

## **NSYSU Health Protocol Policy To Prevent Covid-19**

National Sun Yat-sen University, known as NSYSU, is one of the leading universities located in Kaohsiung City, Taiwan, with many students studying for undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral degrees. In addition to providing educational services for Taiwanese citizens, NSYSU also provides open opportunities for international students to continue their studies. Subsequently, NSYSU must swiftly implement various policies in accommodating and conveying information regarding various matters comprehensively, both for local and international students, one of which is applying health protocols in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic.

NSYSU is working as optimally as possible to implement various policies to tackle the spread of the Covid-19 virus in the campus environment. Since early 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared Covid-19 a pandemic on March 11, 2020 (WHO 2020). Responding to this situation, on April 7, 2020, NSYSU announced a health protocol policy to prevent the spread of Covid-19 (NSYSU 2020). At the beginning of the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, the following efforts were made by the NSYSU campus:

### 1. Implementing a "social distancing" based lecture system

The class implementation arrangements at NSYSU are as follows:

- 1) For the classes with more than 100 students, online lectures are applied or divided with fewer students and less than 100 people.
- 2) For classes with less than 100 students:
  - A. It is mandatory to wear a mask in class and must maintain a distance of 1.5 meters in the room, seating must be arranged according to the provisions, and students are not allowed to go back and forth in class
  - B. If the seating arrangement is impossible to cover a distance of 1.5 meters, then the face mask must be worn correctly. If the student does not wear a mask, the lecturer/instructor has the right to demand the student to leave the class and wear a mask first
  - C. For outdoor classes, the ideal distance applied is 1 meter as recommended by the Ministry of Education. If the distance arrangement is not possible, all students and instructors are required to wear masks.

## 2. Arrangement of entrances in all NSYSU buildings

Since April 10, 2020, the arrangements at the entrance have been toughened. All academics and students must present their NSYSU ID to access the room. Meanwhile, guests must show an identity card and fill out an identity book before entering the building. Here are some pictures of the situations in the entrance area of the building:

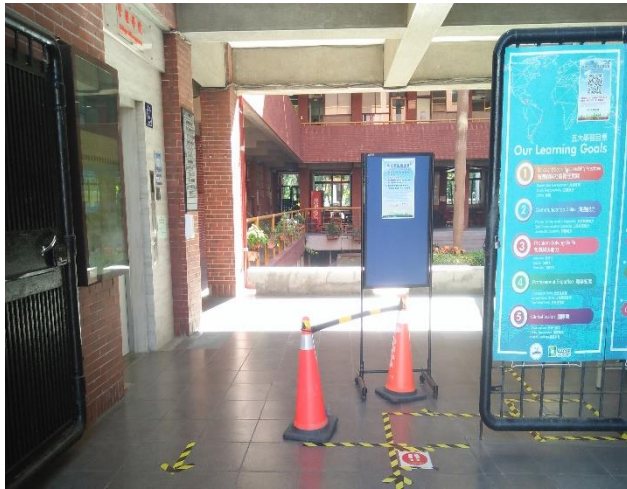


Figure 1: Single-door entry system



Figure 2: Identity check table



Figure 3: Announcement of Identity Cards



Figure 4: Warnings for wearing masks

In addition to the policies mentioned above, the NSYSU campus also applies a sticker system. This system aims to monitor further the entire academic community and outside parties

in accessing various building facilities within the NSYSU campus. The sticker will be given during the first identity and temperature checking and valid for one day. Therefore if a person wants to access other campus building facilities, the visitor or the academic community only needs to show the sticker that has been obtained without having to go through another identity and temperature checks. Sticker images and designs will change daily to avoid deception in replicating.



Figure 5: Announcement Regarding sticker

Figure 6: Example of NSYSU sticker

The sticker application system is quite unique for the academic community. In making this sticker system more attractive, the NSYSU campus also implements a sticker exchange program with prizes in the form of Apples, Chocolates, or other foods.



Figure 7: Apple Prize, Apple Tree, and International Student Enthusiasm



To further support the policy to prevent the spread of the virus, the campus provided alcohol and posters warning the use of masks and social distancing in almost every corner of the room. It always aims to remind building users of the importance of applying the precautionary principle.



