



University for Peace



Communication on Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response #9 Wednesday 29 April 2020

**Dear University for Peace Community, Students, Faculty and Staff,
Esteemed Partners and Donors,**

Since the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic by the World Health Organisation on 11 March 2020, the University for Peace has been closely monitoring the evolution of the outbreak on a global scale, and has made all attempts to maintain its focus on the safety of our community through a series of measures in line with both WHO and local guidelines.

The Costa Rican authorities have maintained the country's **Yellow Alert** status, with travel restrictions in place through mid-May and school and university closings for the foreseeable future. Although there has been a softening of some of the current quarantine guidelines, as is the case in other countries that have managed to "flatten the curve", restrictions for the educational sector are likely to continue for some time.

Given the importance of providing both prospective students and existing partners and donors with some clarity, the University for Peace would like to inform you of the latest decisions taken at the managerial level.

I. REGARDING THE OFFICIAL START DATE OF THE 2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

- a) The academic year, originally scheduled to begin on 20 August 2020, will commence on **1 October 2020**. All academic programmes and classes conducted on the main campus of the University for Peace – located in Costa Rica – will resume on this date. We will ensure that the courses that would have been offered during the months of August and September be covered over the course of the academic year.
- b) Orientation for the 2020-2021 Academic Year will take place on **1-2 October 2020**.
- c) Regular classes will begin on **5 October 2020**.
- d) The first semester will run until **18 December 2020**.
- e) The second semester will resume on **11 January 2021**.
- f) Commencement 2021 will be held on **16 June 2021**.

We do not, at this time, foresee any further modifications in these dates. Updates will, however, be provided, should they become necessary.



II. OPERATION OF UPEACE CAMPUS BETWEEN 1-15 MAY 2020

With regards to the operation of the UPEACE campus given the aforementioned guidelines, we wish to indicate the following:

- a) **All face-to-face courses – which are mandatory for all students – continue to be delivered as scheduled through technological means**, in accordance with the established academic calendar.
- b) Between **1-11 May 2020**, we will continue to apply the **teleworking modality** in the following manner:
 - o Essential personnel: will work on campus Monday-Thursday from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 - o Non-essential personnel: will work under the teleworking modality
- c) **As reported last week, as of 13 April and until further notice, the University for Peace will remain closed on Fridays**, due to reduced working hours.
- d) We request that students who wish to visit campus between Monday and Thursday notify us at least 24 hours in advance, in order to confirm the availability of transportation in accordance with the social distancing measures that we must observe.
- e) Transportation service will continue to be provided twice daily, once in each direction.

III. NEW OFFICIAL GUIDELINES FROM THE COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT FOR 1-15 MAY 2020

Given the declining number of new cases of COVID-19, and the fact that it has determined that there is currently no local community transmission, the Government of Costa Rica has announced the following measures for 1-15 May 2020. These measures are **temporary** and their permanence is dependent on the populations' response and the corresponding behaviour of the COVID-19 curve:

- a) The following businesses will be allowed to operate **Monday to Friday between 05:00 and 19:00**:
 - Cinemas and theatres, with a required minimum of 2 meters between each seated person and between clients and the box office (electronic purchase highly recommended).
 - Establishments for the practice or training of non-contact sports, with a reduction of their normal maximum occupancy capacity to twenty-five percent (25%).
 - Gyms with a reduction of their maximum normal occupancy capacity to twenty-five percent (25%), with a differentiated schedule for people with risk factors.
 - Swimming schools, with a reduction of their maximum normal occupancy capacity to twenty-five percent (25%).



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- b) The following businesses will be allowed to operate **Saturday and Sunday between 05:00 and 19:00:**
- Beauty salons and barber shops, with a reduction of their maximum normal capacity to fifty percent (50%).
 - Retail sale of parts, pieces and accessories for motor vehicles and motorcycles, with a reduction of their maximum normal capacity to fifty percent (50%).
 - Public parking lots.
- c) A list of general guidelines was also released, stating that each place of human activity should:
- Constantly verify that the protocols are being applied in all its internal areas, with a focus on continuous improvement.
 - People with symptoms or signs of cold or flu are prohibited from attending work, study or meeting places.
 - Teleworking must be maintained where possible.
 - To have a protocol for action in the presence of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, so that timely attention can be given to it.
 - To have an internal communication mechanism to keep all officials, customers or members updated on any modification or update of internal or general measures.
- d) Travel restrictions remain in place until **15 May 2020**.

Stay safe, stay healthy, stay home.

UPEACE Coronavirus Task Force