COVID-19 Coronavirus

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

Status: 31 August 2020

These guidelines replace those of 23 June 2020 and will apply from 2 September 2020 until revoked.

In connection with COVID-19, the Rectorate publishes guidelines on courses, research, staff, opening of premises, special offers, holding of internal university meetings, travel and other events.

The Rectorate continuously reviews the situation in close cooperation with the competent authorities and regularly updates these guidelines. The latest version of the guidelines as well as the latest information can be found on the special website of our university.

A. In general

In the light of the Federal Council’s resolutions of 27 May 2020, 19 June 2020 and 12 August 2020 and those of the government of Fribourg (Conseil d’Etat) and in agreement with these, the Rectorate has decided to continue to focus on normalising activities at the university as far as possible. Notwithstanding this, caution and vigilance must remain unchanged.

The prevention measures issued by the Federal Council as well as the recommendations and protective regulations of the Confederation must be complied with.

In addition, the guidelines of 6 July 2020 (status: 31 August 2020) on a protection concept with regard to minimising the transmission risk for COVID-19 must be observed at the University of Freiburg, in particular as far as the obligation to use masks is concerned.

B. Courses and exams

With regard to the organisation and implementation of the examinations of the September 2020 session, the guidelines of the Rectorate dated 6 April 2020 shall apply. Further details can be found on the websites of the faculties SciMed, Lettres, IUS, THEO, SES.

With regard to the courses in the autumn semester 2020, the Rectorate’s guidelines of 6 July 2020 (status on 31 August 2020), which came into force on 1 August 2020, are applicable.
C. Staff and research

According to the decisions of the government of the Canton of Fribourg, teleworking will be facilitated (but no longer privileged). With the written consent of the supervisor(s) (see the form here) teleworking can be used. The proportion of telework may not exceed 50% of the degree of employment. Where necessary, presence on university premises may be required, particularly for activities which require physical presence.

It is incumbent on the supervisors or heads of the units/groups to draw up attendance and prevention plans for their own employees and other persons (especially students), for which they are responsible and which comply with the general guidelines (cf. A.).

It is also recommended that the following principles be observed:
- Occupy one of two workplaces (laboratory sections, microscopes, etc.) to ensure a distance of 1.5 metres; if this minimum distance cannot be maintained, a homologated mask in accordance with the specifications of the Federal Office of Public Health must be worn
- Alternating presence of the people working in a given space, always keeping the same groups in order to limit the contact between people;
- Staggered working hours to avoid peak times;
- For circulation in the buildings, for tasks requiring work at close range, for the exchange or sharing of material or for persons at risk, the necessary personal protective equipment (masks and/or disinfectants) can be ordered and purchased from the Central Service of Laboratories (SciMed-Shop) or from the Miséricorde Material Centre (Economat). For opening hours, see the respective websites.

D. Opening of the premises

The university buildings are open according to the regular schedule (Opening hours of the buildings).

E. Special offers

E.1 Libraries

The activities and services of the libraries are carried out and offered, and a special regime is set up which takes account of the rules and preventive measures (cf. A.) as well as the distance requirements. Users must wear a homologated mask in libraries in accordance with the specifications of the Federal Office of Public Health. This does not apply to persons sitting at tables.
Lending is possible according to the conditions set by each library. Detailed and up-to-date information can be found on the library portal.

E.2 Public counters

The university counters are generally open according to the regular schedule. For the current status and opening hours, please refer to the respective websites.
E.3 University restaurants and cafeterias

The university restaurants and cafeterias are open according to the regular schedule. For details of opening hours, please refer to the respective websites.

The customers of the university restaurants and cafeterias must wear a homologated mask in the building in accordance with the specifications of the Federal Office of Public Health. This does not apply to people sitting at tables.

In terms of traceability and taking into account the recommendations of the Federal Office of Public Health and the canton, university restaurants use the "OK-resto" system. Customers provide their contact details and the date and time of their visit via the system or – if they do not have a smartphone with them – by filling in manually a form. These data are destroyed after 15 days.

E.4 University sports

Guided training sessions may be held in the sports halls of the University of Fribourg. Online registration is required to attend each lesson. The cloakrooms and showers are open according to the general rules. Details can be found on the website of the University Sports Office.

In addition, the Miséricorde, Pérolles and Regina Mundi gyms can be visited in compliance with the hygiene measures prescribed by the Federal Office of Public Health and after online reservation of the training time.

The full range of courses on offer and details of the individual courses can be found on the website of the University Sports Services.

E.5 University nursery

The nursery is open according to the regular schedule, taking into account the rules and preventive measures (cf. A.) as well as the distance requirements.

F. Internal meetings at the university

The organisation of face-to-face meetings is possible provided that distance and hygiene rules are respected. If the minimum distance of 1.5 metres cannot be maintained, the person responsible for the meeting must take adequate protective measures, in particular the obligation to wear a homologated mask in accordance with the Federal Office of Public Health and to keep a list of participants).

However, it is recommended to limit the number of such meetings and to organise meetings preferably through the MS Teams application. Access to MS Teams is via the relevant page of the IT Services Catalogue (in French or German) or by logging in directly to teams.microsoft.com with the University ID (e-mail address @unifr.ch and password).

G. Travel

For travel, it is recommended that you follow the guidelines and recommendations of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).
H. Event organisation

Events (in particular meetings, conferences, colloquia, further training courses, other events with external participants) are in principle permitted up to a maximum number of 300 participants, provided that a protection concept is drawn up and a list of participants is established. If the minimum distance of 1.5 metres cannot be maintained, the responsible person must take adequate protective measures, in particular the obligation to wear a homologated mask in accordance with the Federal Office of Public Health.

The prevention measures issued by the Federal Council as well as the recommendations and protective regulations of the Confederation must be complied with.

For events that take place on the university campus, a hall reservation (or, for those rooms that are managed decentrally, a notification) to the university hall administration (locauxmis@unifr.ch) is mandatory.

Fribourg, 31 August 2020

Astrid Epiney,
Rector