Figure 8: Warning Poster



Figure 9: Alcohol liquid in numerous angles

On May 15-July 26, 2021, through the Taiwan Centers For Disease Control (CDC) official website, Taiwan imposed a level 3 alert due to a sharp increase in Covid-19 cases (CDC 2021), which prompted the NSYSU campus to tighten the implementation of its health protocols further. In collaboration with various departments on campus, the policy rules for preventing the spread of Covid-19 were disseminated through various media. One example of effective dissemination of information is via email. The Office of International Affairs (OIA) is the primary division to convey these policies for international students.

## Here is an example of an email from OIA:

### NSYSU COVID-19 Prevention Measures from May 16 to June 8, 2021 Inbox X

Degree OIA <oia\_degree@mail.nsysu.edu.tw>  
to \*

Dear students,  
Please take at the NSYSU COVID-19 Prevention Measures from May 16 to Jun 8.

Alert Level	Pre- Level 3
Enforcement Period	May 16-June 8
Classrooms and Teaching	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NSYSU COVID-19 Prevention Team has decided that May 17-18 is for instructors and students to prepare for distance learning, and May 19 through June 8 are to implement distance learning throughout the University.</li> <li>All classrooms and learning venues should be well ventilated and regularly disinfected.</li> <li>In classes: wear masks at all times, no eating or drinking, and keep seating record (manually or by taking photos).</li> <li>Physical Education (including swimming classes) is suspended until June 8; make-up classes will be provided when in-person class resumes. Swimming tests in May are canceled, while tests in June are tentatively to take place as scheduled.</li> </ol>
Offices	Wear masks at all times.
Meeting Rooms	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings with attendance by people from outside of campus: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendees from the Level 3 Alert zone need to join using online methods.</li> <li>Attendees from Level 2 Alert zones are advised to join using online methods. Alternate seating (1.5m social distancing) should be observed during meetings and dining if online participation is not adopted.</li> </ol> </li> <li>Visits from higher authorities: Alternate seating (1.5m social distancing) should be observed during meetings and dining.</li> </ol>

Outdoor Public Areas	Wear masks at all times throughout the campus.
Restaurants and Stores	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear masks at all times except for eating. Avoid talking.</li> <li>Diners are encouraged to use their own tableware.</li> <li>Do not move tables or remove partitions.</li> <li>You are encouraged to order take-out food; if you dine in, leave restaurants as soon as finishing dining.</li> </ol>
Other Venues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every building will have one single entrance. Entering buildings requires taking temperature, ID and wearing a mask. (Non-NSYSU members should present an ID and provide contact information.)</li> <li>The open area of the Si Wan College (10<sup>th</sup> floor of the Info-Library Building) adopts alternate seating and requires masks on at all times.</li> </ol>
On-Campus Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following activities are suspended: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student club activities</li> <li>Inter-city/county activities (graduation trips, field trips, workshops, camps, etc.)</li> <li>Varsity team training</li> <li>Sports activities, rehabilitation therapy, Co-tea time arranged by the University for faculty and staff</li> </ol> </li> <li>The commencement will be postponed and to be held outdoors.</li> <li>The Arts Festival will adopt live streaming for viewers. No audience is allowed to the performance hall.</li> </ol>
Mobility Across Different Alert Level Zones	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All NSYSU members should cancel or postpone all unnecessary business or personal travel to the north.</li> <li>Reduce unnecessary mobility between regions. Those who have returned home in the Level 3 Alert zone, please stay home and adopt work/study-from-home mode.</li> </ol>

