. You will receive a link to proceed to payment online prior to your arrival, unless covered by your supervisor.

4. Due to the dynamic situation, travel disruptions can be expected.

5. Students are requested to follow the updates issued by their local embassy/consulate, as well as university announcements.

We will continue to monitor the situation and will keep you informed.

We wish you all a safe, healthy weekend!
Sincerely,

Office of Student Life

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