

**Regulations covering hygiene and general conditions at OVGU for the 2021/22 winter semester  
during the coronavirus pandemic**

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### Preliminary Remarks

In the 2021/22 winter semester we are aiming to establish opportunities for learning together face-to-face on campus.

This plan provides us with parameters, but it will only be successful if each and every one of us acts in both our own interests and those of OVGU.

If our international students are not able to travel to Germany, then it will continue to be possible to study online.

With this in mind, by ensuring a hygienic environment, OVGU is contributing to the preservation of the health of each member of the university, be they an employee or a student. Furthermore, all members of OVGU will be required to take careful note of the [hygiene regulations of the Robert Koch Institute \(RKI\)](#).

This plan sets out the conditions under which face-to-face teaching can take place at OVGU during the coronavirus pandemic. Any negative impacts on the operation of the university that may arise as a result of measures implemented by the public health department to deal with cases of infection, should be minimized as far as possible. **In principle, the 3G rule (geimpft, getestet, genesen = vaccinated, tested, recovered) will make face-to-face teaching possible on the university premises.**

Please check the [OVGU website](#) regularly regarding possible short-notice changes or restrictions that may occur, among other things, due to changes to the control ordinance currently in force. Students and employees of the Faculty of Medicine will be subject to special provisions where applicable.

## 1 Personal Infection Prevention

The COVID-19 virus is transmissible from person to person. The main mode of transmission is infection through droplets or aerosols. Predominantly this takes place via the mucous membranes of the respiratory tract. Furthermore, transmission is also possible indirectly via the hands if they then come into contact with the mucous membranes of the mouth, nose and/or eyes.

In brief here are the most important actions to take:

- **If you have COVID-19 symptoms, e.g. acute respiratory symptoms and/or fever and/or a loss of or change to your sense of taste or smell, stay at home.**
- **Keep your distance:** wherever possible, a minimum distance of 1.50 meters must be maintained to other people.
- **Medical face masks** (FFP2 or surgical masks) must be worn in all university buildings. This helps to capture droplets that are ejected when, for example, coughing, sneezing or speaking. This can help to reduce the risk of infecting another person by coughing, sneezing or speaking (protection of others).
- **No touching**, no hugging and no hand shaking.
- **Hand hygiene:**
  - [wash your hands](#) regularly and carefully for at least 20 seconds, especially after arriving at work and before eating.
  - Do not touch your face, and especially the mucous membranes, with your hands, i.e. do not touch your mouth, eyes or nose.
  - Where possible, do not touch publicly accessible objects such as door handles or lift buttons with your full hand or fingers.
  - It is not necessary to constantly disinfect your hands, as careful hand washing is sufficient. In the event that it is not possible to wash your hands immediately, hand sanitizer dispensers are available when you enter the university buildings.
- **Comply with coughing and sneezing etiquette:** coughing and sneezing in the crook of the arm are among the most important methods of prevention. When coughing or sneezing, maintain the greatest possible distance, and preferably turn away.
- Speaking to others face-to-face at only minimal distances should be avoided.
- Rooms and corridors must be **ventilated regularly, preferably by cross-ventilating.**

**Each and every individual is personally responsible** for maintaining appropriate personal hygiene.

Contactless, unmounted hand sanitizer dispensers are available at all main entrances to the buildings. Should you have any questions, K51, ext. 58391 will be pleased to assist. Additional requirements for essential hand sanitizer can be reported to K43, ext. 56082

## 2 3G Rule

All face-to-face classes in the university during the 2021/22 winter semester will be held in compliance with what is known as the 3G rule. This means that only individuals who have been **vaccinated** against the SARS-CoV-2 virus or who have **recovered** from it or have **tested negative** may take part in the classes, irrespective of the size of the group. This applies both to students and teaching staff irrespective of whether they are employed full-time or part-time.

