

Rector's message on 4th February 2020: dealing with coronavirus2019-nCoV

Dear students,
Dear colleagues,

In dealing with the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), TU Dresden relies on the prudence and sense of responsibility of each individual in the given context. Everyone bears responsibility for themselves and those around them, a principle that applies not only to health issues, but that is generally applicable.

The Federal Ministry of Health, the Federal Foreign Office and the Robert Koch Institute provide daily updates on developments and issue recommendations that apply nationwide and that are a very good basis for making responsible decisions for oneself.

Is a business trip to China really unavoidable right now? Is the visit by a delegation from China currently indispensable? Should I perhaps have a thorough check-up after a trip and prior to returning to my place of work or study? In many instances, these questions cannot be answered centrally.

With a current incubation period of around two weeks, any individual who has come into contact with the virus anywhere - at an airport, on public transport or while waiting for the ski lift - could transmit the virus.

After assessing the current situation, we would like to ask you to keep yourself constantly informed and to make your own decisions accordingly for yourself and your professional (and private) environment.

The University Executive Board recommends that for planned business trips you should consult and closely follow the information provided by the Federal Foreign Office and the Robert Koch Institute regarding the possible spread of the virus. The Foreign Office has issued a partial travel warning for the Chinese province of Hubei. The University Executive Board suggests that as a precautionary measure all travels to the People's Republic of China are to be postponed.

Up-to-date information can be found here:

https://www.rki.de/EN/Home/homepage_node.html

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/coronavirus/2298448>

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<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/en/en/press/2020/coronavirus.html>

In this context, our Occupational Health Services provide basic recommendations, which are also advisable in view of the flu epidemic that is common at this time of the year. In order to prevent the spread of diseases transmitted via respiratory viruses, good hand hygiene, coughing and sneezing etiquette as well as keeping distance from sick people should be observed. For an overview click here: [Federal Centre for Health Education \(BZgA\), information graphic "Preventing infections: The 10 most important hygiene rules"](#).

All individuals who have had contact with people infected with or suffering from the coronavirus and who show typical symptoms of the disease should consult their GP or family doctor immediately after giving prior notice by telephone. Corona viruses usually cause mild flu symptoms such as coughing, a cold or possibly fever. However, they can also cause severe infections of the lower respiratory tract and lead to pneumonia.

Personal consultation on the topic is offered by your GP or family doctor and the Occupational Health Services of TU Dresden.

The University Executive Board is monitoring current developments in order to formulate more far-reaching recommendations, should these become necessary.

Best regards

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Für den Inhalt ist der Autor verantwortlich.

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Zielgruppe: alle Mitarbeiterinnen und Mitarbeiter und Studierenden