Subject: Stay at Home

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From: Jensen H Huang

To: Employees

Hi everyone,

NVIDIA employees around the world are working from home, many for several weeks now. We are exercising an abundance of caution to keep our employees safe and help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Unfortunately, the situation is going to get far worse in the coming weeks.   According to the WHO, "it took 67 days from the first reported case to reach 100,000 cases, 11 days for the second 100,000 cases, and just four days for the third 100,000 cases."

In the past few days, we closed our Bangalore, Pune, Taipei, and Hsinchu offices.   Governments have issued orders to shelter-in-place. Among affected are California, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Massachusetts in the U.S., England, and India.

Employees are to work from home and avoid public interactions. Companies are to run a minimum essential operation such that the rest of us can work productively from home. Office access is now limited only to those doing essential work, with Estaff approval and a letter from the ERC authorizing them to be on campus. And if you do go into the lab, stay a safe distance from others.

Take this seriously. The pandemic is accelerating at an exponential rate. There is only one way to slow it down – stay home. We need to slow the spread of COVID-19, to reduce the load on hospitals and buy time for science and medicine to find a vaccine.

These are extraordinary times. For parents, you are pulling triple duty, caring for your family, homeschooling, and working from home. Prioritize your family. Our work will wait. Let your colleagues know. They will rise to support you.

Still, it's amazing what all of you are getting done. This week is our first digital GTC. The GTC team pulled this off in just three weeks. 250 talks. Over 30,000 registered. An amazing range of breakthroughs enabled by NVIDIA – ray tracing, natural language understanding, recommendation systems, conversational AI, image generation, robotics, self-driving cars, scientific computing.

Teams across NVIDIA are using our expertise and technology to battle COVID-19. NVIDIA's genomics team is offering free access to our Parabricks genome analysis toolkit so researchers can sequence and analyze genomes 50X faster. 325 institutions, including hospitals, universities, and supercomputing centers, have engaged.

NVIDIA Healthcare's applied research team has developed a world-class reputation at the intersection of AI and radiology. We are partnering with PingAn in China, National Institutes of Health in the U.S., and Japan's Self-Defense Forces Central Hospital. Collaborations range from developing AI models to detect and highlight COVID-19 infection in chest CT images, to recognizing lung abnormalities between asymptomatic and symptomatic infected patients, to using NVIDIA Clara to enable global collaboration among researchers in U.S., China, E.U., and Japan.

Powered by 27,000 NVIDIA GPUs, Summit at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the fastest supercomputer in the world, screened 8,000 molecule drug compounds and found 77 candidate compounds most likely to bind to the spikes of the coronavirus and render it unable to infect human cells. Scientists achieved results in a couple of days that would have taken months on previous computers.

Meanwhile, we inspired gamers to share the GPUs in their gaming rigs and configure the largest distributed supercomputer in the world to run Folding@Home. In just a couple of weeks, 400,000 gamers amassed a 470 PetaFLOP computer, twice the compute power of Summit, and more than the top seven supercomputers combined. With this power, Folding@home aims to analyze the dynamic properties of the COVID-19 protein and hopefully gain insight into how the potential drugs can disable the virus.

The Kaggle Grand Masters of NVIDIA, or KGMON, is a team of expert data scientists at NVIDIA. Some have joined a challenge to forecast infection spread and fatalities in regions around the world. Others are creating a model to run natural language queries and summarization on the mountain of COVID-19 papers.

NVIDIA Inception is teaming with 160 healthcare startups that are now turning their focus to COVID-19. We are lending our expertise, computing resources, and funding to accelerate their work – including medical imaging, analyzing CT scans for COVID-19, no-contact body temperature measurement systems, molecular compound discovery algorithms, and ultraviolet disinfectant robots. AI is central to all these breakthroughs.

We are deploying our experts and harnessing the power of our technology to defeat this killer.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the ERC, site leaders, managers in our 57 offices, HR, IT, and so many others around the world who have scrambled to comply with official orders while doing their best to keep essential operations running.

Many of you have family and friends who are doctors and nurses on the front lines.   Despite the risk they are bringing to themselves and their families, they choose to sacrifice their own health and safety to protect us. Please express to them our admiration and sincere gratitude.

It is going to get worse in the coming weeks. Stay home. Take care of your loved ones. We are going to get through this together.

And if you need us, we're here.

Stay safe.

Jensen