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**Directive on Fundamental Hygiene and
Infection Protection Measures to Maintain
the University's Continuing Operations
under Conditions of Coronavirus (without
"Courses and Examinations" and without
"Professional Activities")**

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

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DISCLAIMER: THIS TRANSLATION OF 'Richtlinie über die grundsätzlichen Hygiene- und Schutzmaßnahmen im weiteren Corona-Betrieb der Universität (ohne "Lehre und Prüfung" und ohne "Berufsausübung")' IS NOT LEGALLY BINDING.

**Directive on the Fundamental Hygiene and Infection Protection
Measures to Maintain the University's Continuing Operations under
Conditions of Coronavirus (without "Courses and Examinations" and
without "Professional Activities")**

**(Hygiene and Infection Protection Directive – Continuing University
Operations)**

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 contains the university-specific coronavirus regulations relevant to the continuation of the University's operations. The University shall announce organizational details concerning its implementation on its website and through its other communication channels.

(2) The University shall issue special hygiene and infection protection directives for the following areas of the University, which shall take precedence:

- Courses and examinations
- Libraries
- Professional activities (including committee and other meetings, symposia, etc.)

This Directive shall apply only for the continuation of on-site university operations. Other university operations are those in-person activities that are not covered by sentence 1 (e.g. student committees and events, university sports, music and theatre activities organized by the University). It supplements and defines more specifically the applicable coronavirus protection regulations of the Federal Government and the State of North Rhine-Westphalia.

(3) This Directive shall apply:

1. In all buildings and rooms used by the University.
2. For all members and affiliates, persons otherwise engaged at the University as well as visitors.
3. For the staff of other institutions (e.g. affiliated institutes) if their activities cannot be delineated from the University's activities in terms of space or organization.

(3) The regulations of the Faculty of Medicine and/or University Hospital Cologne shall apply for clinical staff or students working there in healthcare.

(4) For university staff working on the premises of University Hospital Cologne – e.g. in buildings used by both hospital and university staff – the University's regulations shall apply, in particular those concerning occupational safety and risk assessment as well as for official travel and its authorization; however, exclusively the regulations of University Hospital Cologne shall apply in the following circumstances:

1. Measures in the event of a coronavirus infection (especially contact management).
2. House bans after entry from a high-risk area or area of variants of concern or in cases where a person has had close contact with an infected person.
3. Holding of meetings/sessions.

Section 2

Principles

The University's on-site operations pursuant to Section 1 subsection 1 sentence 2 are governed by the applicable regulations of the Federal Government and the State of North Rhine-Westphalia as well as the provisions of this Directive.

Section 3

Hygiene and Infection Protection Measures

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

(2) All persons suspecting or uncertain about a possible coronavirus infection – e.g. cough, fever, cold or loss of smell and taste – should have this checked professionally without delay (e.g. by a doctor or through a rapid antigen/PCR test) and are not allowed to come to the University until it has been clarified.

(3) The formation of groups and public traffic in and in front of buildings shall be avoided in advance by planning with foresight.

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

Section 4

Term of Validity

This Directive shall enter into force on the day after its publication and remain valid until 31.03.2022. As soon as this Directive comes into force, the Directive on Hygiene and Infection Protection Measures to Maintain the University's Operations under Conditions of Coronavirus in the Summer Semester 2021 of 30.03.2021 is no longer in force.

Cologne, 16.9.2021

The Rector
of the University of Cologne

Professor Axel Freimuth