



UNIVERSIDADE
CATOLICA
PORTUGUESA

REITORIA

Dear colleague,

Dear student,

It is with a heavy heart that I am writing to inform you of stricter health measures to be implemented at Católica in light of the worsening of the number of infections and the rising death toll in Portugal.

From the outset of the pandemic, our priority has been the safety of faculty, students and staff. We have implemented a Contingency Plan, accredited with the seals COVID-Safe and COVID-OUT and a Best Practices Manual was circulated amongst all community members to raise awareness and provide the guidelines for behaviour under this health emergency. Starting next week, rapid antigen tests will be available to members of the community deemed to have had justified risk contacts and who are still asymptomatic. Be advised that according to our contingency plan, if you have symptoms that may be possibly related to a COV-Sars 2 infection, you are banned from entering the university campus. In this situation, please call the SNS 24 hotline and wait for testing. While you await the results, or if you had what is considered a risk contact, you are required to self-isolate.

Within the next weeks, in-person examinations and the final assessment period of the first semester will be completed. What is planned for in-person examinations will continue as previously ordained.

Nonetheless and despite all the safety measures that we have and will continue to uphold, this is a watershed moment for the country. We are required to do all we can to stop the spreading of the infection. Recent epidemiological data shows a rise in more infectious streams of the virus and it is time to act to reduce the transmission.

Hence, upon consultation with the university bodies, I have decided to transfer classes at the start the second semester to an online model. This is a temporary suspension of in-person instruction, which will be in force until the end of the lockdown period.



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The university campi in Lisbon, Porto, Braga and Viseu will remain open and r&d activities will continue with labs working as previously planned.

I call upon you to rise up to the moment, acting responsibly, so together we may all overcome what for some of those affected by the virus will be the hardest combat of their lives. We are responsible for each other's safety. Together we shall survive or together succumb.

Lisbon, January 20, 2021

The Rector
Isabel Capelo Gil