

Dear Students!

We are grateful for the exceptionally high level of vaccination uptake among students and the discipline shown so far in dealing with the pandemic - and indeed this is reflected in the low numbers of Coronavirus cases to date.

Due to the significant surge in COVID-19 infections in Austria caused by the Omicron variant, it is essential that we maintain the high safety standards at MedUni Vienna, if we are to keep courses running.

Therefore, as of Monday 17th January 2022, due to the increased exposure risk, students will only be allowed to enter classrooms and participate in courses or examinations if they can present officially recognized proof of low epidemiological risk as defined by the 2G+ rule. 2G+ means: fully vaccinated or recovered and additionally PCR-tested. The PCR test that is presented must have been done within the last 48 hours. If it can be shown that there are no PCR tests available, an antigen test will also suffice but this must have been done within the last 24 hours. For courses that are subject to hospital or dental clinic regulations (Clinical Internship Year, 5th year medical internships and 72-week dental internships), the locally prevailing regulations apply.

With reference to proofs of low epidemiological risk, we must point out that the creation and use of a fake document (a falsified test result, a falsified vaccination certificate, a falsified vaccination exemption certificate, etc.) or any falsification, including of QR codes, may constitute a criminal offence. MedUni Vienna is obliged to report any suspected forgery of documents to the police.

The basic principle that applies to in-person attendance of internships, courses and examinations is: if you feel ill, please stay at home. If you nonetheless go to the university building, the on-site teaching or security officer will prevent you from taking part and will ask you to leave the building. A suspected violation of an officially mandated quarantine period may result in administrative and/or criminal penalties.

In this context, we would like to draw your attention to the nationwide measures mandating the wearing of FFP2 masks, even outdoors: In situations where it is impossible to maintain the recommended minimum two metre distance from people not in your own household, FFP2 masks are now mandatory outdoors as well. We therefore urge you to wear an FFP2 mask outdoors on the university campus, when a distance of two metres cannot be maintained (entrances, assembly points, etc.).

In order to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 (aggravated by more infectious mutations), students attending courses and examinations in-person are not only required to observe obligatory safety and hygiene measures but are also encouraged to take up the public offer of a booster vaccination (www.oesterreich-impft.at) as well as to make regular use (at least twice a week) of the opportunity to have an officially recognised test for SARS-CoV-2 as part of the publicly accessible "Coronavirus testing service" provided by the local authorities (such as the City of Vienna) and to avoid larger gatherings.

We thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Vice Rector for Education

University Prof. Dr. Anita Rieder