

Dear colleagues,

With regard to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, I would ask that you please consider the following points:

1. Coronavirus Tests

To implement the decision taken by the Federal Chancellor together with the Minister Presidents of the federal states, the Bavarian state government has adopted a [testing concept for employees](#) of the Free State of Bavaria. The test concept consists of two stages and is structured as follows:

Stage 1:

Regardless of employment, every citizen residing in Bavaria is currently entitled to one free rapid test per week at state testing facilities operated by municipalities or at pharmacies.

Employees working on site may also choose to have an [additional](#) free rapid test once a week at the above-mentioned facilities. These facilities also provide the employees with a corresponding test confirmation.

In order to receive this additional test, which is free of charge for you as a state employee, you will require a certificate from the university stating that you work on site for the Free State of Bavaria. For this purpose, please complete the [corresponding form](#) and have it signed and stamped by your immediate superior. If your immediate superior is not available at short notice, the next higher superior (including deans and heads of department) is also authorised to sign. In exceptional cases, the section of the personnel department responsible for you can also be contacted for signing (personal3-1@uni-bamberg.de, personal3-2@uni-bamberg.de, personal3-3@uni-bamberg.de). We ask however that you make use of this option only if none of your superiors is actually available.

When requested, the certificate only has to be presented at the testing institution and does not have to be handed in; it can therefore be used several times.

Release from work duties is granted for travelling to the nearest test centres or to the nearest pharmacy and for the rapid test itself.

Stage 2:

As soon as self-tests are available in sufficient numbers, the university will provide those on-site employees who request it with **one such test each week free of charge**. This test can be taken [directly on the premises](#). According to the information we have received from the Ministry of State, the necessary test material will [likely](#) be made available to the university after the Easter holidays.

We will inform you of the more precise details regarding use and procedure prior to making this offering available.

2. Mask Requirements

Irrespective of the expanded testing capabilities, the state of the pandemic unfortunately does not make it possible to relax the locally implemented virus containment restrictions at this time.

I would therefore urge you to continue to observe the existing regulations on wearing masks:

- Masks are required on all university premises and in all buildings.
- Only in cases where a person is alone in an office is wearing a mask not required.
 - Multiple occupancy of offices should be avoided. If this is not possible, the distance between workplaces should be as large as possible and each person in the room should have at least 10 square metres of space. If this is also not possible, partitions must be erected between the workplaces and sufficient ventilation measures must be taken. Otherwise, a mask must be worn by the employees concerned.

I ask you to observe the **mask requirement, especially in corridors and common areas and when in contact with other people.**

If you need masks, your supervisor can still request them by sending an email to beschaffung@uni-bamberg.de.

3. Use of University Library Reading Rooms

In light of the renewed increase in the 7-day incidence rate, the university executive board has agreed on the following procedure for opening library reading rooms:

If the **7-day incidence rate exceeds 150** in the city of Bamberg, the University Library's reading rooms will be closed and only contactless lending will be available. The incidence value on **Friday will be used as the basis for the decision for the entire following week.**

As always, if you have specific questions not answered in this newsletter, you can send them to the university's coronavirus contact point at kontaktstelle-covid19@uni-bamberg.de. All other pertinent information is also available at <https://www.uni-bamberg.de/en/health-management/coronavirus/>.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for over one year of exemplary cooperation in fighting the pandemic each and every day.

Please continue to take care of yourselves and remain healthy.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dagmar Steuer-Flieser