Library	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closed to non-NSYSU members.</li> <li>From May 18, the 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> floors are closed to all.</li> <li>Areas open to NSYSU students: Learning Plaza and Study Hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor and computer labs on the B1 floor.</li> <li>Circulation service: from May 18, please go to the express desk on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.</li> </ol>
Gym and Sports/Fitness Facilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Varsity team training is suspended from May 17.</li> <li>Gymnasium is closed to non-NSYSU members or for individual use. From May 19, the gymnasium and swimming pools are closed to all.</li> <li>Fitness Centers are closed to all.</li> <li>Outdoor tennis courts are open to all. From May 17, except for playing in the court, mask mandate is imposed in all areas, including benches, toilets, locker rooms. Shower rooms are closed.</li> <li>Outdoor basketball courts: From May 17, all players should use his/her own ball, and no more than three players share one basketball hoop. The hoops will be sealed if found group playing.</li> <li>Outdoor volleyball courts: From May 17, the courts are open only for practicing tossing between two players. Group playing is prohibited; if found, the nets will be removed.</li> <li>Announcements will be posted on all outdoor courts.</li> <li>From May 17, no lighting will be provided in the evening in the outdoor courts.</li> </ol>
Student Center	All student club offices and venues are closed, and activities are suspended.
Campus Dorms	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public areas will be disinfected two times daily.</li> <li>Wear masks when outside dorm rooms.</li> <li>Hand sanitizers are provided on washbasins.</li> <li>Shower rooms will be in use alternately.</li> </ol>
Sun Yat-sen Hall	Closed

- Measures not included above should follow the regulations of the CECC and the Kaohsiung City Government.
- Timely adjustments will be made according to the development of the pandemic.

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Figure 10: OIA Email of Level 3 Adjustment

When the Taiwanese government started to lower the Covid-19 alert status from level 3 to level 2 on July 27, 2021, the OIA Division also became the main means for international students to obtain policy information updates from the campus. Via email, OIA also conveyed the adjustments to the NSYSU campus policy in responding to the level 2 alert, specifically with the following details:

NSYSU COVID-19 Prevention Measures-Epidemic Alert 2 (7/27~8/9)

Degree OIA  
to \*

Dear Students

Please take a look at the NSYSU COVID-19 Prevention Measures for Epidemic Alert 2 starting from today Jul 27 to Aug

Alert Level	Level 2
Enforced Period	7/27 - 8/9
<b>Venues</b>	<b>Measures</b>
Classrooms and Teaching	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow the principle of in-person learning for small classes and distance learning for large classes. Persons under home quarantine and enhanced self-health management shall not come to campus and attend classes. The class suspension will follow measures announced by the Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC) and the Ministry of Education (MOE).</li> <li>Fall semester of 2021/22 Academic Year has postponed the first day of class until September 23.</li> <li>Summer semester courses from July 12 to August 20 remain entirely in distance-learning mode.</li> <li>In-person learning scheduled before August 9 shall follow the regulation of a maximum of 50 persons for indoor venue and 2.25 m2 per person spacing regulation; prior approval by the university is required. Fall semester classes with 100+ students shall make plans for several classrooms to maintain social distancing or adopt distance learning.</li> <li>All education facilities should keep classrooms and learning venues well ventilated and regularly disinfected.</li> <li>In classes: wear masks at all times, no eating or drinking, and keep seating records (hardcopy or photo).</li> </ol>
Offices	Keep social distancing (1.5 meters indoor). If distancing is not possible, masks shall be worn at all times.
Meeting Rooms	Keep social distancing (1.5 meters indoor). If distancing is not possible, masks shall be worn at all times; no dining is allowed.
Campus Dorms	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public areas will be disinfected two times daily during weekdays (once daily during weekends), and liquid soap and soap bars are provided at all washbasins.</li> <li>Alternate shower stalls are open for use (to maintain social distance).</li> <li>Wear masks when in areas outside dorm rooms.</li> <li>Every dorm building is provided with a thermometer and alcohol for students in need. All dorms remain single entry access. However, students can submit an application to the dormitory center requesting opening extra entrances for moving purposes.</li> <li>Students can return on campus for move-in, move-out and change of dorms.</li> </ol>
Sun Yat-sen Hall	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open.</li> <li>For the audience: follow an assigned alternate seating, and the first row of seating should be at least 3 meters from the stage. Keep contact tracing records, temperature checks, and masks worn at all times.</li> <li>For performers and crew: wear masks at all times and follow all preventive measures.</li> </ol>
Outdoor Public Areas	Maintain social distancing (1.5 meters indoor and 1 meter outdoor); if not possible, wear masks at all times.
Restaurants, Stores, and shops	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>According to the decision made by the Kaohsiung City Government on July 24, in-door dining is permitted under certain guidelines. The Food &amp; beverage industry shall follow the Taiwan Food and Drug Administration checklist to keep track of employee's health conditions, preventive measures, sanitation records, and customer dining management. If the above-mentioned measures cannot be maintained, only take-outs are allowed.</li> <li>All operating hours are to adjust according to the latest preventive measure regulation.</li> </ol>
Other Venues	Every building will maintain one single entrance. Entering buildings requires temperature checks, wearing a mask, and contact-information-based measures (NSYSU members should present an ID and non-NSYSU members an ID and provide contact information.)

