

Course of action for (suspected) cases of a coronavirus infection

1. People with symptoms or a positive antigen rapid test contact the telephone number 1450 to decide if testing is required.
2. If a PCR test is required or if a PCR test has already confirmed an infection, please inform Ms Daniela Grogger (0732 7898 2220, daniela.grogger@ufg.at)
The university will request the following information: Who? When was the last time you were at the university? What classes did you attend/teach? With whom were you in direct personal contact? When did symptoms first occur? Internal and external communication will be initiated: department, institute office, facility management, ZID, crisis committee, AMD, BMBWF, health authorities, mailing list 'Eilmeldung' ('newsflash').
3. Administrative departments introducing measures communicate these to the affected people/unit so the measures can be implemented accordingly.
4. Contact tracing (access card system, class attendance lists, contact diary of the affected person etc.)
5. People who are contacted by the university and know that they were in direct, unprotected contact with the person concerned (cf. attached definition) must stay away from the university: a) In case of a confirmed coronavirus infection, they are required to follow the Federal Government's quarantine regulations. b) In case of a negative test result, they may return to university. People who have been in protected contact (e.g., they wore an FFP2 mask, they are triple-vaccinated) are not considered contact persons. However, they should closely monitor their own health condition. A PCR test five days after contact is recommended.
6. Students isolating themselves inform lecturers holding other classes they have been taking that they cannot attend class. Future attendance must be discussed.
7. Please also communicate the (positive or negative) test result to Ms Daniela Grogger. In case of a negative result, all contact persons are informed that they can return to university.
8. In case of a positive result, all known contact persons (contact tracing) will be informed. Health authorities will contact all persons who have had high-risk exposure and impose quarantine. Duration of quarantine depends on applicable regulations: currently 10 days, early 'Freitesten' is possible. (Taking a test with a negative result in order to end quarantine early.)
9. Contact persons have the option of 'Freitesten': 5 days after the beginning of quarantine, they may take a molecular-biological SARS-CoV-2 test. If the result is negative, they may end quarantine. If the test result is negative, the contact person may return to university immediately. They are required to produce the test certificate upon return. The university will not reimburse potential testing expenses.

Definition of contact persons:

“Contact persons (i.e. potentially infected persons) are persons who have been in contact with a confirmed case of SARS-CoV-2 as defined below during the period of infectiousness (e.g., contagious contact): Infectiousness/contagiousness usually occurs 48 hours before disease onset (e.g. occurrence of symptoms) to 14 days after onset, or, in asymptomatic cases 48 hours before until 14 days after the sample-taking which produced a positive test result.” (Government procedure for SARS-CoV-2 contact persons: contact-tracing, status 8 January 2022, Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection). **People are considered contact persons if they have had high-risk exposure ('KPI').**

Contact persons with high-risk exposure are defined as follows:

- Persons who were face to face with a confirmed case for **15 minutes (cumulated) or longer from less than a 2-metre-distance**
- household contacts
- Persons who were in **the same room** (e.g. classroom, meeting room, rooms of a healthcare facility) with a confirmed case with a **distance of less than 2 metres for 15 minutes or longer**
- Persons who have had contact in one of the following ways using **long-distance transport**:
 - directly sitting next to a confirmed case
 - crew members or other passengers if the infected person points to another applicable criterion (e.g., longer conversation)
- Persons who, regardless of physical distance, **have a high risk of having been exposed to a relevant concentration of aerosols** (e.g., parties, singing together, indoor sports); persons who had **direct, unprotected contact with infectious secretions** of a confirmed case
- Persons who were in direct physical contact (e.g., shaking hands) with a confirmed case

The following are **NOT** defined as category I contact persons ('KPI'):

- Persons who had contact with a confirmed case but took appropriate measures to minimise the risk of infection during contact (e.g., both persons wore FFP2 masks or another protective mask (children aged 6-14))
- Persons who had protected contact with health and nursing staff who have tested positive for COVID-19, a) if appropriate measures for minimising the risk of infection were taken or, b) if there was a protective screen (e.g., acrylic glass) between them.

- Persons who have had at least 3 immunological events/measures at least one week before contact (e.g., 3 vaccinations). Exception: severely immunocompromised or immunosuppressed persons.
- Children aged 5-11 if they have had at least 2 immunological events/measures at least 14 days before contact (e.g., 2 vaccinations)

Course of action for management of contact persons ('KPI')

- Registration (name, telephone number, e-mail address etc.)
- home **quarantine for 10 days** after last exposure and **PCR testing (after identification)**. If PCR test capacities are exhausted, contact persons should refrain from getting a PCR test.
- Compliance with quarantine regulations according to isolation notification ('Absonderungsbescheid')
- Contact persons **may end quarantine early with a negative PCR test at least 5 days** after the last date of exposure.
- If symptoms typical for COVID-19 occur within 10 days after the last date of exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19, the procedure corresponds to the regulations for suspected cases.

Quarantine regulations for household members and people similar to household members (as contact persons ('KPI'))

- Household members and people similar to household members who are classified as contact persons ('KPI') must **quarantine for 10 days** (starting with occurrence of symptoms in the confirmed case or with the date of testing in case of asymptomatic infection) **if they cannot comply with infection protection measures for the duration of isolation of the confirmed case** - regardless of occurrence of further confirmed cases in the same household. In such cases, testing on day 1 is not necessary, quarantine ends after 10 days. Additionally, contact persons should get tested between day 5 and day 9. Testing aims at excluding the possibility of infection, it does not serve the purpose of ending quarantine.
- However, if household members can comply with infection protection measures for the duration of isolation of the confirmed case in the same household, the regulations for management of contact persons (KPI) apply.

Important: Quarantine can only be imposed by health authorities. However, the University of Art and Design Linz reserves the right to deny contact persons access to university buildings. This does not constitute quarantine as ordered by the authorities and only applies to accessing the university.