In turn, the provisions of the Control Ordinance concerning gatherings of people and the requirement to maintain a minimum distance no longer apply. It is not necessary to register upon entering classrooms or lecture halls.

For digital verification purposes, OVGU is utilizing a *university pass (OVGU pass)* internally. The pass will only show the holder's 3G status, but not whether they have been vaccinated or tested, or have recovered from Covid-19. The OVGU pass (or any other proof of 3G status) must be carried on their person in printed or digital form by each participating person. Proof that an individual is negative for COVID-19 may be obtained through an antigen test (rapid test or self-test) carried out at an official testing center and must have taken place within the previous 48 hours, or a PCR test, which may not be older than 72 hours. The university has limited testing capacity.

International students and visiting academics who have proof of having been fully vaccinated with a vaccine that is not approved in the EU (e.g. Sputnik V, CoronaVac or BBIBP-CorV) may register this on the OVGU pass. The evidence of an alternative Covid-19 vaccination must be available at least in English in digital or paper form (e.g. yellow WHO vaccination pass).

The continuance of face-to-face service operations must be safeguarded. This applies in particular to the examination offices, employees in the CSC, in departments K 2, K 3 & K 6 and in the library. Other departments, too, which may come into close personal contact with students, staff or external personnel or who work in committees, may be affected. These employees must also comply with 3G status and be able to substantiate this. These employees are entitled to check the 3G status of their internal contacts (e.g. students). Reference should be made to this when making an appointment.

If, in particular an external party has not provided proof of their 3G status, the general hygiene rules must be especially carefully observed. If the intended venue does not meet the necessary requirements for this, a consultation or meeting may only take place digitally. Upon activating the pass, the holder declares that they personally meet the requirements of the 3G rule and that they accept all non-internal rules.

## 3 Requirement to Wear a Mask

The infection protection authorities recommend the general wearing of a medical face mask (surgical or FFP2 mask) in public spaces. OVGU is following this recommendation. Moreover, the wearing of medical masks has a significant bearing on the definition of contacts (Appendix 1). In the event of contact with a positive case, the consistent wearing of medical face masks will, in all likelihood, prevent a requirement to quarantine.

- In principle, all persons are required to wear a **medical face mask in all buildings including the**

**publicly accessible areas.** This includes corridors and sanitary facilities.

- The wearing of a **medical face mask** (surgical mask or FFP2 mask) in **lecture halls and laboratory / seminar rooms** is mandatory for both students and lecturers if it is not possible to adhere to the minimum distance requirements.
- During meetings, wearing a medical face mask (surgical or FFP2 mask) is mandatory if it is not possible to adhere to the minimum distance of 1.5 meters.
- The provisions of the [Covid-19 Occupational Health and Safety Regulation](#) issued by the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs apply in the workplace.
- On campus, a medical face mask must be worn if it is not possible to adhere to the minimum distance of 1.50 meters.

#### 4 Testing

Until further notice, OVGU is offering free rapid antigen self-tests under supervision in the OVGU testing center to its employees, in accordance with statutory requirements, and to students. Further information (including on booking an appointment) is available from [www.termin.e.vgu.de/testzentrum](http://www.termin.e.vgu.de/testzentrum). A certificate will be issued by the test center with the test result, which is valid for 48 hours and solely within OVGU. The testing offer is above all intended for those who cannot work from home, or for students attending face-to-face classes on campus who are neither vaccinated nor have recovered from the coronavirus.

It must be noted that the offer of a test should not be seen as an “exemption” of any kind. A negative result does not exempt the holder from complying with the hygiene regulations in force at OVGU (e.g. the obligation to wear a mask).

Since capacity is limited, if necessary, the services offered by the testing centers in the city or in your own place of residence should be used. An overview of the rapid testing centers in Magdeburg: [www.schnelltest-magdeburg.de/#drivein](http://www.schnelltest-magdeburg.de/#drivein).

