Circular No. 33/2020
Transitioning of University operations to “safe operations” phase

Dear Sir or Madam,

The corona pandemic will be with us for some time to come. Yet the past weeks have taught us the following: if we all show solidarity and follow basic hygiene measures, we are a good step closer to regaining some normality, in our everyday lives as well as in our University operations.

The University management’s courses of action during the coronavirus pandemic are determined by German law. The ordinance on the protection against new coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 infections (Coronaschutzverordnung) was last revised on Monday, May 04, 2020—and is valid up to and including May 10. For information on the ever-changing legal regulations on the coronavirus pandemic and their impact on the University of Bonn, please refer to this circular and the portal maintained by the Rectorate www.uni-bonn.de/corona.

Current legal regulations

In the above-mentioned portal dedicated to information on the coronavirus, you can find details and latest legal regulations applicable to university operations:

- Ordinance on the protection against new coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 infections (Coronaschutzverordnung)
- Ordinance on overcoming coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 epidemic related challenges posed on university operations (Corona-Epidemie-Hochschulverordnung)
- Teaching and practical courses as well as examinations at institutions of higher education in the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia (Allgemeinverfügung des Ministeriums für Arbeit, Gesundheit und Soziales).
Transitioning from “minimal operations” to “safe operations”
The University of Bonn is currently maintaining minimal operations on site. Based on the current legal regulations and the coronavirus pandemic status quo, the University management is making arrangements for the transition to “safe operations”.

Thus, teaching, research and administrative operations, will, to the extent possible, take place without (or respectively, with reduced physical) attendance on University premises, preferably through working from home. The summer semester 2020 will be conducted digitally. Protecting the health of our University members and containing the spread of the coronavirus remains our top priority, and all decisions are being taken with this priority in mind. However, where the University management has approved specific hygiene concepts, the following exceptions may apply as of June 01, 2020:

- Borrowing from libraries
- Research and imperative teaching in labs
- Examinations which cannot be held digitally and
- Small meetings with specific requirements such as job interviews.

Helpful checklists and guidelines on implementing necessary exceptions will be made available to you promptly (on the coronavirus portal on the University website).

Wearing of mouth and nose covers becomes mandatory
Effective Monday, May 18, 2020, mouth and nose covers must be worn in all University of Bonn buildings. Already now it is strongly recommended to wear mouth and nose covers on all University premises. If you are alone in the room, no such protection is needed. Requirements for labs must be defined on a case-by-case basis; suitable mouth and nose protection must be jointly agreed upon with Occupational Safety and must be documented in a hygiene concept. Where applicable, please contact arbeitsschutz@uni-bonn.de.

Please note: Wearing mouth and nose covers does not replace other protective measures such as social distancing and hand hygiene. Detailed hygiene as well as infection containment guidelines will be made available shortly on the coronavirus section of the University website.

The current situation is volatile and legal regulations are changing constantly. The University management will keep you updated via circulars and www.uni-bonn.de/corona. We thank you for your active contribution in these challenging times, for understanding that providing answers on some details may occasionally require a bit of time and, in particular, for continuing to act responsibly and with solidarity in mind.

Sincerely,

signed Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Michael Hoch       signed Holger Gottschalk
Rector                                               Provost

www.200jahre.uni-bonn.de