

Information COVID -19 (24)

To all the IST Community,

Following:

1. Communication His Excellency the Prime Minister held today;
2. From the information of the Office of the Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education, sent this afternoon, which, recommends that:

“(…) within their management, pedagogical and scientific autonomy, the scientific and higher education institutions: Proceed to the adaptation of the activities that are in progress (teaching, non-teaching and research), including, when appropriate, student evaluation activities, to a non-presential regime, adopting all the necessary procedures for the mitigation of the risk of contagion of COVID-19 in accordance with the norms issued by the General Directorate of Health”;

3. From the meeting of the University Coordination Council of the University of Lisbon held this morning;
4. From the meeting of the Management Council of the Instituto Superior Técnico held today;
5. From the dispatch 15/2001 of the University of Lisbon, dated today, which recommends, namely, that “(…) All teaching activities, with the possible exception of clinical teaching, should now resort to distance learning models”;

Considering also the content of the communiqué COVID19 (23) that I sent yesterday to the whole faculty of the IST, in order to prepare the faculty of the school for the decisions that needed to be taken, and that were taken today, and where it was included: “Considering also the seriousness of the pandemic situation that our country is currently going through (...) I recommend that, whenever possible, evaluation methods should be used that ensure the quality, reliability and justice of the process, avoiding the need for physical

presence in the campuses, namely by using oral evaluations. ”;

I determine that:

From 00.00h on January 22nd, Friday, the Instituto Superior Técnico is in the red phase - total confinement - of the Prevention and Performance Plan COVID of IST, (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LnWLk8m63qpfjT9M_28IENALIBmXjPV4/view?usp=sharing).

Thus, the activation of the red phase, in the terms and with the fundamentals exposed above, determines that:

A. Academic Component

- A1.** The presential evaluation activities in progress tomorrow, January 22nd, Friday, will continue in case it has not been possible to find an alternative method of evaluation, namely with oral examinations, which make the physical presence on the campuses unnecessary. This decision is made, inter alia, for two ponderous reasons: (a) students and teachers will have already done all their preparation, and their cancellation would cause unequal opportunities and treatment, especially for students affected by the interruption; (b) the extensive testing program for IST students and teachers (with more than 4500 tests carried out so far) shows that, so far, the conditions of operation in face-to-face examination at IST are of high health safety, since, so far, no contagion has been detected in examination. The conditions of surveillance, hygiene security and monitoring of the dispersion of students after the exams will be reinforced.
- A2.** Students who do not feel able to take the exams this Friday, or who are prevented from going to IST, will have access to the appeal season and the special season.
- A3.** From next Monday, January 25, until the end of the normal exam season, the MCTES recommendation will become the method of evaluation by omission at the IST (“ (...) proceed to the adaptation of activities (...) including, when appropriate, evaluation activities (...), for non-presential regime”). Thus, the heads of curricular units should, during the day of tomorrow, prepare the face-to-face evaluations, which were scheduled for the 25th and following days, for non face-to-face evaluation models, namely by using oral, whenever justified.
- A4.** In case the faculty understands that there are no conditions to carry out the evaluation without the need to be present at the campuses, they must request, giving reasons, the performance of the face-to-face evaluation. This request should be made to the Pedagogical Council (PC), by the end of tomorrow January 22nd. After obtaining the opinion of the PC, in case it is positive, the Management Council will be asked for an opinion on the sanitary and safety conditions for the realization of the Exam. If this request is met, it will be subject to dispatch by the President of IST.
- A5.** Students who do not feel able to take the face-to-face exams during this period, or who are prevented from going to IST, will have access to the appeal season and the special season.
- A6.** All planned juries must be held by videoconference.

B. Research Component

- a)** All investigation activities that cannot be developed or carried out in a telework regime, and whose postponement causes serious damage to the work in progress, shall be carried out bearing in mind all the rules of IST’s COVID Prevention and Action Plan, in particular the provisions of item 9.4 of the referred plan.
- b)** The provisions of the preceding paragraph shall apply to research projects in progress and to research work within the scope of thesis development.
- c)** The respective travel authorizations shall be requested to the presidents of research centers.

C. Decisions applicable to Technical & Administrative Workers

- a.** From 00.00 on January 22, Friday, all technical and administrative workers of IST are placed on T-COVID schedule.
- b.** Without prejudice to the previous sub-paragraph, all necessary support shall be ensured to carry out the evaluations that, under the terms established in this communication, must be carried out in person,
- c.** Without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph a) above, all technical and administrative workers shall go to IST, only when, exceptionally, this has been requested by their hierarchical superior.
- d.** Whenever the presence at the IST proves necessary, the respective travel authorizations shall be made available online.

Rogério Colaço
President of IST

More information

Updates to the Técnico community about the Coronavirus.
This website is constantly updated

<https://tecnico.ulisboa.pt/coronavirus>

Contacts

For more informations about Coronavirus/COVID-19 at Técnico,
contact us by email.

COVID19_IST_informacoes@tecnico.ulisboa.pt