

March 3, 2023

Ritsumeikan University

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As of March 31, 2023, Ritsumeikan University will suspend the use of the “Ritsumeikan University Action Guidelines in Response to the COVID-19 Outbreak (Business Continuity Plan) (hereinafter referred to as BCP).” In light of this, we would like to inform you of the University’s policy on the handling of extracurricular activities as follows.

After reviewing this information, executive members of each student group are requested to consider the group's response policy and activity policy, etc. Group members are also asked to take any appropriate actions after confirming the response policy and activity policy of their group.

For athletic clubs, the Office for Athletes and Sports Services will announce the response policy through Ath-Rits and the main business mailing list for group leaders, so please check the policies there.

1. The University’s BCP Levels

Suspension of Use of the BCP → From March 31, 2023

*Extracurricular activities up to the date of suspension must comply with the “Items to be Confirmed and Observed by Each Group Under BCP Level 1 and 2 of the COVID-19 Pandemic,” (June 20, 2022, Ritsumeikan University, Division of Student Affairs).

<https://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/file.jsp?id=542263>

2. Extracurricular Activities After March 31, 2023

The University has not set any specific requirements for each group to comply with regarding measures against COVID-19 when conducting activities. However, the threat of COVID-19 infections has not disappeared, so please be aware of the social situation and act autonomously as fitting of a student group affiliated with Ritsumeikan University. From the viewpoint of the health management of group members, please continue to take basic infection prevention measures such as ensuring effective ventilation and encouraging hand washing and other hand hygiene.

*The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has issued a notice stating that from March 13, 2023, the wearing of masks should be left to individual judgment, respecting the independent choice of the individual.

Therefore, individuals are asked to make their own decision regarding the wearing of masks.

Reference: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare: Policy on the wearing of masks from March 13, 2023 (Japanese only)

https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kansentaisaku_00001.html

3. Handling of Cases of COVID-19 Infection or Being a Close Contact

Until now, if you contracted COVID-19 or had been in close contact with a person who had COVID-19 you were required to report it to the Ritsumeikan Medical Service Center, but this practice will be discontinued as of March 31, 2023. However, please note that the “suspension of attendance” measure for students who have contracted COVID-19 will continue as a part of measures for “School Infectious Disease” after April 1, and accompanying procedures such as “notification of illness” will be announced separately on the Medical Service Center's website.

Ritsumeikan Medical Service Center Website: <https://en.ritsumei.ac.jp/health/>

4. Handling of Matters Requiring Notification to the Office of Student Affairs Even After the Suspension of the BCP

Even after the BCP has been suspended, activities involving overnight stays, such as training retreats and trips, must be reported to the Student Office and the Sports Reinforcement Office (as notification, not to ask for permission). Please contact the Student Office and the Office for Athletes and Sports Services on your campus for the relevant form.

Extracurricular Activities Handbook: <https://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/file.jsp?id=533631>

Reference: Even prior to AY 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic, each student group was required to submit this notification for safety management of student groups in case of the occurrence of a natural disaster like an earthquake and typhoon.

5. Other Matters

Going forward, if there is a special request from the Japanese government or local authorities, or if the University resumes use of the BCP, we may again require infectious disease prevention measures to be conducted during extracurricular activities. In such a case, students will be notified promptly via manaba+R.