Dear University Citizens,

with regard to the fact that the turning-up of the newly detected coronavirus in Hungary was confirmed on 4th March 2020, the Epidemiological Operative Coordinating Body (in official Hungarian abbreviation: JOKT), authorised by the 3/2020 (II.28) Joint Directive of the Rector and the Chancellor of the University, orders as follows:

1. Students, teachers, and staff members who
   a. in the last 14 days have been to countries heavily affected by the public transmission of the disease (China, South Korea, Northern Italy, Iran) or
   b. have been in direct contact with people who had been to China, South Korea, Northern Italy or Iran within two weeks prior to the time of contact
   are obliged to stay in home quarantine for two weeks from today on (until 19 March 2020) (limiting contacts within the household within reasonable boundaries to the bare minimum, avoiding contact with the public) and stay away from University buildings and events. In case of point b), persons in question can be released from quarantine sooner if there is reliable information about the person they came in contact with being symptom-free even two weeks after leaving the affected area and the infection is not confirmed in their case.

2. We call the attention of students and professors who took part in courses held by the Institute of Biology and the Institute of Chemistry in the framework of the pharmacist training of Semmelweis University (SE) and so could have had direct contact with Iranian students of Semmelweis University, to stay away from University buildings and events for 14 days.

3. ELTE cancels the ELTE classes of Semmelweis University’s pharmacist training taught in English for indefinite period from today.

4. Students concerned according to points 1 or 2 and having accommodation in student residence halls are obliged to report this to the Head of the Dormitory immediately so the student can be suitably accommodated separately if necessary.

5. We call the attention of all staff members, teachers and students to pay attention to and follow the recommendations of the official website: https://www.nnk.gov.hu/index.php/lakossagita-jekoztatok/koronavirus/526-tudnivalok-roviden. (Further on: https://koronavirus.gov.hu). Especially those who are starting a home quarantine based on the points 1 or 2 should follow the advises of the website in which case (turning-up of the symptoms) they need to contact their local doctor (general practitioner).
6. We call the attention of all of our teachers, students and staff members also to warn each other to follow the rules above.

7. The student, teacher or staff member who starts a preventive voluntary quarantine at home, or has been taken into an official quarantine, must declare the reason and the timeframe of their absence and – if there is such – the negative result of their virus-test.

8. We state that the University will justify the absence based on the reasons above if it is supported by a single, previously submitted electronic notification by the sender. (Medical certificate, etc. is not necessary.) To submit the notification, staff members can use their superior’s email address and students can send an email to the lecturer of their course.

9. The replacement of the cancelled educational activities (lectures and seminars) and students’ reporting obligations will be dealt later taking into consideration the trends and timeframe of the disease.

10. We request the Professor Emeritus colleagues of the university and those to whom because of their age or medical condition the new coronavirus implies more serious risk, to stay away from public events, therefore from university life and teaching as well.

11. If a student decides to stay away from the university based on the above points (either voluntarily or on an obligatory basis), the absence must not be counted as part of the amount of allowed absence according to the Academic Regulations for Students (HKR in abbreviation) 66. § (1) point c), i.e. to the amount of more than one third of all classes. According to the HKR 66. § (1) point b), the teacher in their own jurisdiction can order additional tasks to the student, if their absence is between one fourth and one third of all classes.

12. The colleague who asks for the possibility of remote work and their scope of activities and medical condition otherwise let them do their work remotely, their immediate superior is obliged to order it.

13. We inform our teachers, researchers and staff members who, concerning the new coronavirus, decide to voluntarily quarantine themselves that the absence on the affected working days are justified, therefore there will not be any reductions in the monthly salary. Those who are quarantined by the national health care system, will get sick pay for the period spent in quarantine.

14. Hereby we express that ELTE remains committed to being an active member of the international research scene, unceasingly taking part in the work of international organizations, actively participating in international scholarship activities, and firmly believes in international mobility, but in the name of social responsibility, the university asks their citizens to reconsider their coming international trips, in this way supporting the global efforts against the virus. To this end, we also draw the attention to the actual risk, that the carefully planned journeys can be cancelled right before the trip, if the next outbreak occurs at the destination (or in Hungary). Typically, the expenses of the pre-booked journeys are not refundable, the costs of the cancelled
events cannot be accounted in tenders and projects. We advise university citizens to take these points into account when considering which journeys are worth the risk.

15. We remind the university citizens to comply with the sanitary measures, including the avoidance of the community when sick. Furthermore, we call everyone to pay attention as responsible university citizens to the news and information, and remain moderate towards the increased social sensibility which accompanies the spread of the new coronavirus.

16. Again, we call all our teachers, students and staff members to send their suggestions, remarks and questions regarding the affection of the new coronavirus on university life to the jokt@elte.hu e-mail address.

5th March 2020, Budapest

Epidemiological Operative Coordinating Body