

Dear Students,

Dear Teachers,

For weeks we have been listening to and reading news of the virus disease spreading from Wuhan to other parts of the world. The Institute for East Asian Studies at the University of Vienna - especially Sinology - is something of a contact zone between China and Austria. We therefore ask you to pay increased attention in connection with trips from China that you or your friends and family members may have undertaken in recent weeks. At the same time, it has become necessary to be cautious about other trips including to European countries and to pay increased attention for possible symptoms of illness. In case of doubt, contact the appropriate specialists at 1450. You will find current information under:

- <https://www.univie.ac.at/ueber-uns/weitere-informationen/Coronavirus/>

- <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/reise-aufenthalt/reisewarnungen/>

- <https://www.ages.at/themen/krankheitserreger/coronavirus/>

If you are concerned that you might contaminate others at the institute, we would advise you not to attend the courses and any examinations that may take place. If due to previous illnesses or family situation you feel that your participation in the courses might be of high risk, please register for the courses you have chosen and inform the responsible teaching personnel for the course that you cannot be present at the moment. Since you normally have the right to be absent three times for courses with continuous assessment, please use this rule to avoid attending classes for the time being. Within the next three weeks it will probably become clearer whether the virus continues to spread in Austria and what measures will be taken by the university management.

Teachers are also strongly advised to cancel classes or look for replacements by colleagues if they are concerned about contaminating others at the institute or if they have concerns about a high risk of being infected by others. Monitor your health and contact the appropriate specialists via 1450 if you have reason to believe that you have been infected by the virus. In the meantime, use the possibility of the home office. If you have reasons to believe that your risk of infection is particularly high, please let us know. We will then clarify with the human resource department how to proceed in such a case.

Please also inform the institute management immediately if, according to your observations, there is an unusual accumulation of cases of illness in your environment and especially at the institute.

We thank you for your support!

Kind regards,

Christian Göbel and Susanne Weigelin-Schwiedrzik