

Current COVID-19 requirements from the federal government and the state of Brandenburg – Employees-list-mail from Karsten Gerlof, 1 February 2021

Dear university employees,

the new, fifth coronavirus containment ordinance (5. SARS-CoV-2-EindV), which has been in force for a few days now, stipulates that inside workplaces and business premises as well as in office and administrative buildings, employees and visitors must wear a medical mask, i.e. a surgical mask, FFP2 mask or equivalent. The same now also applies to local public transport and private shopping at the supermarket. **For this reason, we would like to ask you to wear such a medical mask in all university buildings from now on, rather than a community mask or simple cloth face covering.** This must be observed, as before, in the corridors, hallways, elevators and stairwells. Inside your office, the mask can be removed once you are at your desk or seat, provided that you can keep a distance of at least 1.5 meters to other people.

On January 27, the ordinance of the Federal Ministry of Labor (Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Soziales) on the so-called “home office obligation” (Corona-ArbSchV) came into force, which will expire again on March 15, 2021. It calls on employers to **offer employees the possibility**, in the case of office jobs or comparable activities, **to carry out these activities from their home offices**. However, this does not apply if there are any compelling operational reasons preventing this. If you would like to take advantage of the expanded home office options, please contact your supervisor.

The ordinance also contains other stipulations; for example, meetings may not be held if the requirement of a minimum area of 10 square meters per person in the room cannot be met. **In-person meetings should therefore only be scheduled if urgently necessary** and, of course, in compliance with this rule.

The UP would like to support its employees who have children to care for. In the current situation, it is often difficult to balance childcare and work commitments, especially because of the restrictions for school and daycare facilities. In these cases, it is now possible to apply for **child sick days** (Kinderkrankentage) under certain conditions. Also, the federal government recently increased the number of child sick days per child and per parent. You can find details on this within a short time at <https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/presse/press/latest-news/coronavirus>, in the subsection: Information for Employees, number 4.

On these websites you will also find other continuously updated information related to COVID-19. It is therefore worth your while to take a look at these websites from time to time.

Kind regards,
Karsten Gerlof