



October 4, 2020

Start of the Winter Semester 2020-21

Dear Technion Community,
Once again, we are facing an escalation of the COVID-9 situation. Due to the growth in the number of sick and infected people, the State of Israel has declared a nationwide lockdown. This situation, and the current state of uncertainty, has a tremendous impact on our personal, social, and professional lives, and, of course on the Technion as an institution.

We hope that the lockdown and social distancing guidelines that have been imposed on us will break the chain of infection and pave the way for a healthy and safe academic routine on campus. However, it appears that the effects of the lockdown will impact the first few weeks of the semester.

The academic year will begin as scheduled on October 21, 2020. The first semester will start out entirely online. All teaching activities will be accessible through synchronous digital platforms and will be video and audio recorded. The recordings will be available to students until the end of the semester. During the past few months, we have prepared for this scenario and have invested considerable resources for equipping classrooms with advanced video equipment. We will do everything we can to enable the gradual return of students to on-campus face-to-face learning, to the extent that it will be permitted by Ministry of Health regulations. When the time comes, each Faculty's dean will set the priorities for gradually returning students to the classrooms. Announcements regarding the return of students to campus will be published on the Technion website and the Moodle page of each course. Needless to say, all on-campus activities will be conducted in complete compliance with Ministry of Health regulations.

We all hope that the desired improvement in Israel's COVID-19 situation, and the corresponding gradual increase in on-campus presence, will allow us to experience a healthy and successful academic year at the Technion. On a personal note, I look forward to the moment when we overcome this crisis, leave the pandemic behind, return to meeting face-to-face on campus and restore the social and inter-personal dimensions of our academic and research experiences at the Technion.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Sukkoth and a healthy and successful academic year.

With warm wishes,

Professor Oded Rabinovitch
Senior Executive Vice President