



Update: COVID-19 provisions for employees – Employees-list-mail from Karsten Gerlof, 8 January 2021

Dear university employees,

As you know, the state-wide provisions on the containment of the COVID-19 pandemic will be extended until January 31 and tightened in some individual areas. However, the announced restriction of movement to a 15 km radius around some counties/urban areas with a particularly high incidence rate will not apply to necessary journeys, e.g. commuting to work.

Notwithstanding the above, the possibilities of working from home are to be used to their fullest extent at the UP, so as to ease the childcare burden for parents with children in school or daycare, but also more generally to reduce infection risks at or on the way to work.

For academic staff members, the guidelines on flexible working hours and working locations, which came into force on November 1, 2020, apply (https://www.uni-potsdam.de/fileadmin/projects/personalvertretungen/WiMiPR_Dokumente/2020-10-07_Leitlinien_mobiles_Arbeiten_AkMis.pdf). Each organizational unit of the UP is to implement them in a way that allows us to reconcile the requirements of a family-friendly university with the duties in teaching and research as best we can. As you will read in detail in the information mail to be sent out shortly by the Department of Teaching and Learning, there will be no on-site teaching – with a few exceptions – until February 12. Courses are to be offered in digital formats. This enables you to work from home even more than before.

For employees in our technical and administrative services, the following will apply: Your supervisors will have adapted the division-specific home office concepts by now, in order to enable employees to work from home to the greatest possible extent, especially for those affected by the school and daycare closures, but also for the division in general. The applicable home office regulations provide the framework for this (https://www.uni-potsdam.de/fileadmin/projects/presse/docs/Corona-Webseiten/021120_Eckpunkte_Homeoffice_MTV.pdf). The division has to remain reachable and necessary tasks still need to be completed.

Furthermore, the state of Brandenburg also updated the provisions that go beyond home office for employees with childcare duties or care obligations in the event of the closure of daycare centers/schools/care facilities. You can find details on this and other current information at: <https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/presse/press/latest-news/coronavirus> in the subsection: Information for Employees

Despite the unusual circumstances caused by the pandemic, I wish you all a good start to the new year and above all: Stay healthy!

Kind regards,
Karsten Gerlof