

Current COVID-19 regulations by the federal government – Employees-list-mail from Karsten Gerlof, 18 March 2021

Dear employees of the university,

Over the weekend, the Infection Protection Act (Infektionsschutzgesetz) took effect, supplemented by the new section 28b with provisions for consistent nationwide protective measures against the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

In it, the “home office obligation” has been stipulated in even more stringent terms than before. For office jobs or comparable activities, employers are to **offer** employees the opportunity to **carry out these activities from their home offices**. However, this does not apply if there are any compelling operational reasons preventing this. Employees are to **accept this offer** unless there are reasons on their side that prevent them from doing so.

What are the current rules at the UP?

For employees in our technical and administrative services the following applies: Whether it is possible for you to work from home depends on the concept of the UP department in which you work. For academic staff members, working from home should be possible as a general rule. However, there are exceptions such as laboratory work or certain examinations that require on-site attendance. In my last e-mails, I already informed you of the university-wide framework regulations on remote work for academic employees and for employees in the administrative and technical services. If you have any questions about this, please contact your supervisor or Division 3.

It is also of great help if those of you who have to **work at the university in person** regularly get a rapid test, taking advantage of the [UP's testing services](#) or the public testing opportunities (“Bürgertest”), for example. COVID-19 is not only transmitted by people suffering from the disease, but also by people who do not feel any symptoms of the disease. It would help reduce the risk of infection significantly if as many of the on-site employees of companies and institutions as possible were tested on a regular basis. Last but not least, a rapid test would also give you and your family a greater sense of security.

Due to the new regulations, the Studentenwerk Potsdam (Association for Student Affairs) **will only offer take-away meals in the cafeterias and dining halls until further notice**.

According to an announcement by the Federal Minister of Health, there are plans to involve company physicians in the national vaccination strategy, but not before June. This would make it possible to administer **vaccinations on company premises**. The University of Potsdam is also aiming to create a vaccination scheme for employees. We are currently making plans in that regard. However, since many things are still unclear and our vaccination capacities will be very limited in any case, we ask that you do not wait for a vaccination offer from the university's physician, but take advantage of any other vaccination option that becomes available.

The **Hygiene Concept of the university** continues to apply and is binding for everyone. Its latest version is available at [this weblink](#). It is to ensure safe university operations during the pandemic. However,

this will only succeed with the help of all of you. Please follow all of the rules laid out in the concept as far as they pertain to your work environment. Essential key points such as the minimum distance of 1.50m and contact reductions must also be observed during work breaks and when moving about in order to keep the risk of infection to a minimum.

If the so-called seven-day incidence exceeds the threshold of 165 for three consecutive days, further restrictions on university operations will take effect. In that case, you will be informed about it. The 7-day incidence in Potsdam is at 120.9 at the moment.

You can find further extensive, continuously updated information on all COVID-19 regulations on the websites <https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/presse/press/latest-news/coronavirus>

Kind regards and first and foremost: stay healthy!

Karsten Gerlof