

## Information on Studies in the 2021 Summer Semester (9)

Dear students,

for some time now, new parameters for university operations have been in place due to the coronavirus pandemic. In the following, I would like to describe in more detail which regulations are being implemented at our university as a result of the new circumstances. In addition, I would like to inform you about some recent developments.

### Student vaccination status survey:

A survey on students' vaccination status was recently conducted. More than 2,000 students participated. The findings show that by the end of the survey, 79% were already fully vaccinated. Of the remaining approx. 20%, 11.7% were still planning a vaccination by the start of the winter semester, 20.3% remained undecided and 18.7% expressed interest in vaccination services offered by the University of Bamberg. Viewed in terms of society as a whole, the pleasing results – like those at other universities – point to an above-average vaccination rate and willingness to get vaccinated among students.

### New vaccination services:

In cooperation with the Bamberg Vaccination Centre, further vaccination appointments can be offered to University of Bamberg students and employees both prior to and at the start of the winter semester. For this purpose, mobile vaccination teams will visit the three major university locations (city centre, Feldkirchenstraße and ERBA) for 2-3 hours on 6 days between 5 October and 21 October as part of a public vaccination campaign. Details will be announced as soon as possible. This service is intended to address many students' interest in a vaccination service provided by the University of Bamberg, as indicated in the vaccination status survey.

### Basic conditions for university operations in the winter semester:

- New approaches:

The following changes apply to university operations with immediate effect – and therefore particularly to the winter semester. In the future, the 7-day incidence rate will no longer be used as a key reference point, with the exception of the applicability of the rule requiring vaccination, recovery or testing (3G rule) with a 7-day incidence rate of 35 or higher. In particular, the previous significance of the 7-day incidence rate of 100 is no longer relevant. Instead, the future point of orientation for certain measures will be the so-called hospital traffic light based on the alignment of coronavirus measures with the hospitalisation rate and the occupancy rate of intensive care beds. The regulations described below are based on the position of this traffic light on 'green'. What happens if this light changes to 'yellow' or 'red' has not yet been clearly defined.

- Vaccination, recovery, testing – 3G rule

With a 7-day incidence rate of 35 or more, the "3G" rule applies to access to the university (i.e. its buildings and other enclosed spaces, including the university branch libraries). This means only

vaccinated, recovered and tested persons have access (the three Gs in German). Examinations, however, are explicitly excluded from the application of the 3G rule.

The 3G rule is subject to a fine. This means that non-compliance can result in the payment of a fine for an administrative offence.

The 3G rule does not apply to university staff (including teaching staff). However, with this in mind, I have urged instructors to voluntarily adhere to the 3G rule with regard to in-person contacts with students and thus to foster a mutual relationship of trust by continuing to avoid any discrepancies between instructors and students.

#### Testing requirements:

Under the 3G rule, tested individuals must provide a written or electronic negative result from a test conducted under medical supervision (such as at a pharmacy or testing centre). PCR tests that are no more than 48 hours old, PoC-PCR tests or tests using other methods of nucleic acid amplification technology or PoC antigen tests that are no more than 24 hours old are permitted. If the hospital traffic light changes to 'yellow', only PCR tests are valid.

#### Testing services for students and instructors:

As students, you can continue to get tested for the coronavirus free of charge. German-language information on where this is possible in Bamberg can be found on our Corona webpage [<https://www.uni-bamberg.de/gesund/coronavirus/test-stud/>]. The issuing of self-tests to students for voluntary self-application will be discontinued.

#### 3G monitoring of students:

Verification of the 3G criteria will be undertaken by a mobile security service. Furthermore, instructors can and may carry out checks themselves in their own courses, and library staff may conduct checks with regard to library access. For 3G verification, the relevant apps or paper documents can be used. In any case, I would urge you to consistently follow the 3G rule and in this way show concern for the health of all.

#### Mask requirements and minimum distancing:

Masks are required in all university buildings and closed rooms. Medical masks may now be worn throughout the university. FFP2 masks can still be worn as an option. Beginning with the 'yellow' level of the hospital traffic light, wearing an FFP2 mask is again required.

The requirement to wear a mask is only waived at a fixed sitting, standing or working places if a minimum distance of 1.5 m from other persons can be reliably maintained. This also means that (only) under this condition there is no longer a mask requirement for instructors in teaching situations. The same applies to library users. Finally, there may also be exceptions to the mask requirement for other compelling reasons, such as in the context of practical (especially artistic) in-person courses or events.

As with violations of the 3G rule, persons who violate the mask requirement are also subject to a fine.

### Collection of contact data:

For the time being, the collection of contact data will continue in the established form.

### In-person teaching:

Following numerous demands for a semester with predominantly in-person courses, it is now possible to develop responsible room occupancy concepts even without adhering to minimum distancing. We are making use of this at our university by continuing to pursue the room occupancy concept already communicated in August. This stipulates a maximum seating capacity of 50% and an upper limit of 200 people, while at the same time retaining the requirement to wear masks regardless of the density of seating. This is intended to give many instructors the opportunity to again offer their courses in person. I have asked that instructors inform their students as soon as possible whether the respective course will be held in person or online.

At the same time, I would like to point out once again that the partial return to in-person teaching changes the necessity to (also) offer courses completely in digital form. For courses that are held entirely in person and that are generally accessible to all students via compliance with the 3G rule, the requirement to offer digital alternatives no longer applies. In other cases, this guideline remains very important for ensuring good study conditions. Here – as previously mentioned – it would be beneficial for instructors and students to jointly determine the need for and the form of the online offering in the respective courses. Students who refuse to comply with the 3G rule and are therefore not eligible to participate in in-person courses are not entitled to the provision of a digital course.

### Examinations:

As stated above, the 3G rule explicitly does not apply to examinations. Nevertheless, in order to ensure a high level of infection protection, the infection protection concept for examinations that is currently in force at our university (observance of minimum distances between the examination places and the obligation or recommendation – in the case of university or state examinations, respectively – to wear medical masks at the examination site) should be upheld.

### Extension of the Corona Statutes for the winter semester:

Pending final resolution of the university senate, the Corona Statutes currently valid for the 2021 summer semester, with their options for choosing alternative examination formats and for individual flexibility of examinations, are to be extended essentially unchanged for the 2021/22 winter semester.

I very much hope that this information will provide you with more clarity on the current situation and that, like me, you are looking forward to the possibilities of an increased return to in-person teaching.

Sincerely,

Stefan Hörmann