

4 June 2020

Dear alumnus,

Warm greetings once again. I trust this email finds you, your family and your loved ones well, safe and in good spirits.

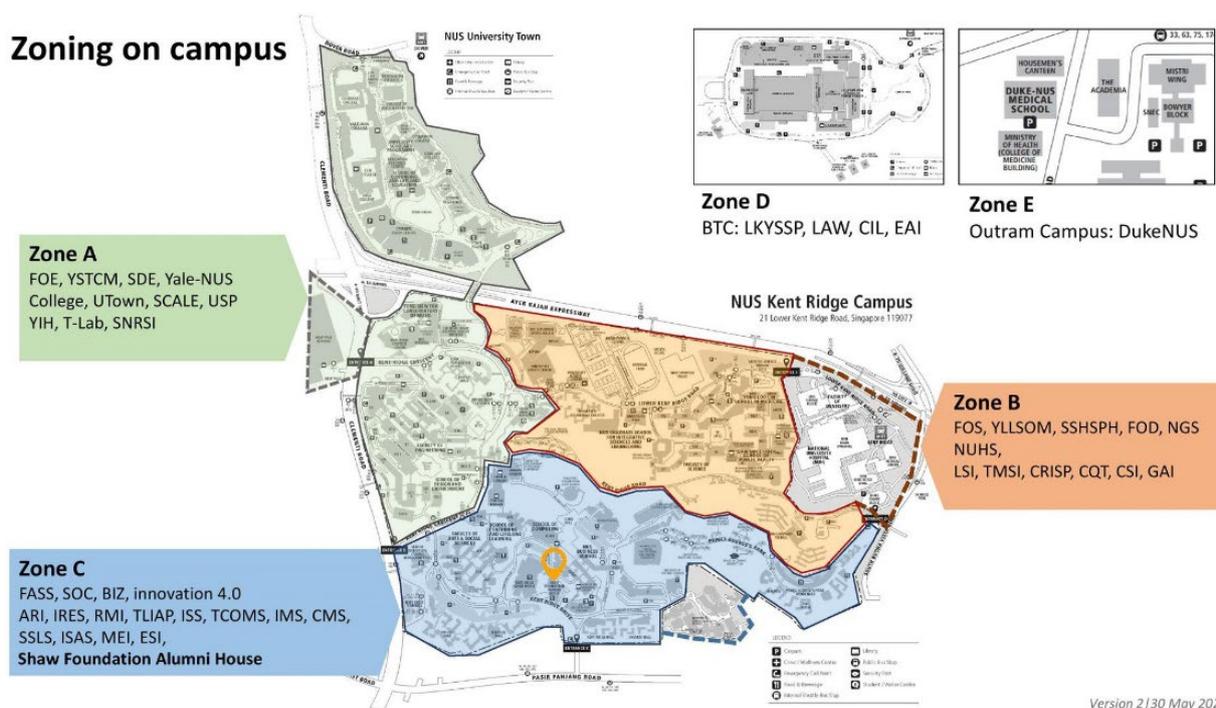
I am writing to share with you how NUS is resuming operations with the lifting of the Circuit Breaker. In line with Singapore's three-phased approach in re-opening, NUS has fully aligned itself with current national directives on measures to deal with the pandemic. Throughout this period, the safety and well-being of the NUS community remain our top priority. Our guiding principles are and remain:

- **Practising good personal hygiene and social habits:** Wearing of masks, and social distancing are mandated.
- **Learning and Working From Home:** Having students, administrative staff and particularly vulnerable staff, learn and work from home as much as possible.
- **Monitoring and Intervention:** Twice daily temperature taking and health declaration, and having students or staff stay home if a household member is sick with COVID-19 symptoms.
- **Adoption of Digital Technology:** Data-driven policy interventions will allow for measures to be adjusted to ensure effectiveness. App-driven mechanisms will facilitate contact tracing and isolation of infected persons and their close contacts.

Phase 1. As of Tuesday, 2 June 2020, we have transitioned to the safe resumption of some activities on campus. Shaw Foundation Alumni House continues to remain closed during this phase. Apart from Education and Research, Innovation and Enterprise continue to be key focuses of the University. Our colleagues who undertake lab-based research are divided into two groups that work according to prescribed non-overlapping shifts on a daily basis, while non-lab-based researchers continue to telecommute.

NUS has also been partitioned into 5 self-sufficient academic zones to minimise interactions and prevent cross infections. Students and staff are to remain in their zones at all times, and are required to wear masks and adhere to safe distancing measures when they are on campus. The diagram below shows how the 5 zones are organised.

Zoning on campus



Phase 2A. This phase will tentatively begin on 20 July 2020, if national infection rates remain low and stable. I look forward to welcoming our alumni back to Shaw Foundation Alumni House (Zone C) when this phase begins. We will keep you updated, and as always, should you need any assistance, please feel free to contact us at oarconnect@nus.edu.sg.

Phase 2B. This phase marks the start of the new academic year on 10 August 2020, when the number of students on campus will reach approximately 40,000. Students and staff will continue to abide by the zoning restrictions, with face-to-face interaction permitted for classes smaller than 50, while larger classes will do so online, through technology-enabled platforms.

Phase 3. We look forward to moving into Phase 3 when the new year comes around. In the "new normal", we will continue to have the necessary safety management measures in place to protect the NUS community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have responded to the 'Resilience and Growth' (R&G) Initiative, launched on 24 April 2020 to support our graduating class, and appeal once again to alumni who have the capacity to hire fresh graduates and/or trainees, to reach out to the NUS Centre for Future-ready Graduates at hire@nus.edu.sg.

In addition to the proactive precautions and measures taken against the current health threat to the NUS community, NUS faculty members and researchers have been working with the authorities to develop disease outbreak and intervention models; and contribute to COVID-19 investigations and vaccine development. From breakthrough work in test-kits, to additional protection for frontline staff, NUS's fight against the pandemic continues on multiple fronts. I invite you to read more about our research efforts at news.nus.edu.sg/highlights/latest-covid-19.

NUS is also housing non-university individuals recovering from COVID-19 at the Community Recovery Facility (CRF) at Prince George's Park Residences. To ensure the well-being of those involved in running it and of the NUS community, we have

implemented strict safety protocols at the CRF. NUS is committed to helping Singapore and the global community fight COVID-19, and I am sure that together, we can overcome this crisis.

I look forward to seeing all of you back on campus as soon as the situation allows. Meanwhile, please stay safe, healthy and strong, and let us continue to support one another so that together we can win this battle and return to normalcy as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

Mr Bernard Toh (Architecture '84)
Director, NUS Alumni Relations