

## **Infection protection concept for research activities at the Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg**

The basis for conducting research at the Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg is the observance of the general regulations of infection protection, i.e. the Protection against Infection Act (IfSG), the COVID-19 Protective Measures Exemption Ordinance (SchAusnahmV) and the Bavarian Infection Protection Measures Ordinance (BayIfSMV), as well as the framework concept developed by the Universität Bayern e.V. with the Bavarian State Ministries of Science and Art as well as Health and Care and the following rules of the university's infection protection concept based on these regulations. The rules described here must be strictly observed when conducting research.

In addition to the general measures for infection protection (A.) and the incidence-dependent proof requirement (C.) laid down in the infection protection concept for on-site events at the University of Würzburg, the following special provisions apply to the conduction of research.

The aim of all measures is to protect the health of everyone involved.

### **Research in the sense of this infection protection concept**

Research in the sense of this infection protection concept does not only concern research projects that are financed in whole or in part by funds provided by the Free State of Bavaria available to the university or the university hospital but also by third-party funds. It is conducted by full-time or part-time academic personnel of the university, in particular by professors, scientific staff as well as in the context of doctoral and habilitation theses, master and bachelor theses and by supporting laboratory staff (e.g. technicians).

### **Minimum distance**

In the context of research, everyone is required, wherever possible, to keep a minimum distance of 1.5 m from other people who are not members of one's own household in order to avoid chains of infection.

### **3G status**

If the city of Würzburg exceeds a 7-day incidence (number of new infections with the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 per 100,000 inhabitants within seven days) of 35, access to closed rooms of the university may in principle only be granted to persons who have been vaccinated, recovered or tested (cf. SchAusnahmV § 2 Nr. 2, 4, 6).

Professional or voluntary activities in the public interest necessary for the operation of the

university and conducting events are exempt from the obligation to provide proof. This includes not only employees of the university but also *Lehrbeauftragte*.

### **Public areas on the university premises**

The relevant regulations for infection protection in public areas also apply to public areas on the university premises. In the open air, masks are only compulsory in the entrance and meeting areas of events with more than 1,000 persons, subject to more specific regulations

### **Cases of infection**

If cases of infection occur during research, the Public Health Department decides on the measures to be taken. The persons responsible must ensure contact tracing for the case of infections.

- Researchers who are demonstrably tested positive, must immediately inform the person responsible and, at the same time, report the case of infection to [gesundheitsschutz.corona@uni-wuerzburg.de](mailto:gesundheitsschutz.corona@uni-wuerzburg.de).
- The person responsible informs the university's COVID-19 task force immediately after becoming aware of an infection by sending an e-mail to [gesundheitsschutz.corona@uni-wuerzburg.de](mailto:gesundheitsschutz.corona@uni-wuerzburg.de). The next steps will then be coordinated with the departments concerned.
- If persons develop symptoms typical of SARS-CoV-2 infection during research, they must immediately inform the person responsible and leave the venue.

### **Special provisions for the conduction of research**

Research requiring university facilities (e.g. experimental setups, on-site materials) may be carried out in compliance with the following infection protection measures and all other health and safety regulations, which must already be adhered to:

1. As a general rule, research may only be carried out in university premises, if this is necessary. Literature research, evaluations, preparations for publications as well as office work are to be carried out in the home office wherever possible.

Information on the University Library's lending service and the access to electronically available media can be found at [www.bibliothek.uni-wuerzburg.de/aktuelles/meldungen/coronavirus](http://www.bibliothek.uni-wuerzburg.de/aktuelles/meldungen/coronavirus).

2. Regular air exchange in the rooms has to be ensured. More details can be found in the university's ventilation concept ([go.uniwue.de/corona-formulare](http://go.uniwue.de/corona-formulare)).
3. Wherever possible, firmly assigned and clearly separated workplaces should be used for different experiments.
4. The infection protection rules must still be observed during breaks.

5. If on-site events are held as part of the research, the regulations of the infection protection concept for on-site events at the University of Würzburg must be observed.
6. The following measures may also be considered:
  - a) time-shifted conduction of the research in repetitive cycles (shift work)
  - b) A half-hour break must be provided between alternating shifts.
  - c) The decision as to which measures are to be applied is made by the respective W3 professor or the independent leader of the working group in accordance with the rules compiled here.
7. The mask must either be changed after each shift or disinfected by suitable measures. Particularly in the case of laboratory work where hazardous and biological substances are used it should be considered whether the risk to employees (as well as students) may be increased by wearing a mask. For in individual cases, substances may be distributed unnoticed, e.g. in the form of splashes, and may get onto the mask.
8. Communication also between members of a working group should, as far as possible, take place without on-site meetings via electronic media. This also applies to working group meetings.
9. The general provisions of the health and safety regulations remain valid. The protective measures laid down in the risk assessment must be strictly observed.

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This infection protection concept cannot cover all special circumstances. Those members of the university are therefore called upon to resolve arising situations in the spirit of these regulations and to always give priority to health protection.