Rector's message on 5th June 2020: update Corona activities

Dear members of staff, dear students,

Many of you have certainly already heard it on the news: Fortunately, the number of COVID-19 infections continues to decline. The Federal Government and the Free State of Saxony have reacted to this development with easing of restrictions, which in turn allows for more freedoms at our university.

Before I will come to outline these changes, I would like to once again remind you that every one of us should continue to behave prudently so that we can expand our freedoms without risking new infections. Keeping a minimum distance of 1.5 metres and observing the hygiene rules will remain the standard procedure for us and socio-physical contact with other people is to be kept to the necessary minimum, even at work, according to the new Saxon Corona Protection Act (https://www.coronavirus.sachsen.de/download/SMS-Corona-Schutz-Verordnung-2020-06-03.pdf) that comes into force on 6th June 2020.

For TU Dresden, the Crisis Management Team has decided on the following flexibilisations:

Using the tools of the Centre for Information Services and High-Performance Computing (ZIH)

As of 8th June 2020, and until further notice, it is no longer necessary to apply to work on TU Dresden premises using the ZIH tool. However, the tool can be reinstated at short notice should the pandemic worsen.

Therefore, it is all the more important that people with typical COVID-19 symptoms stay at home and consult a doctor. Let me reiterate the recommendation from last week's circular mail: in your own interest, please do record (preferably electronically, e.g. with Excel) what places (buildings, rooms, canteens, libraries, etc.) you have visited and at what times. Please keep this list for at least 14 days!

Official trips

After official trips within Germany have been permitted again on 18th May 2020, business trips abroad are now also allowed, provided there is neither a travel warning from the Federal Foreign Office for the destination country nor quarantine requirements in the destination country or when returning from said country. Despite this, all official trips must still be reduced to an absolute minimum. They should only be realised if necessary and in compliance with the hygiene and distance regulations, including during arrival and departure.
**Increased on-site teaching**

It remains the case that those teaching events that can be taught online are indeed offered online. For those formats that cannot be taught digitally, the current restriction of the number of participants to 10% of the students in a degree programme will be lifted as of 8th June 2020. The faculties are responsible for the organisation and realisation of individual laboratory- or classroom-based teaching activities in a decentralised manner. The concept of measures is to be observed in the future as well. Despite this easing, the digital alternatives shall continue to be used wherever possible!

**Oral examinations**

Oral examinations may be performed on-site until further notice, provided that the concept of measures and the hygiene requirements are observed.

**Access to the results of written examinations**

It will also be possible to access the results of written examinations as of 8th June 2020, provided an appropriate hygiene concept has been implemented. It is imperative to wear mouth-and-nose protection if the distance of 1.5 metres cannot be maintained. The names of the students who had access to their examinations shall be recorded.

I assume that the further easing of restrictions will bring us back a little closer to normal university operation.

Let us all remain vigilant and hope that the positive trend in infection figures will continue in the coming weeks.

Best regards

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