



## COVID-19 safety concept for classroom teaching in the fall semester 2020/21

Approved by the President's Board on 21 August 2020

### 1. Introduction

This safety concept is based on the [Ordinance on Measures during the Special Situation to combat the COVID-19 Epidemic](#) dated 19 June 2020 and the [Guidelines for resuming operations in Swiss universities in the fall semester 2020/21](#) (German only).

This safety concept will be adapted to reflect further development of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### 2. Aims

The goal of the safety concept is to enable resumption of classroom teaching and the gradual opening of university buildings and premises as far as possible, while protecting the health of university members and users of the university library. The directives, recommendations and measures included in the safety concept are intended to prevent transmission of the coronavirus within the University of Basel as much as possible; they complement the [hygiene and social distancing rules of the Federal Office of Public Health \(FOPH\)](#) currently in effect.

The goals of the safety concept can only be fulfilled if all university members and users of the university library assume responsibility for helping contain the spread of COVID-19 and observe the applicable rules in full.

### 3. General conduct

#### Entry to university premises

Students and teaching staff, along with other university members and users of the university libraries, may only enter University of Basel premises if they are free of symptoms that indicate infection with COVID-19, if they do not live in a household with a person infected with COVID-19, and have not been in contact with such a person in the previous 10 days. Otherwise, entry to university premises is not permitted.

University members and users of the university libraries must always present their student, employee or library identification card whenever required. The general public remains banned from entry until further notice.

#### Obligation to wear masks

In the university buildings in which classes are held and in the university libraries, masks must be worn in foyers, corridors, lifts, stairs and study rooms, effective 14 September 2020. Notices to this effect will be displayed at building entrances. Special provisions apply to lecture halls and seminar and practice rooms; see section 5.

#### People at particularly high risk

People at particularly high risk as [defined by the FOPH](#) should have their risk factor confirmed by a doctor's certificate. The university will then evaluate appropriate protective measures and apply them wherever possible. Procedures for this are covered in separate guidelines.



Regardless of medical evaluation and any protective measures, anyone who considers themselves to be at particularly high risk is advised to wear a medical protective mask at all times.

#### **SwissCovid contact tracing app**

The university strongly advises its students, teaching staff and other university members to install the SwissCovid app on their smartphones. If the app suggests a potential transmission, follow the instructions indicated.

#### **4. Information and hygiene measures**

All those who use university premises will be informed of the [FOPH's hygiene and social distancing rules](#) and the rules and recommendations of the university through:

- [FOPH information posters](#) and information on the obligation to wear a mask at the main entrances
- A notice with current FOPH information
- Information on the [university's coronavirus website](#)
- Each class will begin with information on the university's protective measures and what to do in the event of suspected infection.

#### **Hand hygiene**

Hand hygiene stations with disinfectant are positioned at building entrances. Additional hand hygiene stations with disinfectant will be installed in lecture halls as required.

#### **Ventilation**

Rooms with windows will be ventilated before lectures. This is the responsibility of teaching staff.

#### **Sanitary facilities, objects and devices in shared use**

Toilet facilities, including washbasins and taps, are cleaned regularly depending on their level of use. Cleaning protocols will be kept (lists in rooms with initialed date and time).

Objects and devices in shared use (photocopiers, UNICard stations, etc.) are cleaned regularly depending on their level of use. This is the responsibility of the relevant facility managers. Cleaning protocols will be kept.

#### **5. Rules for classroom teaching**

Teaching will generally only be carried out in person where the applicable distancing rule of 1.5 meters can be enforced. There is no obligation to wear masks during classes, but students may do so if they wish. In addition:

- Occupation of lecture halls will be arranged according to distancing rules; seats that are not meant to be used will be removed or labeled.
- Students are to wear masks on the way to their seats and again when they leave their seats.
- Eating during lessons is prohibited.
- Students must clean their work surfaces before the start of the lesson. Cleaning products will be provided by the relevant facility managers.



In exceptional cases, classroom teaching in practical courses, internships and similar learning formats may take place even in situations where the 1.5 meter distancing rule cannot always be enforced. In this case, classroom teaching must be approved by the Vice President for Education. Masks must be worn where indicated in the course directory and at the entrance to rooms. In addition:

- Only every second seat may be occupied to ensure distancing of approx. 1 meter.
- Eating or drinking during lessons is prohibited.
- Students must clean their work surfaces before the start of the lesson. Cleaning products will be provided by the relevant facility managers.

#### **Class attendance lists**

Attendance lists will be automatically generated from the obligatory registration for the class.

#### **Distance between teaching staff and students during classes**

Any teaching staff that do not wear masks or use microphones are obliged to maintain a minimum distance of 2 meters from students during classes. Microphones are to be used in the larger lecture halls.