Equally, pharmacies also offer rapid antigen testing. An overview of the pharmacies in Saxony-Anhalt that offer tests can be found here: [www.ak-sa.de/aktuelles-presse/covid-19/test-apotheken.html](http://www.ak-sa.de/aktuelles-presse/covid-19/test-apotheken.html).

If groups of people (4 people or more) are to be tested at a certain time, then these groups must register, with details of the number of people and the date, at least 2 days in advance on [corona@ovgu.de](mailto:corona@ovgu.de).

#### 5 Room hygiene

##### 5.1 Ventilation

Regular and proper ventilation that ensures that the indoor air is regularly replaced is especially important. Before and after each use of a room and in every break, depending on the room size and number of participants, a “short, sharp” ventilation, preferably cross-ventilation, should be undertaken by opening the windows and, where possible, doors as wide as possible for 10-15 minutes. The respective teaching staff member is responsible for this. Smaller meeting rooms must be ventilated every 20 minutes for 5-10 minutes. “Permanent ventilation with windows tilted open may also, through continuous exchange of air, prevent the concentration of virus in the indoor air from becoming too great” (German Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, status 06.02.21)

If, for structural reasons, the windows in a room cannot be opened in any way at all, the room shall be deemed unsuitable for teaching unless the air can be exchanged using an air conditioning unit. Attention must be paid to ensuring sufficient ventilation of corridors, stairwells, tea rooms and bathroom facilities.

## 5.2 Cleaning

“In general, the infectiousness of coronaviruses on inanimate surfaces decreases as a function of material and environmental factors such as temperature and humidity” (RKI 2020). “There is currently no [evidence of transmission via surfaces](#) in the public sphere” (RKI 2020). Nevertheless, the RKI recommends the cleaning of surfaces in public areas. In contrast to cleaning, the RKI does not recommend the routine disinfection of surfaces. Appropriate cleaning with soapy water is fully adequate.

If disinfection is considered necessary on a case-by-case basis, please contact K51 (ext. 58391).

The following areas will be cleaned especially thoroughly and in heavily frequented areas whenever possible by the relevant cleaning personnel every day: doorknobs and handles (e.g. on drawers and windows) and the edging of doors, flights of stairs and handrails, light switches, control panel buttons.

## 5.3 Hygiene in bathroom areas

In all toilet facilities, liquid soap dispensers and single use towels are provided that are regularly replenished (contact: K51, ext. 58391). Bins are available for single use paper towels.

Medical masks must be worn in the washrooms. Toilet seats, fittings, wash basins and floors are cleaned daily.

## 5.4 Holding of classes

In the case of face-to-face classes, the following minimum standards must be adhered to:

- The rooms may be occupied to 100% capacity. It is not permitted to exceed a room’s maximum capacity.
- The wearing of a mask applies pursuant to Chapter 2 - “Face Masks”
- Participation in classes is **only permitted after first** registering in the **TSR system** which should, where necessary, enable students of a module to be notified of any cases of infection that occur. Registration in the TSR system has no significance with regard to examinations. The following persons are excluded from participation in classes:
  - persons who are subject to a quarantine order pursuant to the SARS-CoV2 Quarantine Ordinance of Saxony-Anhalt or on the instructions of the public health department, in the corresponding time period;
  - persons with COVID-19 symptoms, e.g. acute respiratory difficulties and/or fever and/or a lost or changed sense of taste or smell, unless they are able to demonstrate with a medical certificate that they are not infected with COVID-19. Signs to this effect will be displayed at the entrance to the lecture hall/seminar room;
  - persons who have been in contact (see Appendix 1) with an individual who has tested positive for Covid-19, for a period of 7 days after the contact or for the duration of a period of quarantine ordered by the public health department.

By participating in the class, all persons present affirm that they are not subject to any relevant grounds for exclusion.

