

Dear colleagues,

With the 2021/22 winter semester approaching, I would like to give you a brief overview of current circumstances. These continue to be shaped by the coronavirus pandemic and we must continue to adapt to the current situation and respond dynamically and flexibly.

Despite the fact that dealing with the pandemic-related restrictions is a burden for staff and students, I am confident that, thanks to your help, we will be able to overcome the challenges just as well as we have in previous semesters. I would once again like to express my sincere thanks for your commitment.

1. Additional vaccination services in October

The key to combating the coronavirus pandemic remains vaccinating as many people as possible. Fortunately, the University of Bamberg will once again be offering vaccination services for employees and students this autumn. 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. Prior registration is **not** necessary.

The schedule is as follows:

5 Oct., 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.:	Feldkirchenstraße 21, room 02.41
0 Oct., 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.:	Markusstraße 8a (MG2), room 00.03
12 Oct., 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.:	An der Weberei 5, room 00.039
14 Oct., 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.:	An der Weberei 5, room 00.039
19 Oct., 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.:	Markusstraße 8a (MG2), room 00.03
21 Oct., 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.:	Feldkirchenstraße 21, room 02.18

Before coming to one of the above appointments, please check the university' coronavirus website for information on the documents you need to bring with you. The site also provides all other important information regarding this offering. You can find up-to-date information (in German) at the following link: <https://www.uni-bamberg.de/gesund/coronavirus/impfungen-an-der-uni/>
I would be pleased if many of you took advantage of this vaccination opportunity.

2. "3G" rule for incidence rates of 35 or above

An important new development has occurred with the enactment of the 14th regulation on infection prevention and control measures (*Infektionsschutzmaßnahmenverordnung*): With a 7-day incidence rate of 35 or more, the "3G" rule applies to access to the university (all university buildings). This means that, with the exception of university staff and very few other individuals, only **vaccinated, recovered and tested persons have access** (the three Gs in German). Because the incidence rate in the city of Bamberg currently significantly exceeds 35, we must comply with this regulation and monitor its observance. Violations of the entry ban as well as of the obligation to check for compliance with the 3G rule are considered breaches of the law and are punishable by a fine for both the person entering the buildings and the university.

Specifically, this means the following for the University of Bamberg:

- As already mentioned, the 3G rule does not apply to university staff and also does not apply to other persons entering the buildings when conducting their professional activities. Our employees and external service providers or contractors entering our buildings therefore do not need to be checked for vaccination, testing or recovery. The 3G rule also does not apply to admission to university or state examinations.
- Apart from these exceptions, however, the 3G rule applies to **all students and all visitors not directly performing their professional activities**. This includes, for example, job applicants or course/event participants.

- Where the nature of the appointment allows for an inspection, **it is the responsibility of the unit hosting the appointment or event to inform those invited of the 3G rule in advance and to ensure an on-site inspection.** As a rule, this applies to all appointments where controlled admission is already required or where participants or guests have to register in advance (e.g. job interviews, invitations to appointment lectures or office hours for students). Inspections should be carried out at the entrance to the respective building whenever possible.
- Since the large number of university buildings does not allow for a comprehensive check of every single student or visitor, random checks will be carried out in addition to the above-mentioned cases. This particularly applies to the branch libraries and in the vicinity of larger lectures and courses. The type and manner of the corresponding inspections and, in particular, the additional employment of a security service are still being coordinated.
- As a guide for carrying out these checks, the University will be publishing a checklist on its coronavirus website in the coming days. This will contain the main requirements for proof of testing and vaccination, as well as information on how to deal with persons who are unable to provide such proof. If you have any questions concerning the various permissible test formats, Ms Ziegmann from the safety office (sicherheitswesen@uni-bamberg.de) will be happy to answer them.

3. Working from home

The state government has not yet provided any new information on the further pandemic-related handling of working in a home. For the time being, therefore, telecommuting will remain possible upon request, provided that this is technically feasible and does not disturb orderly operations (so-called "voluntary telecommuting"). For further details, please refer to the information provided by the Personnel Department in the newsletter of 23 July 2021 (https://www.uni-bamberg.de/fileadmin/uni/verwaltung/presse/Dateien/Corona/Corona_2021/2021-07-23_Rundschreiben_Kanzlerin_ENGLISH.pdf).

I will inform you as soon as I receive new information. In response to increased enquiries, I would also like to point out that travel between the workplace and the home office does not count as working time and that, accordingly, when leaving the office or the home to visit the other workplace, a "going" booking must always be made and a "coming" booking must always be made on arrival.

4. Mask requirements

For indoor areas, wearing a medical face mask is still compulsory. The mask requirement does not apply at a permanent sitting, standing or working place, as long as a minimum distance of 1.5 m from other persons can be reliably maintained.

5. Testing services for employees

The distribution points for self-tests for employees remain in place. German-language information on where and how to obtain the tests is still available at <https://www.uni-bamberg.de/covid19/tests>.

6. Information on cafeterias and dining halls

The Studentenwerk Würzburg has announced its intention to reopen all dining facilities at the start of the 2021/22 winter semester. For economic reasons, the opening hours of the individual facilities will initially be shortened and the smaller cafeterias will only offer to-go meals. The opening hours and other regulations are published on the Studentenwerk website (<https://www.studentenwerk-wuerzburg.de/>) and updated accordingly.

Please continue to take good care of yourself and stay healthy. I wish you a nice autumn and a good start in the upcoming winter semester.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dagmar Steuer-Flieser