



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

11 May 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I write to update you on the Headquarters dimensions of our continuing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Let me again express my appreciation for your efforts in these difficult times and offer my condolences to those of you who may have lost loved ones or suffered profoundly in other ways. This is above all, a human crisis.

We have now been operating via telecommuting and other new arrangements for two months, and I have been inspired by how our work has continued uninterrupted, enabling the United Nations not only to stay open but to play an active global role in helping people cope with the emergency. Thank you for that enduring dedication.

After consulting with senior management and our medical services about the COVID-19 situation, I have decided to extend the current telecommuting arrangements at the Headquarters complex through 30 June 2020. We will continue to review these arrangements and will provide advance notice should there be any easing or further extension of these measures.

Meanwhile, the Senior Emergency Policy Team, with advice from the Crisis Operations Group, is finalizing a plan for a gradual and phased return to the buildings whenever it is considered safe for us to do so. Your health and safety are the priorities guiding this process, and we will exercise maximum flexibility for staff with children, vulnerable dependents and underlying health conditions. We will communicate these plans as soon as they are ready and will keep you apprised of related developments.

Updates will continue to be shared at [www.un.org/coronavirus](http://www.un.org/coronavirus). The COVID-19 helpline (212 963 9999) remains in place, and the Department of Operational Support and Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance stand ready to assist as needed.

I again urge anyone with symptoms, test results or health-related questions to contact the United Nations Division for Healthcare Management and Occupational Safety and Health using the confidential Self-Reporting Portal ([medical.un.org](http://medical.un.org)) or via [osh@un.org](mailto:osh@un.org). All such approaches will be handled with confidentiality and privacy.

Thank you for your commitment and flexibility during these challenging times.

Yours sincerely,

*with my warmest personal regards*

  
António Guterres

All United Nations Staff Members