

SARS-CoV-2 hygiene concept for field exercises and excursions in public spaces and on the University campus

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Preface

The following protective measures pursue the goal of reducing the risk of transmission and preventing infections through a hygiene-oriented environment and proper conduct. Each individual can contribute to protecting himself/herself and others from a COVID-19 infection through his/her personal conduct. Therefore, an active participation of everyone is indispensable for success.

Students who do not observe the hygiene measures applicable to a field exercise or excursion are to be excluded from the teaching unit or the course by the course instructor, unless it is a minor, negligible violation. Subsequently, the students concerned shall be immediately prohibited from further participation in the field exercise or excursion.

The head of the respective course is responsible for the implementation and observance of the protective measures listed below.

1 Central hygiene measures

The novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 is transmissible from person to person. The main transmission route in the population seems to be droplet infection. Aerogenic and contact transmissions probably play a lesser role.

SARS-CoV-2 is mainly transmitted via droplets that are produced when coughing and sneezing and are absorbed by the other person via the mucous membranes of the nose, mouth and possibly the eye (droplet infection). Although it is difficult to make a final assessment at present, the research to date indicates that SARS-CoV-2 viruses can be transmitted via aerosols (droplet nuclei smaller than 5 micrometers) even in normal social contact. Likewise, transmission through contaminated surfaces by means of smear infection via the hands, which are brought into contact with the oral or nasal mucous membrane or the conjunctiva of the eyes, especially in the immediate vicinity of the infected person, cannot be ruled out. The course of the disease is unspecific, diverse and varies greatly, from asymptomatic progressions to very severe disease progression with severe pneumonia with lung failure and death. Frequently mentioned symptoms are cough, fever and a runny nose.

The most important hygiene measures at a glance:

➤ **Individual entry and departure**

➤ **Limited group size**

➤ **Minimum distance – including outdoors**

A distance of at least 1.5 meters reliably reduces the risk of infection and is therefore also important to be observed outdoors.

➤ **Observation of proper coughing and sneezing etiquette**

Coughing and sneezing in the crook of your arm is one of the most important preventive measures. When coughing or sneezing, the greatest possible distance from other people should be maintained, and it is best to turn away while doing so.

➤ **Ban on participation**

Persons who are or have been in contact with an infected person, if less than 14 days have elapsed since contact with an infected person, or who show symptoms of a respiratory tract infection or increased temperature, are not allowed to participate in field exercises and excursions.

2 Entry and departure

- Should bus travel be reinstated by the state government after June 5, 2020, the regulations made in this regard will apply.
- The formation of carpool is generally not permitted, unless they are members of the same household.
- Students who are unable to travel to and from the University individually due to a disability, chronic illness or acute illness may form a carpool with another participant. For the non-driving person, the journey is only permitted in the back seat in an offset seating position. During the presence in the vehicle the driver and passengers must wear a mouth and nose covering. Alternatively, the ride in the official vehicle or another adequate possibility must be offered.
- The use of local public transport is possible in compliance with the protective measures applicable there.
- The use of an official vehicle to transport the equipment required for the field exercise or excursion is permitted. Only one person per row of seats may be in the vehicle for the journey in the institute's own minibus. The seats must be taken in a maximum offset position. During their stay in the vehicle, the driver and passengers must wear a mouth-and-nose cover.
- Make sure that there is sufficient ventilation (NO AIR CIRCULATION, if possible drive with open windows) while driving.
- If the vehicle is used by several persons, controls which are often touched, such as the steering wheel, gear lever and door handles, must be cleaned before handing over the vehicle. They can be cleaned with a surfactant-containing cleaning solution or a surface disinfectant.
- Hand hygiene items (disinfectant, paper towels and garbage bags) must be kept available in every vehicle.

3 Limited group size

- A maximum of 30 persons (including lecturers/tutors) may participate in a field exercise or excursion.
- The field exercise or excursion is to be organized in such a way that the participants are distributed individually or in groups of a maximum of 5 persons, maintaining a minimum distance of 1.5 meters, if possible 2 meters, in the field. In case of a group formation necessary for the course, a value of approx. 100 sqm per group of 5 persons is to be applied.
- At no time during the event may there be a group formation of more than 5 persons.

4 Organizational measures

- For each field exercise and excursion, a responsible person must be appointed who is responsible for observing hygiene measures.

- The names of the participants (students and tutors and lecturers) as well as the name of the responsible person must be documented in each individual case, preferably with the agreement of a mobile phone number and e-mail address.

5 Cleaning

- Equipment, tools, etc. that cannot be dispensed with during the event must be cleaned with a cleaning agent containing tenside (e.g. liquid soap, neutral soap) or with a surface disinfectant before changing users.

6 Individual hygiene measures

- The general hygiene regulations apply, such as hand cleaning, coughing and sneezing etiquette.
- Personal items such as mouth and nose coverings, drink cups or bottles or food must always be clearly identifiable and stored in such a way that they cannot be used by others.
- For hand hygiene on the course, participants must be able to disinfect their hands. The use of textile cloths is prohibited.

7 Mouth and nose covering

- Each participant must bring and wear a mouth cover to the event if the minimum distance of 1.5 m cannot be safely maintained.
- There is no obligation to wear a mouth and nose covering when staying outside, where a distance of less than 2 meters is possible.

8 Instruction

- Students and employees shall be informed in an appropriate manner about the measures of this hygiene concept. The instruction shall be documented.

9 Risk groups

- Students who belong to a group of people who, according to the Robert Koch Institute, have a higher risk of developing a serious course of COVID-19, are obliged to seek advice from the Safety Department before participating in a field exercise or excursion.

https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Steckbrief.html#doc13776792bodyText3

10 Maternity protection

- Pregnant students are not allowed to participate. During field exercises or excursions, there is an increased risk of infection with SARS-CoV-2, even if all hygiene measures are observed, which, on the basis of the Notes on the assessment of risks from SARS-CoV-2 in accordance with maternity protection law” of the Maternity Protection Committee must be classified as an irresponsible hazard for preventive reasons within the meaning of the Maternity Protection Act.
- Breastfeeding students are obliged to seek advice from the Safety Department before participating in a field exercise or excursion.

https://www.bafza.de/fileadmin/Programme_und_Foerderungen/Unterstuetzung_von_Gremien/Ausschuss-fuer-Mutterschutz/Informationspapier_Mutterschutz_und_SARS-CoV-2_200414.pdf

11 Ban on participation

- Persons may not take part in field exercises or excursions if they
 1. have been in contact with an infected person, or have been in contact with an infected person if less than 14 days have passed since contact with an infected person, or
 2. show the symptoms of a respiratory infection or increased temperature.

Established on May 19, 2020 by

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