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Office of the Vice Chancellor

TO: Staff

Covid-19 – Friday 27 March 2020

National Developments...

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The University's Covid-19 Emergency Management Committee (CEMC) met this morning. This is the third meeting this week, and the main aim of the Committee is to make sure that the discussions in the Committee are followed by real actions. We discussed a number of key issues.

The first and most worrying issue facing the Committee is the fact that many of our resident students, and also some staff on campus are still not heeding the social distancing message. Groups of individuals on campus standing/sitting/walking much too close together are still a much too regular feature on campus. As it says in my daily message, ***please, please, please*** practise social distancing by keeping at least 1.5 metres between you other people AT ALL TIMES. This is equally true at home as well as at work.

The Committee discussed a number of other issues. These included a decision to control marketing activity at the Staff Accommodation area on campus and making it easier to contact the Clinic for advice and consultation (more information will be made available at the beginning of next week). A decision was taken to continue to serve meals for resident students at the Games Village Servery for the foreseeable future. Finding a less flooded location for the main ICT office was also made a priority.

As well as the serious business we had several good new stories. First, at CEMC today it was agreed that in recognition of the contribution being made by our *essential* staff, the usual office hours will be reduced to 9.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m. each day. In other news, we are currently negotiating to have the Canteen reopened for a limited number of hours each day and the work on increasing the wireless coverage is nearing completion.

Finally, please note that it is not my intention to post messages over the weekend, but I will resume my daily bulletins on Monday.

And the daily repeat of a very important message...Please make sure you...

- ...activate your UPNG email account if you have not already done so – this is the means by which the University will stay in touch with you.
- ...practise social distancing by keeping at least 1.5 metres between you other people.
- ...wash your hands as often as possible and use hand sanitiser when it is available.
- ... cough or sneeze into your bent elbow – not into your hands
- ...avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- ...try to avoid social gatherings and crowded place

The University is taking steps to make sure that Environmental Hygiene is practised to ensure the health and safety of those remaining on campus.

Best wishes for a blessed weekend.

Professor Frank Griffin
Vice Chancellor

