Rectorate decision from 17 June 2021
Further opening steps in line with the Corona Ordinance (CoronaVO)

Decisions:

Several ordinances are in place at least until 30 June 2021 containing strict regulations to protect the population from SARS-CoV2 infections. Currently we cannot rule out that these regulations will be extended. However, due to the decreasing case numbers, moderate opening steps are now possible. Of course, the following continue to apply:

- Minimum distance of 1.5 metres
- Risk assessments including suitable infection prevention measures (hygiene concept) and information/instructions
- Medical-grade face masks or similar in certain defined areas
- Ventilation
- Data collection for contact tracing purposes
- Access restrictions/bans
- New: The “3G-Prinzip” (getested-genesen-geimpft) requires participants must have been either vaccinated or tested, or must have recovered from the illness. To participate in an event or access certain facilities, you need to provide documentation of one of the following: a negative COVID-19 test, a vaccination or a recovery. The organizer/host must check this documentation upon entry.

At the University of Konstanz, we will take the following opening steps:

1. The university as an employer is required to offer staff members work from home if and to the extent possible. When working remotely, the respective university unit should be available by phone during the usual working hours. The corresponding supervisor will decide who needs to work on the university campus and to what extent. These regulations will remain in place at least until 31 July 2021.

2. If several persons share a room, a minimum of 10 square metres of space must be available per person present. In case there is less space and it is absolutely necessary for operational reasons, the corresponding risk assessment must contain specific infection prevention measures that enable an equivalent protection, e.g. ventilation, suitable partitions, wearing medical-grade face masks, screening tests twice per week for all the persons sharing a room. These regulations will remain in place at least until 31 July 2021.

3. We recommend holding meetings with 5 or more persons online. In case of in-person meetings, the inviting party is responsible for organizing suitable infection prevention measures. These regulations will remain in place at least until 31 July 2021.
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4. We recommend holding committee meetings online. If committee meetings take place in person, the inviting party is responsible for organizing suitable infection prevention measures. The “3G-Prinzip” requirements must be complied with. If the student body (Verfasste Studierendenschaft) conducts a committee meeting in person, the university will provide them with rapid antigen tests and instruct them on the usage. These regulations will remain in place at least until 31 July 2021.

5. a) Departments may permit additional face-to-face classes if they can make sure that the coronavirus regulations are complied with and identify and determine the required infection prevention measures in a risk assessment. The “3G-Prinzip” applies to all events indoors. The organizer must check the corresponding documentation. The maximum number of participants is stated in the pandemic seating plans.

5. b) Examiners can continue to hold written and oral examinations, as long as the exam organizer makes sure that the coronavirus regulations are complied with and identifies and determines the required infection prevention measures in a risk assessment. A maximum of 100 persons is permitted per exam room. The “3G-Prinzip” does not apply, unless the department or organizational unit decides otherwise. In this case the exam organizer is responsible for checking the corresponding documentation. However, participants should be encouraged to participate in the university’s PCR-screening test. If the Audimax or sports hall is used for an exam with more than 100 participants (up to the maximum number allowed in the pandemic seating plan), the “3G-Prinzip” applies for all participants and in all rooms used for that exam.

5. c) Departments and organizational units in the area of teaching may allow post-exam reviews in person as long as they make sure that the coronavirus regulations are complied with and identify and determine the required infection prevention measures in a risk assessment. In case of indoor events, the “3G-Prinzip” is part of the infection prevention measures. The event organizer is responsible for checking the corresponding documentation. The maximum number of participants is stated in the pandemic seating plans.

5. d) Excursions that are included in the curriculum and last one or several days may take place to locations that are neither risk areas, high incidence areas or areas of variants of concern as per the Robert Koch Institute classification, as long as the organizer makes sure that the coronavirus regulations are complied with and identifies and determines the required infection prevention measures in a risk assessment. In case of persons staying together in a room indoors, the “3G-Prinzip” is part of the infection prevention measures. The event organizer is responsible for checking the corresponding documentation.

6. Guests may be invited to the university if this is required for work reasons. They still have to register when they enter and leave the campus (lists available at the entrances), and a university member must meet them at the entrance and accompany them to the respective room. If guests need to access the university outside of opening hours, this must be requested ahead of time.

7. Weekend access for staff with 24/7 authorization is now possible without having to notify the Facility Management (FM) office ahead of time. These staff members can now enter the campus in the same way as was usual until March 2020, under the condition that staff members register their arrival and departure at a time recording terminal.
8. Business travel to areas that are neither a risk area, high incidence area or area of variant of concern as per the Robert Koch Institute classification can now be approved in the same way as was usual until March 2020. The same applies to persons who have been fully vaccinated or who have recovered from a COVID-19 infection and who intend to go on a business trip outside an area of variant of concern.

9. Students may participate in an in-person consultation if they have been invited by a Student Advisory Service or another university unit that advises students. The same applies to (currently external) prospective students, who will have to be met at the entrance and accompanied to the respective room by the inviting party. These regulations will remain in place at least until 31 July 2021.

