



Official Bulletin 77/2021

**Directive on Hygiene and Infection
Protection Measures in Libraries to Maintain
the University's Operations under
Conditions of Coronavirus**

as of 16. September 2021

Universität zu Köln



Duty of inspection and right of objection:

In accordance with Section 12 of the Higher Education Act of North Rhine- Westphalia (Hochschulgesetz – HG NRW), procedural or validity violations of higher education law, other applying regulations or other forms of autonomous university law can no longer be asserted after one year has expired since the publication of these Guidelines. Exceptions can be made if

1. the Guidelines were not published in the prescribed manner,
2. the Rectorate has in advance objected to the decision of the committee responsible for ratification,
3. flaws in form and procedure have been asserted against the University in advance describing the violated legal provision and fact causing the flaw, or
4. upon publication, the legal consequences of the limitation period for inspection and objection were not clarified.

P U B L I S H I N G I N F O R M A T I O N

Publisher: UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE
THE RECTOR

Address: ALBERTUS-MAGNUS-PLATZ 50923
COLOGNE

Date of appearance: 16. SEPTEMBER 2021

Directive on Hygiene and Infection Protection Measures in Libraries to Maintain the University's Operations under Conditions of Coronavirus

(Hygiene and Infection Protection Directive – Libraries)

as of 16.9.2021

Pursuant to Section 16 subsection 1 sentence 1 of the Higher Education Act of North Rhine-Westphalia (Hochschulgesetz – HG NRW) in the version of the Amended Higher Education Act (Hochschulzukunftsgesetz – HZG NRW) of 16 September 2014 (Official Gazette of North Rhine-Westphalia p. 547), last amended by Article 10 of the Act on the Consistent and Solidarity-Based Management of the COVID-19 Pandemic in North Rhine-Westphalia and on the Adaptation of State Legislation with Regard to the Effects of a Pandemic of 14 April 2020 (Official Gazette of North Rhine-Westphalia p. 218b), the Rectorate of the University of Cologne has issued the following Directive by resolution of 31.08.2021:

Section 1

Object and Scope of Application

(1) This Directive presents the regulatory situation (predominantly according to state law) relevant for library operations and embeds university-specific regulations within it. The University shall announce organizational details concerning its implementation on its website and through its other communication channels.

(2) This Directive shall apply for the use and operation of the University's libraries, including workplaces for users.

Section 2

Principles

(1) The use of libraries, including workplaces for users, is governed by the regulations of the Federal Government and the State of North Rhine-Westphalia as well as the provisions of this Directive.

(2) General hygiene rules (especially good hand hygiene, coughing/sneezing etiquette) shall be observed at all times. Reducing personal contact and keeping a distance of 1.5 metres are recommended – insofar as these measures are not prescribed below or otherwise compulsory.

(3) All persons suspecting or uncertain about a possible coronavirus infection – e.g. cough, fever, cold or loss of smell and taste – shall have this checked professionally without delay (e.g. by a doctor or through a rapid antigen/PCR test).

(4) Attention is herewith drawn to the existing house bans regarding a suspected coronavirus infection (subsection 3) or quarantine.

Section 3

Preparing Use of the Libraries

(1) The public areas of libraries may be made available for longer use beyond the mere borrowing and return of media only if sufficient ventilation has been determined and a corresponding maximum number of users has been specified by

1. Division 5 (Facility & Property Management)

or

2. The management of the organizational unit responsible for the library, in line with the rules set down by Division 5.

(2) The management of the organizational unit responsible for the library shall ensure ventilation as well as adherence to the permitted number of users.

Section 4

Using the Libraries

(1) Only persons who have been vaccinated or tested may enter the library reading areas designated for public traffic in accordance with Section 3 subsection 1 (including workplaces for users). The organizational unit operating the library is responsible for checking the corresponding proof.

(2) In the library reading areas designated for public traffic in accordance with Section 3 subsection 1 (including workplaces for users) as well as in the areas for borrowing and returning media, it is compulsory to wear at least a medical mask. In exceptional cases, it is possible to dispense with wearing a mask in the following circumstances:

1. By library staff, if wearing a mask is substituted by equally effective protection measures (glass, plastic or similar partition).
2. When communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing.
3. By persons who cannot wear a mask for medical reasons; the existence of medical reasons shall be proven by means of a medical certificate, which is to be presented upon request.

(3) In exceptional cases, the use of the areas for borrowing and returning media may also be made dependent on proof of vaccination or testing if separating access to the reading areas designated for public traffic (including workplaces for users) in terms of space and organization would only be possible with disproportionate effort.

Section 5

Term of Validity

This Directive shall enter into force on the day after its announcement and remain valid until 31.03.2022.

Cologne, 16.9.2021

The Rector
of the University of Cologne

Professor Axel Freimuth