

Implementation of the 2G rule – Employees-list-mail from Prof. Andreas Musil, 15. Dezember 2021

Dear Sir or Madam, dear students, dear colleagues,

Understandably, we received numerous reactions to the announcement that the optional 2G model will be implemented at the University of Potsdam as of January 3, 2022 (Section 25 subsection 4 in conjunction with Section 7 subsection 2 of the Second SARS-CoV-2 Containment Ordinance ([2nd SARS-CoV-2-EindV](#))), which calls for a 2G status, meaning that students must be vaccinated against or have recovered from the coronavirus. We would like to provide you with answers to the resulting questions and discuss implementation details:

1 Exceptions to the 2G rule

- 1.1. Individuals who cannot be vaccinated due to a medical contraindication and for whom no vaccination recommendation has therefore been issued by the Standing Commission on Vaccination (STIKO) are exempt from the 2G rule. They must provide proof of the medical reasons by means of a written medical certificate in the original (cf. Section 7 subsection 1 no. 4b of the 2nd SARS-CoV-2-EindV). In addition, proof of daily testing must be provided (no self-tests).
- 1.2. For crucial points like **examinations** and **courses with large practical components**, we will ensure that students are not held back with regard to the progress of their studies. This is to allow all students the opportunity to complete the current semester as scheduled. For this reason, an exemption has been put in place for these cases with a daily testing requirement as an alternative to 2G until the end of the winter semester. For all other courses, appropriate alternatives to face-to-face teaching will be offered. Hybrid formats are recommended, but digital formats are still possible if suggested by instructors and if the majority of participating students agree.
- 1.3. The only option now to ensure full vaccination in time is the Johnson&Johnson vaccine. For students who provide proof of a first vaccination prior to December 4, 2021, with a different vaccine, daily testing (no self-testing) is permissible until January 31, 2022.

2 Mask mandate

The mandate to wear an FFP2 or medical mask is not abolished by the 2G rule for the time being. Everyone must continue to wear a mask inside the buildings. The same applies to anyone who is speaking during courses.

3 Rules for employees of the University of Potsdam

There will be no changes for employees of the university: For now and at least until March 19, 2022, the 3G rule applies to academic and non-academic staff members on the basis of [Section 28b of the Infection Protection Act](#) (cf. [E-mail from the Chancellor to employees dated November 22, 2021](#)). Nevertheless, we would like to appeal to you: If there are still faculty members who have not been

vaccinated without a compelling reason, we urge them to show solidarity and to decide in favor of getting vaccinated.

4 Where will the 2G rule apply?

The 2G rule will apply in all publicly accessible rooms of the buildings. These include lecture halls, seminar and other teaching rooms, libraries (with the exception of pick-up areas), computer pools, and self-study areas. The dining halls are not permitted to participate in the optional 2G model (Section 7 in conjunction with Section 15 subsection 2 no. 3 2nd SARS-CoV-2-EindV); neither may contact data be collected nor 2/3G status checks be carried out there.

5 How will 2G status checks be carried out and how often?

2G status checks in the context of on-site teaching will be carried out more frequently than before. The transition to 2G status checks allows for more effective monitoring processes. Additional funds in the amount of EUR 100,000 will be used for this purpose. For instance, there may be special days where checks are carried out at the entrances to buildings and proof of 2G status may also be requested in courses and in libraries.

6 Seating arrangements and hygiene regulations

In many lecture halls and seminar rooms, the seating arrangements have been adapted to COVID-specific conditions. If any furniture is to be moved in seminar rooms, we ask you to keep the required minimum distance and to make sure that the chairs and tables are returned to their original position at the end of the session. Please comply with the [hygiene concept of the university](#) at all times, even under the 2G conditions. It is to enable all of us to study and work safely.

In addition to the operational aspects of the 2G model that will be in effect as of January, we would like to provide you with some further guidance on vaccination services as well as additional sources of information:

- 1) Vaccination appointments in Potsdam: <https://www.potsdam.de/impfen-der-landeshauptstadt-potsdam>
- 2) Vaccination appointments in Brandenburg: <https://brandenburg-impft.de/bb-impft/de/impfstellen/>
- 3) Vaccination appointments in Berlin: <https://www.berlin.de/corona/impfen/>

For all other questions about COVID-19 in general, but also specifically about topics such as vaccination, vaccination status, international vaccinations, you will find the latest developments from the scientific community on the [websites of the Robert Koch Institute](#). If you are hesitant or unsure about vaccination, I urge you to consult these websites and follow medical expertise.

The decisions that have been made are, of course, compromises. In this respect, our primary obligation is to those university members who wish to study, research, and teach in face-to-face formats, but with as little risk of infection as possible. With that in mind, I would like to wish you all a peaceful time during the Christmas holidays and at the turn of the year, which will hopefully continue well into the upcoming year.

Kind regards,

Prof. Dr. Andreas Musil
Vice President for Teaching and Studies