- At the start of every class, the teaching staff must
  - inform those present of the 3G and hygiene rules with which they are required to comply;
  - notify the students that they must inform the lecturer and the President's Office ([corona@ovgu.de](mailto:corona@ovgu.de)) immediately in the following circumstances:
    - a positive COVID-19 test result,
    - close contact (see Appendix 1) with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 within a period of 14 days prior to the class.
- If classes last longer than 90 minutes, they must include a 15-minute break during which time the room must be thoroughly ventilated.
- After the class, the teacher must disinfect any microphones used with disinfectant wipes (available from K43 if required).
- If the teacher becomes aware of any COVID-19 infections or contacts with persons infected with COVID-19, he or she must inform the President's Office ([corona@ovgu.de](mailto:corona@ovgu.de)) immediately.
- Teaching staff are entitled to check that the 3G rules are being followed. In addition, individuals appointed by the university will carry out random checks. Should there be any infringements of the 3G rules and protective measures, lecturers are entitled to exclude those persons concerned from the class. In the event of repeated infringements, disciplinary proceedings in accordance with university regulations (in the case of students) or sanctions in accordance with employment law (in the case of employees) may be initiated. Infringements must be reported to [corona@ovgu.de](mailto:corona@ovgu.de).

### 5.5 Official business / internal meetings

In the case of personal meetings, the rule is that a high concentration of infectious aerosols in the room must be prevented. Appendix 1 provides specific instructions on achieving this. Minimum distances, the requirement to wear medical face masks and ventilation rules must be adhered to. The room must be chosen so that at least 10 square meters are available to each person.

### 6 University library / refectory

Separate hygiene plans apply to the university library (<https://www.ub.ovgu.de/>) and the refectory (<https://www.studentenwerk-magdeburg.de/corona/>).

### 7 Individuals at higher risk of complications resulting COVID-19

Certain groups of people are at greater risk of complications from COVID-19; for more on this see the [information and assistance from the Robert Koch Institute for persons at greater risk of complications resulting from COVID-19](#) .

Protecting all employees and students at OVGU has the highest priority. Against this background, the following has been laid down on the basis of the data so far available:

- Membership of a risk group and the consequent protective measures must be determined in coordination with the occupational health service. Employees will be required to fulfill their duties within the framework of the recommendations made by the occupational health service.
- Pregnant women in particular must be protected. The deployment of pregnant lecturers outside of online teaching will be in accordance with the risk assessment and the recommendations of the occupational health service on a voluntary basis.
- Students belonging to a group that is at higher risk of complications from COVID-19 as per the RKI may stay away from classes that require attendance in person and work through the course content online. In all cases, lecturers must be kept informed by the student.

## 8 Classes

Under §2a, the 14th Control Ordinance of the State of Saxony-Anhalt allows for the possibility of holding classes following a 2G access model. Information on the framework conditions and on their implementation can be found [here](#). If a class is planned in accordance with 2G conditions this must be reported to [corona@ovgu.de](mailto:corona@ovgu.de). Furthermore, it must be ensured that in the case of 2G classes, the staff involved must also meet these requirements. Alongside the 2G model (vaccinated, recovered) it will also continue to be possible to hold classes under 3G requirements (tested, vaccinated, recovered).

## 9 Reporting chains

The reporting (see PDF Documents entitled “Reporting Chains”) of confirmed COVID-19 infections at OVGU follows a fixed sequence. If an individual returns a positive test result for COVID-19, their contacts must be identified. The person concerned and/or OVGU will be requested to do so by the public health department. In the event that there are cases of infection among the student body, all students of a module will be notified by the university as a precaution, irrespective of whether they have participated in the relevant class or not.

OVGU must be notified via [corona@ovgu.de](mailto:corona@ovgu.de) by both students and employees if they are infected with COVID-19 and/or if a close contact is infected. Further appropriate measures will be taken in consultation with the responsible manager(s) and/or Dean’s Office.

