COVID-19 Coronavirus

GUIDELINES OF THE RETORATE
ON PREVENTION IN RELATION TO COVID-19

Status: 2 June 2020, 17:00

These guidelines replace those of 5 May 2020. They are valid from 8 June 2020 and until further notice.

In connection with COVID-19, the Rectorate publishes guidelines concerning teaching, research, personnel, the opening of the premises, specific offers, meetings within the University, travel and the organization of events.

The Rectorate constantly examines the situation and collaborates closely with the competent authorities. It regularly updates these guidelines. The updated version of the guidelines as well as the latest information is available on the special website of our university.

A. In general

In the light of and in compliance with the Federal Council's decisions of 27 May 2020, the Rectorate intends to continue to ease the prevention measures relating to COVID-19 and to promote as far as possible a certain return to normality, starting on 8 June 2020. Caution and vigilance are still called for, however.

The preventive measures issued by the Federal Council and the recommendations and protective measures of the Confederation must be complied with.

B. Teaching and Examinations

With regard to the organization of the June 2020 exam sessions, the guidelines of the Rectorate of 6 April 2020 apply: Please also consult the websites of the faculties SciMed, Humanities, Law, Theology, Management and Economics.

On-site teaching outside the semester (e.g. language courses, specific offers) shall be authorised again from 8 June 2020 (up to a number of 300 participants), provided that the responsible teacher draws up a protection plan and ensures that an attendance list is established. The preventive measures issued by the Federal Council and the recommendations and protective measures of the Confederation must be respected.

For matters relating to teaching from the autumn semester of 2020 onwards, the Rectorate has set up a working group to propose university-wide guidelines; this working group is called upon to provide general concepts and essential basic principles so that the Rectorate can decide on a general policy, the implementation and concretisation of which will be the responsibility of the faculties, so that each faculty can take account of its specific characteristics and needs.
Chaired by the Vice-Rector, Education, this working group will include representatives from the faculties as well as from the academic, administrative and IT directorates. The first report should be submitted to the Rector's Office in early July 2020 and decisions will be made during the summer.

C. Research

By agreement with the supervisor, and if the work can be done remotely, the staff remains authorized to perform their work at home. If necessary and/or useful, the physical presence of staff members at the various university sites is possible, particularly for activities that require a physical presence.

It will be up to the superiors of entities/researchers to define presence and protection plans for their own employees and for other persons (in particular students), for which they are responsible and for which the general rules and those for persons at risk will always have to be respected (cf. document “General rules on prevention”, published on the website).

In addition, the following good organizational practices are recommended:

- Occupation of a maximum of two work places (laboratory chapels, microscopes, etc.), in order to guarantee a distance of two metres;
- Alternation of people working in a given room, while always maintaining the same groups, in order to limit contacts between colleagues;
- Staggered work schedules to avoid peak hours;
- For tasks requiring proximity work, exchange or joint use of equipment or for people at risk, personal protective equipment (masks and/or disinfectant) can be ordered and purchased from the central laboratory service or the Misericorde economat. See the opening hours on the respective websites.

D. Staff

By agreement with the superior, and if the work can be done remotely, the staff remains authorized to perform their work remotely. If necessary and/or useful, the physical presence of staff members at the various university sites is possible, particularly for activities that require a physical presence.

It will be the responsibility of entity superiors to define attendance and protection plans for their own employees, for which they are responsible. The general rules and those for persons at risk have always to be respected (see the document “General rules for Protection and Hygiene”, published on the website).

In addition, the following good organizational practices are recommended:

- Occupation of a maximum of two workplaces (offices, workshops, etc.), in order to guarantee a distance of two metres;
- Alternation of people working in a given room, while always maintaining the same groups, in order to limit contacts between colleagues;
- Staggered work schedules to avoid peak hours;
- In the event of an activity requiring a presence within two meters of another person or an exchange of equipment (computer, key, etc.) or for persons at risk, personal protective equipment (masks and/or disinfectant) can be ordered and purchased from the central laboratory service or the Misericorde economat. See the opening hours on the respective websites.

E. Opening of the premises

From June 8, 2020, the university buildings will be open as usual. (Opening hours of the buildings).
F. Specific offers

F.1 Libraries

From 8 June 2020, the activities and benefits of libraries will be extended, with the introduction of a regime that will have to comply with the rules and measures of prevention, as well as the rules of social distancing. Lending services will be accessible again, according to the conditions defined by each library. Precise and updated information can be found on the library portal.

F. 2 University counters

The opening of the University’s counters will continue to take place gradually and as needed. Please consult each respective web page to find out the status and rhythm of opening.

F.3 University restaurants and cafeterias

The university restaurants and cafeterias are open, according to the rhythm of the intersemester. See the university restaurants website for details of locations/opening days/hours.

F. 4 University Sports

Accompanied trainings in the fitness rooms and gyms of the University of Fribourg can be done again. Online registration is required to attend all lessons. The changing rooms and showers remain closed for the time being, but the lockers in the building can be used. In addition, for those who have a fitness subscription, the Pérolles fitness room will be available from 8 June 2020, in compliance with the hygiene measures prescribed by the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) and after online booking of training time. The range of sports on offer as well as detailed information on the various courses is available on the sports service's website.

F.5 University nursery school

The University's crèche opened its doors on 11 May 2020.

G. Internal meetings at the University

The organization of face-to-face meetings (with an attendance list) is possible from 8 June 2020, respecting the rules of distance and hygiene. If the 2 metre distance rule cannot be applied, the organiser must ensure that adequate protective measures are taken.

However, it is advisable to limit such meetings and give preference to meetings via the MS Teams application. MS Teams can be accessed from the corresponding page of the IT service catalogue (in German or French), or by logging in directly at teams.microsoft.com with your university ID (e-mail address @unifr.ch and password).

H. Travel

When travelling, it is advisable to follow the regulations and recommendations of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA).
I. Organization of events

Events (in particular symposia, conferences, further training courses, other events with external participants) are in principle permitted up to a number of 300 participants, provided that a protection plan is drawn up and an attendance list is established.

The preventive measures issued by the Federal Council and the recommendations and protective measures of the Confederation must be respected.

For events taking place on a university site, a reservation (or an announcement for rooms managed on a decentralised basis) with the premises service (locauxmis@unifr.ch) is compulsory.

Fribourg, 2 June 2020

Astrid Epiney,
Rector