Universities postpone classes, hold virtual lessons

KUALA LUMPUR: Several public and private universities have postponed classes temporarily following the Covid-19 outbreak.

Classes at International Islamic University Malaysia's (IIUM) Gombak campus have been cancelled for 10 days beginning yesterday.

Rector Emeritus Professor Tan Sri Dzulkifli Abdul Razak yesterday said the university was taking "proactive and maximum precautionary measures" to minimise the risk of infection.

He said IIUM had been conducting health screening for new students, as well as returning students from China, since Jan 28.

He said activities involving students had been postponed.

Universiti Malaya (UM) says it would hold online classes from Monday to Feb 23 to minimise the risk of infection.

UM's Corporate Communications Department said every student from China would have to undergo a 14-day quarantine on campus.

"They have to undergo health screening every day."

At Universiti Putra Malaysia, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (academics and international) Professor Dr M. Iqbal Saripan said lecturers were allowed to conduct virtual learning or suspend classes for the first two weeks of the academic calendar beginning Feb 10.

He said international students from countries with Covid-19 cases had been advised not to attend classes for the first two weeks upon arrival.

"New students or those returning from overseas are required to undergo self-quarantine for two weeks. Any officer or student who shows symptoms of the virus will have to go for a check-up."

Taylor's University has implemented measures to ensure the safety of its employees and students at the Lakeside Campus.

Those who had travelled to, or had been in contact with anyone from China, Hong Kong and Macau within the last 14 days, had been advised to undergo a 14-day quarantine at home.

The university urged employees and students to maintain personal hygiene and seek treatment if they experienced any Covid-19 symptom.

It said it would monitor the situation although there were no positive cases reported on campus.

Classes are going on as usual at Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM).

UiTM said it would closely monitor the situation from time to time.

Students wearing face masks at International Islamic University Malaysia's Gombak campus yesterday. PIC BY MOHAMAD SHAHRIL BADRI SAALI