## 10 Contacts

### 10.1 Internal contact details

General: [corona@ovgu.de](mailto:corona@ovgu.de)

K51: 58391; K43: 56082; K42: 56090



## 10.2 External contacts details

### **Contact for the occupational health service at OVGU**

Breiter Weg 180, D-39104 Magdeburg  
Tel.: +49 (0)391 598 0380

### **Contact for the Department of Occupational Health and Safety & Environmental Protection at OVGU**

Am Krökentor 8, 39106 Magdeburg, Gebäude 43 | Raum 003  
Tel.: +49 (0)391 675 6079

### **OVGU Faculty of Medicine Walk-In Testing Center**

Faculty of Medicine Campus, Leipziger Str. 44, 39120 Magdeburg  
Advice hotline Mon-Fri: 8 am to 4 pm on +49 (0)391 671 7799

### **Magdeburg Public Health Department**

Lübecker Str. 32, 39124 Magdeburg  
Tel.: +49 (0)391 540 2000  
Mon - Fri: 8 am to 4 pm

### **Magdeburg Public Health Department Walk-In Testing Center**

Brandenburger Strasse 8, 39104 Magdeburg  
Hotline: +49 (0)391 540 6036 or +49 (0)391 540 6001  
[hotline.corona@ga.magdeburg.de](mailto:hotline.corona@ga.magdeburg.de)

## 11 Entry into force

These regulations / general conditions come into force from 13.10.2021

## Appendix 1

### Definition of [contacts as per the Robert Koch Institute](https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Kontaktperson/Management.html) (RKI, status: 15.09.2021)

“On the basis of the changed criteria for the classification of the contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case in close contacts with an increased risk of infection, the previous division into category 1 and category 2 contacts no longer applies.” ([https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges\\_Coronavirus/Kontaktperson/Management.html](https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Kontaktperson/Management.html), Ch. 3)

“Contacts with a confirmed COVID-19 case shall be defined as close contacts (with increased risk of infection) in the event that at least one of the following situations applies:

- Close contact (<1.5 m) longer than 10 minutes without adequate protection<sup>#</sup> (adequate protection = case and contact person correctly wearing mouth and nose protection or FFP2 mask throughout).
- **Meeting with the case** (face-to-face contact, <1.5 m, **irrespective of the duration of the meeting**) **without adequate protection<sup>#</sup>** or direct contact (with respiratory secretion).
- Presence of contact (and case) in the same room, with **probably a higher concentration of infectious aerosols** irrespective of the distance for longer than 10 minutes, **even if correctly wearing mouth and nose protection** or FFP2 mask throughout.  
([https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges\\_Coronavirus/Kontaktperson/Management.html](https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Kontaktperson/Management.html), Section 3.1)

The RKI also provides a risk assessment for close contacts. This is especially useful for Group C (= “Contact irrespective of the distance with a high concentration of infectious aerosols in the room”). ([https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges\\_Coronavirus/Kontaktperson/Management.html](https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Kontaktperson/Management.html), Appendix 1.C)

### **Contact irrespective of the distance (high concentration of infectious aerosols in the room)**

“Virus-loaded small particles can accumulate indoors if ventilation is insufficient because they are able to float in the air for hours. Virus contained in small particles/aerosols remains (under experimental conditions) capable of reproducing with a half-life of approximately one hour. In the case of a high concentration of infectious virus particles in the room, even those people who were located far from the positive case (far field) are at risk. The saturation of the aerosols with infectious particles depends on the activity of the infectious person: breathing<speaking<shouting/singing. Per second a person singing expels around as many particles as 30 people speaking.

In a situation of this kind, the risk increases with:

- the number of infectious people in the room
- the number of non-infectious people in the room (faster mixing of the aerosol)
- the infectiousness of the case (which is greater at the onset of the disease than later on in its course)
- the length of stay of the infectious person(s) in the room
- the intensity of the particle emission
- the intensity of the breathing activity (frequency, depth of breathing) of the exposed persons (e.g. when playing sport)
- the narrow confines of the room and
- the lack of fresh air supply.”