Dear members of staff,

Dear students,

I would like to once again draw your attention to various updated information regarding the limited on-site operations of our university.

This information can also be found in the FAQs that are updated continuously. However, in this email I would like to highlight the following topics:

**Will TUD immediately expand its on-site teaching?**

The answer is an emphatic - NO! All teaching events and all exams that can be held online, will continue to be held online. Only the events that have already been applied for and authorised (e.g. practical courses in chemistry) are allowed to take place on-site. In a nutshell: All events that can be held online and that are already running online, will continue to do so this semester. Everything that cannot be conducted online, but is indispensable for studies, has already been registered as an exception. This category of events benefits from the additional easing of restrictions such as the discontinuation of the 20m² rule described below as well as from the provision of rooms for student study groups.

**Does the space requirement of 20 m² per person in closed rooms still apply?**

No, we can revoke this regulation due to the positive development of the infection figures. Our concept of measures (https://tu-dresden.de/tu-dresden/gesundheitsmanagement/ressourcen/dateien/corona/tud-dokumente-intern/concept-of-measuring_updated_29-4) has been updated accordingly. The 1.5 m distance rule still applies. Please adhere to the distance and hygiene rules stipulated in the Saxon Corona Protection Decree and reduce the physical and social contact with other people to the absolutely necessary minimum, both at places of work and study.

**Are student study groups allowed again in sufficiently large rooms?**

Yes, the Corona Protection Decree allows groups of up to eleven people to study or revise together again. However, please observe the distancing and hygiene rules. This new regulation for student study groups refers only to this particular format, as an exception (for details see: https://tu-dresden.de/studium/im-studium/ressourcen/dateien/corona_imstudium/200611_StudentischeLerngruppen_TUD_ENG.pdf?lang=en). Independent study groups of students of the TU Dresden can also use the teaching rooms GER/07, ABS/213, SCH/A117, SE2/211, WIL/C102, WIL/C106 and WEB/122 from 7.30 am - 8.00 pm. Registration is not necessary.

**Are there any other changes with regard to limited on-site teaching or examinations?**
Yes, there are. These changes are summarised in the updated version of these two documents:


Are disputations of MA / Diplom / Doctorates (defence of theses) possible on-site, as is the case with oral exams?
Again, if the rules of distance and hygiene are observed - yes, of course.

Where can I find an overview of the hygiene rules for on-site examinations?

Will the winter semester primarily be held online?
On 10th June 2020, the Senate declared that, also in the future, on-site teaching and learning at TU Dresden should be the normal mode of operations. At the same time, it passed a resolution to prepare TU Dresden's degree programmes in the 2020/21 winter semester for online teaching in accordance with the continuation of the regulations in force at the end of the 2020 summer semester, in order to be able to react appropriately to restrictions of the normal on-site operations, if necessary. The full text of the resolution can be found here: https://tu-dresden.de/tu-dresden/gesundheitsmanagement/ressourcen/dateien/corona/tud-dokumente-intern/Senatsbeschluss-Studienregelungen-WS20_21.pdf

What are the easings of restrictions regarding research?
Research at the TUD can be conducted within the framework of the updated concept of measures (https://tu-dresden.de/tu-dresden/gesundheitsmanagement/ressourcen/dateien/corona/tud-dokumente-intern/concept-of-measuring_updated_29-4). This concept contains all guidelines that currently must be adhered to.

Is the employment of interns or trainees permitted again?
Yes, it is, if the distancing and hygiene rules are observed.

Can guests, cooperation partners or service providers be received on-site?
Yes, but of course subject to compliance with all distancing and hygiene rules and provided a list of participants of these meetings is drawn up.

Is there an overview of what has to be considered when implementing TU Dresden's concept of measures?
A checklist of the University Health Service and the Office for Occupational Safety can be found here: [https://tu-dresden.de/tu-dresden/gesundheitsmanagement/ressourcen/dateien/corona/tud-dokumente-intern/Checkliste_Massnahmenkonzept_DE.pdf](https://tu-dresden.de/tu-dresden/gesundheitsmanagement/ressourcen/dateien/corona/tud-dokumente-intern/Checkliste_Massnahmenkonzept_DE.pdf)

**Do employees have a right to work from home ('mobile work' / 'home office' / 'working remotely') under the new regulations?**

Such a right has never existed. As a matter of principle, the place of work is TU Dresden. We have granted the possibility to exempt employees from work duties during the corona crisis, if on-site work or work from home was not possible. In times of rising infection rates, it was strongly recommended to make use of the option of working remotely.

In the meantime, the overall conditions have changed. On-site work at the university is again increasingly possible and should take priority – as stipulated by employment law - while adhering to the concept of measures.

It is always the responsibility of the supervisors, in consultation with their teams, to find suitable work arrangements. These have to ensure the continued provision of services under the given circumstances. Furthermore, they are to reconcile health concerns, and both work and family responsibilities. These arrangements should ideally be made in dialogue and in agreement with the members of staff concerned. The supervisors are asked to provide maximum leeway to enable individual arrangements with a flexible mix of on-site work and work from home. As was the case before the corona crisis, the authority to take this decision lies with the supervisors. If advice on hygiene concepts for on-site work and on health issues is required, the University Health Service will be happy to assist.

There is no change to the regulations concerning the exemption from work due to necessary childcare, which are also published in the FAQ section.

Be it in teaching, studying, research, at work or at home, we should always be highly aware and conscious of the following: The situation in Germany, Saxony and Dresden has improved significantly. Last week only 0.2 new infections per 100,000 inhabitants were registered. However, the virus has not yet been defeated and there is still no vaccines. We are still far away from any form of normality. Any easing that is now possible can be revoked at any minute, if the number of infections rises again. For this reason, it is my duty and obligation to continue to insist that we remain prudent and attentive when dealing with the regained freedoms, despite all efforts and strains that this might cause.

Best regards
Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil. DEng/Auckland Hans Müller-Steinhagen
Rector

Technische Universität Dresden Mommsenstraße 11
01069 Dresden
Tel.: +49 (0)351 463 34312
Fax: +49 (0)351 463 37121
Email: rektor@tu-dresden.de