

Rectorate

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To all  
deans and vice deans, managing directors and  
institutes, professors and employees of the  
University of Bonn  
- excluding University Hospital Bonn (UKB) -

UNIVERSITY OF BONN · Rector's Office · 53012 Bonn

**Circular No. 01/2022**  
**Current Situation—Courses, Vaccinations and Rules on Wearing Masks**

**Topics covered in this circular:**

- Courses
- Vaccinations offered by the staff physicians office and AOK
- Changes to the rules on wearing masks

Dear Sir or Madam,

Allow us to start by wishing you and your loved ones a Happy New Year 2022!

The COVID-19 pandemic will continue to keep us busy this year too, not least due to the rapidly spreading wave of the omicron variant. We are therefore expecting the Minister Presidents to agree further changes with the federal government, which could come as early as the end of this week. Needless to say, we will let you know promptly as soon as decisions have been made that will have an impact on University activities.

**Courses**

The regulations introduced late last year will continue to apply to the lecture period that resumes on Friday. As the various departments have very different needs, courses may continue to be held in person (or, as appropriate, in a hybrid form). However, they can also be moved online after consulting the degree program coordinators as long as this does not prevent course content from being taught in an adequate fashion.

Looking ahead to the start of the lecture period following the Christmas break, we are also calling on all students to **go voluntarily for a test or do a self-test**, at least in the first week of lectures. Given the current trend in infections, this can help to make everyone safer.

### **Vaccinations offered by the staff physicians office and AOK**

We are delighted that the **staff physicians office** at University Hospital Bonn will be putting on two more vaccination clinics for employees next week, specifically on Monday (January 10, 2022) and Friday (January 14, 2022). If you would like to arrange a vaccination with the staff physicians office, you can find the [booking link on the intranet](#).

**AOK's vaccination bus** will also be making two stops at the University, visiting the main building (Hofgarten side) on January 11 and CP1 on the Poppelsdorf Campus on January 26. There will be 60 vaccination slots available on each day, with a few spaces still left to book on both dates. All information is available [on the intranet](#).

If you cannot make your vaccination appointment, we would urge you to cancel it as soon as you can so that somebody else can get vaccinated.

### **Rules on wearing masks**

Since the latest Coronavirus Protection Ordinance for North Rhine-Westphalia entered into force, you may now only remove your mask in the workplace if you are going to be alone in your room for an extended period and are not expecting any visitors, for example. This means that masks must always be worn in workspaces in offices, workshops, etc. if more than one person is present. Measures such as perspex screens, social distancing and vaccinations are no longer an adequate substitute.

In view of the strain associated with wearing masks and the work-from-home rules in place, we would therefore strongly recommend not having more than one person in a room at one time. If this cannot be done for operational reasons, breaks from mask-wearing must be observed as a bare minimum (30-minute break after wearing masks for 1.5 to 2 hours). However, a break from mask-wearing is not a break from work! You should therefore work alone in your office or from home wherever possible.

Yours sincerely,

signed Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Michael Hoch  
Rector

signed Holger Gottschalk  
Provost