10. Public in-person events are possible as long as the current coronavirus regulations are followed. The organizer is responsible for ensuring compliance. The “3G-Prinzip” applies to all events indoors. The organizer must check the corresponding documentation. The maximum number of participants is stated in the pandemic seating plans.

11. As a rule, internal training programmes for staff and group consultations of students take place online. However, they may also take place in person if suitable infection prevention measures have been determined. The “3G-Prinzip” applies to all events indoors. The organizer must check the corresponding documentation. The maximum number of participants is stated in the pandemic seating plans. The same regulations as for courses apply to internal training programmes and group consultations of students or staff members.

12. The holiday programme for children and Kinder-Uni courses will be permitted if they take place outdoors, the coronavirus regulations are followed and suitable infection protection measures are taken. Catering has to take place outside of university rooms.

13. Orchestras and choirs connected to the university may rehearse outdoors, as long as a corresponding risk assessment as per the current regulations of the state and professional associations for conducting safe orchestra and choir rehearsals has been made.

14. The bike workshop may be operated outdoors. The required infection prevention measures must be identified in a risk assessment and implemented accordingly.

15. The staff outing 2021 was cancelled. Team events for research teams, divisions, units or institutions, however, are permitted if they contribute to maintaining university operations. University members may book the water sports area for team events as long as the University Sports Service has agreed, will take on supervision duties and the event is necessary to maintain university operations or for key university purposes. The supervisor responsible has to determine suitable infection prevention measures in line with the coronavirus regulations in a risk assessment and, if the University Sports Service is involved, coordinate the measures with this unit.

16. Salem students and school students admitted for individual courses/events at the university may access the campus to participate in the course or use the Library. The pupil’s lab (Schülerlabor) may take place. For other events or consultation, an invitation from e.g. a (student) advisory service is required.
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The inviting party must meet groups at the main entrance and accompany them to the respective room.

17. Guided tours for groups of up to 20 people can take place in the botanical garden as long as the coronavirus regulations and the protective measures specified in a risk assessment are observed. The risk assessment must include outdoor components of the tour as well as visits to the green houses.

18. In cases where a “3G-Prinzip” check is required, the minimum requirement for those tested is proof of a negative rapid antigen test, which must meet the requirements of § 5 para. 1 of the Baden-Württemberg Corona Ordinance (CoronaVO) (approved product, carried out at least under expert supervision). It is recommended to always use the university’s own PCR screening test. To book enough screening tests, the event organizer has to contact Professor Dietrich as early as possible. Documentation in line with the “3G-Prinzip” is mandatory for all persons present, including teaching staff and the event organizer.

Reason:

The Rectorate regularly reviews whether the guidelines adopted for university operations during the coronavirus pandemic are still appropriate to the infection situation. Due to the decreasing case numbers and the opening steps permitted as per the Corona Ordinance (CoronaVO) and the CoronaVO Studienbetrieb, we are able to open further areas (e.g. for university sports, university orchestra, or graduating classes). If the infection situation and the legal framework permit, measures are to be relaxed even before 31 July 2021. As the state and federal Corona Ordinances currently apply until 30 June 2021, we will consider, in the first week of July, how to run university operations until 30 September 2021.

Easing the individual measures:

Re. No. 1: The new wording allows staff who would rather work on campus to do so, even if they could also work from home. In the strictest sense, § 28b para. 7 IfSG applies until 30 June 2021, specifying an obligation for staff to work from home if there is no compelling reason for them to work at their workplace on campus.

Re. No. 2: The regulation eases the restrictions of how much space must be available per staff member in a room. It corresponds to § 2 para. 4 SARS-CoV2- Arbeitsschutzverordnung (occupational safety regulations), currently applicable until 30 June 2021. The extended validity period makes it possible to prepare the follow-up regulations at the beginning of July.

Re. No. 3: The regulation eases the restrictions for team meetings, which may now also take place in person. For larger meetings, however, online meetings are still recommended. Until 30 June 2021, § 2 para. 3 SARS-CoV2-Arbeitsschutzverordnung restricts in-person meetings to absolutely necessary meetings, although the Corona Ordinance would already allow them.
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Re. No. 4: The regulation eases the restrictions for committee meetings, which may now also take place in person. For larger meetings, however, online meetings are still recommended. Until 30 June 2021, § 2 para. 3 SARS-CoV2-Arbeitsschutzverordnung restricts in-person meetings to absolutely necessary meetings, although the Corona Ordinance would already allow them.

Re. No. 5: Based on § 15 para. 3 Corona Ordinance and the CoronaVO Studienbetrieb, the Rectorate permitted the departments to conduct on-campus teaching. However, a special reason had been required due to the legal provisions. § 21 Corona Ordinance now also permits on-campus courses without a special reason. However, the provisions of the Corona Ordinance and CoronaVO Studienbetrieb must be observed. For courses indoors, the “3G-Prinzip” is compulsory in these cases. The course organizer must check the corresponding documentation, as the central university administration cannot assign staff for that purpose. As the minimum distance regulations are mandatory, the maximum number of participants is stated in the pandemic seating plans. Theatre rehearsals are permitted indoors as long as a risk assessment has been made and the “3G-Prinzip” is observed.

