August 17th, 2021

Subject: Update regarding Corona guidelines, starting tomorrow, Wednesday, August 18th, 2021

Dear Faculty Members and Administrative Staff,

We write this letter as we all prepare for the upcoming academic year, still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope that you and your families are in good health. We would like to update you regarding a number of COVID-19 guidelines that will apply starting from tomorrow, Wednesday, August 18th, 2021.

1. In an attempt to stem the continued spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Ministry of Health has updated a number of regulations that apply to higher education institutions.

The following are the University guidelines starting from **tomorrow, Wednesday 18/8/2021**, until the beginning of the academic year, unless the University publishes an update earlier:

**Entry of University staff to campus does not require a Green Pass** – only vehicles with a University parking sticker or employees on foot who present a University staff card will be allowed entry at the gates. Employees on foot without a University staff card will only be able to enter campus upon presentation of a Green Pass, as in the case of students detailed below. Please note that it will not be possible to enter the University through the turnstiles, which will be locked.

**Student entry to the campus will be according to the Green Pass** - participation in classes, exams, practical training, laboratories, research laboratories and any other activity is permitted only to students with a Green Pass (vaccinated or recovering) or with a negative result on a recent COVID-19 test. Validity of the tests: PCR tests are valid for 72 hours. Rapid tests (Antigen) are valid for 24 hours. **Entry to the University will be allowed only upon presentation of a Green Pass certificate on the ‘Ramzor’ phone app or confirmation of a negative result in a recent COVID-19 test, together with presentation of an ID card to a guard at the University gate.** Please note that it will not be possible to enter the University through the turnstiles.

All activities will take place on campus as usual (including exams). Access to summer courses will be as it has been so far.
Masks must be worn throughout all lessons/activities. Care must be taken to maintain a distance of no less than two meters between staff members and students.

2. In the coming academic year, teaching will take place physically in classrooms and not remotely (subject to government directives), except for those classes that received prior approval for other formats. If Covid regulations are published restricting students from attending the University (e.g. limiting the number of students in classrooms), classes will be accessed through distance learning, through recorded and printed materials on the course website (Moodle) or through live broadcasts from the classroom.

We would like to encourage instructors to record their lectures, as for the most part these recordings are an additional tool for student support and success. Full instructions regarding the recordings will be sent separately, as was done at the beginning of this past year.

We would also like to emphasize a number of points: 1. Deletion of the recordings is up to the lecturers at any stage. 2. The recordings will be available to students registered in a specific course, according to the permissions given by the instructor; the University will not make any further use of the recordings. 3. Students will sign a statement on the course website undertaking not to photograph, copy, record or distribute any course materials. Any violation could result in disciplinary action.

In a separate letter to students, we will emphasize the importance of being and learning on campus.

We would also like to inform you that, in the event of a lockdown, all classes will be taught online through Zoom, except for courses that require physical attendance such as labs and practical training.

We would like to thank all the staff organizations and faculty members who have volunteered to help and to find solutions in order to make sure that all activities and teaching on campus will continue to take place in the best possible way.

We hope that this challenging time will soon be behind us.

Wishing you good health and a happy New Year,

Prof. Mark Shtaif
Rector

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Director General