

Dear colleagues,

As already announced by the Personnel Department in the newsletter of 19 October 2021 (https://www.uni-bamberg.de/fileadmin/uni/verwaltung/presse/Dateien/Corona/Corona_2021/2021-10-19_3G-Regel_barrierefrei.pdf), the Bavarian state government has resolved to expand the 3G verification requirements (university access only for vaccinated, recovered or tested persons). University employees must now also provide proof that they have either been vaccinated, tested or have recovered from the coronavirus if the local incidence rate exceeds 35. This is currently the case in Bamberg. I would therefore like to provide you with some information regarding this new regulation.

1. Whom does this affect?

As mentioned in the newsletter of 19. October, according to the current legal provisions, the 3G rule applies to frontline employees. After careful consideration, the University Executive Board has, in the interest of equal treatment of all employees, decided not to draw any distinctions in this regard. At a university with more than 12,000 students, with in-person courses taking place as well as buildings that are generally accessible, there is the potential for numerous daily contacts among both students and employees. Drawing a distinction here between frontline and back office employees would hardly be practicable. Incidentally, this puts us in line with the other Bavarian universities, which also apply the 3G regulation to their entire staff.

All employees and teaching staff must therefore comply with the 3G rule, i.e. they may only enter University of Bamberg buildings if they are vaccinated, recovered or tested.

2. How will this rule be enforced?

The university has an obligation to verify its employees' vaccination, recovery and testing records. The security services who have been tasked with checking our students will therefore also be carrying out random checks of our employees' 3G credentials for this purpose – either at building entrances or inside the buildings. In addition, superiors are free to carry out checks themselves.

Security staff are authorised to request written or digital documentation from all employees in order to carry out the checks. A digital record of vaccination or recovery or a digital test result can be provided using apps like the Corona-Warn-App, the CovPass app or the Luca app. In order to verify a person's identity, an official identity card or other identification document may be requested. No data pertaining to these checks will be collected or stored.

If you are not vaccinated or recovered, the regulation on infection prevention and control measures (*Infektionsschutzmaßnahmenverordnung*) requires that you carry valid test certificates from at least two different days in the past or current week with you. If you are checked on one of the days when you do not have a current test certificate, please show the security service your two most recently issued test certificates, which may be from the previous days or week, but may not be older.

If you do not possess test certificates from the previous week – due to holiday travels, for instance – please get tested before entering any University of Bamberg buildings.

If you are only on site one day a week and otherwise work from home, it is of course sufficient if you only carry documentation on this day.

3. Which test certificates are acceptable?

The usual tests carried out by the recognised coronavirus testing centres are acceptable (PoC antigen test valid for 24 hours, PCR test, PoC-PCR tests valid for 48 hours).

The test certificates thus far issued by the university on the basis of visual inspection of provided self-test results, on the other hand, are not sufficient test documentation according to the current regulations. However, the university is already in the process of establishing a service that will enable unvaccinated employees to take supervised tests on site and receive appropriate test certificates. You will find more detailed information regarding the place, time and procedure for these tests in a separate letter.

4. What happens in the event of a violation?

Compliance with the 3G rule is mandatory for all employees. According to the regulation on infection prevention and control measures (*Infektionsschutzmaßnahmenverordnung*), refusal to comply is an administrative offence that can be punished with a fine. It may also have consequences under public service or labour law.

Not least due to the rising number of infections, I urge you to adhere to the guidelines described above. In doing so, you will play your part in ensuring that we create the safest possible environment for our students and employees and will help us all hopefully avoid further restrictions on university operations.

Sincerely
Dr. Dagmar Steuer-Flieser