Re. No. 6: The regulation eases the restrictions for inviting guests to the university. However, § 2 para. 2 SARS-CoV2-Arbeitsschutzverordnung (occupational safety regulations) and § 4 para. 1 No. 1 Corona Ordinance still require limiting capacities and documenting contacts.

Re. No. 7: Control measures beyond the usual control of weekend access are no longer necessary.

Re. No. 8: No separate checks are required any more for business travel to areas that are neither a risk area, high incidence area or area of variant of concern.

The same applies to persons who have been fully vaccinated or who have recovered from a COVID-19 infection and who travel outside an area of variant of concern, based on the Robert Koch Institute classification for risk areas. Please note that supervisors are also required to complete risk assessments for business travel in line with general occupational health and safety provisions (see §§ 3 ff. Arbeitsschutzgesetz). Forms and further information are available from the Occupational Safety websites, especially: https://www.uni-konstanz.de/en/occupational-safety-health-and-environmental-protection/occupational-health/stay-abroad/

Re. No. 9: The regulation eases the restrictions for inviting students and prospective students to the university. However, § 2 para. 2 SARS-CoV2-Arbeitsschutzverordnung (occupational safety regulations) and § 4 para. 1 No. 1 Corona Ordinance still require limiting capacities and documenting contacts.

Re. No. 10: The regulation eases the restrictions for public events. However, § 2 para. 2 SARS-CoV2-Arbeitsschutzverordnung (occupational safety regulations) and § 4 para. 1 No. 1 Corona Ordinance as well as §§ 1 ff. Corona Ordinance still require limiting capacities and documenting contacts. There will be some capacity problems, as the larger rooms are required for teaching and examinations.

Re. No. 11: The regulation eases the restrictions for internal training programmes, that can now also take place in person. For larger meetings, however, online meetings are still recommended. Until 30 June 2021, § 2 para. 3 SARS-CoV2-Arbeitsschutzverordnung restricts
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in-person meetings to absolutely necessary meetings, although the Corona Ordinance (§ 21 para. 1 No. 6) would already allow them. It has been permitted for some time to hold first aid courses in person, § 11 para. 1 No. 9 CoronaVO.

Re. No. 12: This provision makes possible to carry out the holiday programme for children and the Kinder-Uni. However, § 2 para. 2 SARS-CoV2-Arbeitsschutzverordnung (occupational safety regulations) and § 4 para. 1 No. 1 Corona Ordinance as well as §§ 1 ff. Corona Ordinance still require limiting capacities and documenting contacts. There will be some capacity problems, as the larger rooms are required for teaching and examinations. As the programmes will only take place outside, there is no need to fulfil the “3G-Prinzip”. Risk assessment and resulting infection prevention measures need to be clarified with the local authorities.

Re. No. 13: The provision permits orchestra and choir rehearsals outside for orchestras connected to the university (orchestras in the widest sense) and choirs.

However, § 2 para. 2 SARS-CoV2-Arbeitsschutzverordnung (occupational safety regulations) and § 4 para. 1 No. 1 Corona Ordinance as well as §§ 1 ff. Corona Ordinance still require limiting capacities and documenting contacts. There will be some capacity problems, as the larger rooms are required for teaching and examinations. Risk assessment and resulting infection prevention measures need to be clarified with the local authorities.

Re. No. 14: § 21 para. 1 No. 20 Corona Ordinance (CoronaVO), SARS-CoV-2-Arbeitsschutzverordnung (occupational safety regulations).

Re. No. 15: The staff outing 2021 has already been cancelled, as it seemed inappropriate to go on excursions in large, mixed groups. However, a need is seen to strengthen the sense of community and collaboration in smaller work units. Consequently, the regulation permits smaller team events that may now take place in person. They may also take place at the water sports area, as long as the University Sports Service agrees and takes on supervision duties. Until 30 June 2021, § 2 para. 3 SARS-CoV2-Arbeitsschutzverordnung restricts in-person meetings to absolutely necessary meetings, although the Corona Ordinance would already allow them. University members may book the water sports area for team events as long as the University Sports Service has agreed, will take on supervision duties and the event is necessary to maintain university operations or for key university purposes.

Otherwise, student initiatives involving University of Konstanz students may meet for private reasons outdoors, as long as they comply with the coronavirus regulations that generally apply for private meetings. In this case, the university is not responsible.

Re. No. 16: We have a cooperation agreement with “Gymnasium Salem”. In addition to that, individual school students are authorized to take part in the Schülerstudium (studying while in school). The pupil’s lab (Schülerlabor), too, will open up. These persons will be permitted to access the university on individual dates, § 2 para. 3 p. 1 CoronaVO Studienbetrieb.

Re. No. 17: The team of the Botanical Garden, led by Dr Schmitz, has prepared an exhibition about “superfood plants” and would like to offer guided tours. As per §21 Corona Ordinance, the Botanical Garden may be opened as long as the Ordinance is observed (§§1 ff.). Up to 20 persons may participate in such a tour.