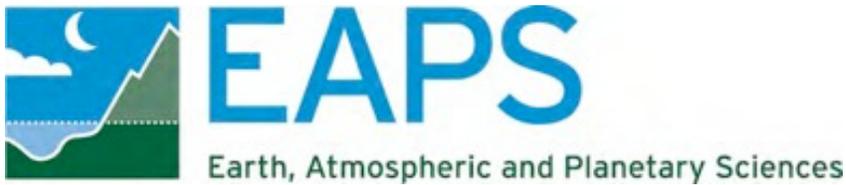


From: **Robert D van der Hilst** [hilst@mit.edu](mailto:hilst@mit.edu)   
Subject: URGENT EAPS Community update, COVID-19 (7 July 2020)  
Date: July 7, 2020 at 1:29 PM  
To: [eaps-dept](mailto:eaps-dept) [eaps-dept@mit.edu](mailto:eaps-dept@mit.edu)  
Cc: Jennifer Fentress [jfen@mit.edu](mailto:jfen@mit.edu), Megan Jordan [mkjordan@mit.edu](mailto:mkjordan@mit.edu)

RV



Campus police: 617-253-1212  
MIT Medical COVID-19:  
Hotline: 617-253-4865  
Updates: <https://medical.mit.edu/news/2020/01/2019-novel-coronavirus-updates-1>  
MIT COVID-19 updates: <https://covid19.mit.edu>  
EAPS/MIT message archive: <https://eapsweb.mit.edu/news/2020/covid-19-eaps-updates>

**Tuesday 7 July 2020**

- **Fall semester**
- **Childcare and schools**
- **Announcement from US ICE of changes in the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP).**

**To all members of the EAPS Community:**

I hope that you all had an opportunity to enjoy the long 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend.

When I wrote last Friday, I did not expect to get back to you so soon, but there are several things that require our full and urgent attention.

First, this morning, the senior leadership team announced long awaited [decisions about the fall semester](#). As you know, over the past months several models have been suggested and researched, and many of you have given feedback on this. After much consideration the leadership decided to optimize around the traditional two-semester model. While the split into two semesters sounds familiar, the details are far from it. Our Education Committee, under leadership of Taylor and Megan, has worked hard on plans for EAPS, and they will get back to you soon with more info. Please contact them if you have questions or concerns about your classes or academic advancement.

Second, and related, I recognize that the availability of child care and the status of the local schools are critical factors for students, staff, and faculty with young children, and I invite you to send me – at your earliest convenience – how these will affect your ability to work (both in remote and in-person scenarios) and also what resources (financial support? People?) would be most helpful.

Third, and most disturbing, yesterday the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced [changes in the Student and Exchange Visitor Program \(SEVP\)](#), with implications for international students on F-1 visa. To these students, please know that you are on the top of our minds (both personally and within EAPS leadership, as well as within the Institute) and that we will fight tooth and nail to minimize the impact of the announced policy change. EAPS welcomes everybody, regardless of citizenship or nationality, and you are a vital part of our community. To all supervisors, please stay closely connected with your students – I have urged this before, but the complexity of the fall curriculum and, in particular, the announced SEVP change make it imperative to help one another and stay together as a community. We will keep you in the loop as we receive more guidance from MIT's General Council (MIT-GC) and the International Scholar's Office (MIT-ISO). Let me close with an urgent request to international students who might be affected: as MIT is looking into possible actions to forestall the ICE directive, please send us (me or Megan) as soon as possible specific examples of hardship that would result from the policy change. This will be collected by the Dean's Office. Time is at the essence here.

That's all for now, but please expect more updates – and pardon mbox flooding – as quick decisions will be needed to respond to the rapidly changing circumstances.

And, as always, and most importantly, stay safe and well!

Rob  
Head, EAPS

Contacts:

Rob van der Hilst, for faculty and general matters

Taylor Perron and Megan Jordan, for matters related to education/teaching

Michael Richard, for all matters related to staff and general building issues

Jen Fentress, for all matters related to communication and online teaching