Library	<p>Venues will gradually open in two phases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closed to non-NSYSU members.</li> <li>From July 27 to July 30:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Temporary circulation service and reference consultation available on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor (rear entrance).</li> <li>Increase sanitation of the reading areas.</li> </ol> </li> <li>From August 2 to August 9:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading areas from the 3rd to 8th floors are open, and alternate seating of at least 1.5 meters apart will be observed.</li> <li>Study and discussion rooms are available for reservation. Discussion rooms are limited to a maximum of 5 persons.</li> <li>Entry access is limited to NSYSU-related personnel and persons with valid library cards (family, alumni, and friends).</li> <li>The following computer &amp; study rooms are temporarily closed: Computer room (B1), Learning Plaza and Study Hall (1F), Learning Common (3F).</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
Gymnasium and Sports/Fitness Facilities	<p>Masks are required at all times for indoor and outdoor venues. Keep contact tracing record, maintain social distancing, and no eating/drinking allowed (except for drinking water).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following venues remain closed: swimming pool and Fitness Center I (in the Gymnasium).</li> <li>Gymnasium and tennis courts are open; shower rooms are closed.</li> <li>Fitness Center II (near the stadium) is open by reservation; lockers and showers are closed.</li> <li>Track-and-field (including the horizontal bars), outdoor basketball courts, outdoor volleyball courts, and the baseball/softball field are open and limited to 50% of the persons allowed.</li> <li>Ocean Sports Center opens only to groups using water sports equipment only, and masks shall be worn at all times; no swimming is allowed.</li> <li>Open-water swimming activities of the Morning Swimming Club are suspended.</li> <li>Venues mentioned above will be closed when participants in activities are not able to wear masks at all times and maintain social distancing.</li> </ol>
Student Center	All student club offices and venues are closed, and activities are suspended.
On-Campus Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following activities are suspended: inter-city/county activities (i.e., graduation trips, field trips, workshops, camps, etc.), co-tea time gatherings, sports classes and rehabilitation therapy for faculty &amp; staff, art festival activities, group activities, competitions, and gatherings.</li> <li>All internships, including onboard a ship, are suspended.</li> <li>All student club activities, varsity team training, department student association activities, department sports team activities, department alliances, and non-registered student group activities are suspended.</li> <li>Varsity practices are allowed with fixed lists of members and shall be provided in advance. The maximum number allowed is 20 persons for indoor and 40 persons for outdoor venues. Coaches with no vaccination or have received vaccination less than 14 days shall provide negative test results regularly.</li> <li>No art festival activities are scheduled during the summer period.</li> </ol>
Cross city/county Mobility	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid any unnecessary business or personal trips.</li> <li>Avoid any cross city/county travel.</li> </ol>

Thank you.

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Figure 11: OIA Email of Level 2 Adjustment

The implementation of the Covid-19 prevention policy on the NSYSU campus is very effective and comprehensive because it has involved all departments and divisions in the campus environment. Information updates are also carried out promptly and in detail, not only for local students but also for international students. The NSYSU campus is also proactive in synergizing with local and central governments in determining appropriate policy implementation. The NSYSU campus also simultaneously campaigns to the entire academic community to always comply with the health protocols that have been set through posters, emails, websites, and social media. This makes the system and procedures for preventing the spread of Covid-19 in the campus environment worthy of being an example for other campuses and educational institutions. However, the most important of all is the individual awareness to comply with the health protocols that have been set. Hopefully, this Covid-19 pandemic passes; always maintain personal care and prioritize personal health, which is the main effort in ending this pandemic.

### **References**

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