Measures in response to the spread of COVID-19 disease

The national and local regulations, general advice and recommendations that are in effect to reduce the spread of infection in society must be followed where applicable in all activities at the University. This places a great responsibility on everyone: staff, students, visitors and others engaged in University activities.

The Ordinance prohibiting the holding of public meetings and events (2020:114) does not apply to teaching, examinations or other internal activities at universities and other higher education institutions. Uppsala University has nonetheless chosen to continue with a general limit of a maximum of 50 participants at gatherings in the University.

The fundamental principles of Uppsala University’s adaptation to COVID-19 that have been in place since the summer continue to apply as specified below.

In view of the current infection situation, it is hereby decided that the following tightening of the application of the University’s general guidelines will apply during the period 24 November 2020 – 17 January 2021:

- To further reduce the risk of infection, online forms of teaching and examination must be used wherever possible.
- During this period, in-person teaching and examination will be limited to teaching components and examinations where this is necessary to attain high quality and legal certainty and that cannot be carried out online.
- To reduce the burden on public transport and the risk of crowding in the University’s premises, heads of department/equivalent should seek to further increase the extent to which staff work from home.

The following general guidelines for COVID-19 adaptation apply at Uppsala University until further notice:

- For education and other activities, physical presence is to be used where necessary, while using digital elements where possible, in order to attain high quality while limiting the spread of infection.
- Activities are to be planned so as to avoid close physical contact, crowding and gatherings of large groups:
o All activities at the University must be conducted so as to avoid gatherings of more than 50 people.
o Efforts must be made to ensure physical spacing (social distancing) in all teaching, examinations and other meetings, and in general in University premises.
o The option of participating digitally (online) is to be offered if possible.

- Regarding access to premises and the possibility of being present physically, the following groups and educational elements are to have precedence:
o Students for whom special educational support has been approved.
o Practical tasks that cannot be performed online.
o Examinations that are difficult to carry out online.
o Final exams and mandatory components in the final year of educational programmes.

- As far as possible, premises must be made available where students can study.
- Employees and students will normally require an access card for entry to the University’s premises.
- Staff and students must, without exception, stay at home if they have any symptoms of a cold or influenza.
- By agreement with their line manager, members of staff can be given the opportunity to work from home if and when their duties allow this.
- No business travel is permitted to countries that the Ministry for Foreign Affairs advises against.
- The impact of COVID-19 on doctoral students’ education and any special needs for support/extension are to be recorded in the annual revision of the individual study plan.

This decision comes into effect on 24 November 2020 and remains in effect until 17 January 2021. The decision supersedes the decision of the Vice-Chancellor of 9 June 2020 on measures in response to the spread of COVID-19 disease.

**Background**

This decision has been taken in view of the spread of COVID-19 disease (coronavirus SARS-CoV-2). Uppsala University is following the decisions and recommendations of the Swedish government, the county administrative board and the Public Health Agency of Sweden.

The decision in this matter was taken by the undersigned Vice-Chancellor after consultation with the Management Council, following a presentation of the matter by Chief Legal Officer Per Abrahamsson.