ETH zürich

Coronavirus: Master plan phase 3.5.5
(effective 20 December 2021)

Master plan, Version 17
Executive Board of ETH Zurich,

23 April 2020	Basic plan (Version 1)
06 May 2020 updates	effective 11 May 2020 (Version 2)
02 June 2020 Phase 3.2.1	effective 08 June 2020 (Version 3)
17 July 2020 Phase 3.2.2	effective 03 August 2020 (Version 4)
18 August 2020 Phase 3.3.1	effective 31 August 2020 (Version 5)
16 October 2020 Phase 3.3.2	effective 19 October 2020 (Version 6)
30 October 2020 Phase 3.3.3	effective 02 November 2020 (Version 7)
15 January 2021 Phase 3.3.4	effective 18 January 2021 (Version 8)
19 February 2021 Phase 3.4.1	effective 01 March 2021 (Version 9)
15 April 2021 Phase 3.4.2	effective 26 April 2021 (Version 10)
28 May 2021 Phase 3.4.3	effective 07 June 2021 (Version 11)
25 June 2021 Phase 3.4.4	effective 26 June 2021 (Version 12)
03 September 2021 Phase 3.5.1	effective 06 September 2021 (Version 13)
17 September 2021 Phase 3.5.2	effective 20 September 2021 (Version 14)
09 November 2021 Phase 3.5.3	effective 15 November 2021 (Version 15)
04 December 2021 Phase 3.5.4	effective 06 December 2021 (Version 16)
20 December 2021 Phase 3.5.5	effective 20 December 2021 (Version 17)

Main changes in Phase 3.5.5 vs Phase 3.5.4 (the detailed rules starting on page 4 apply)

Phase 3.5.5 runs from 20 December 2021 until further notice. On 3 February the obligation to work from home was changed to a recommendation and the quarantine obligation was lifted.

Addendum: Changes compared to the version of 20.12.2021
- From 03.02.2022, employees are recommended to work from home.
- During this phase, they should consult their supervisors and colleagues when deciding whether to return to work. Operational reasons take priority: in specific cases, supervisors may require employees to work on site.
- People who have been in close contact with a sick person no longer have to go into quarantine. However, people who come to ETH after having had close contact with a sick person need to observe a strict mask-wearing requirement for ten days (see factsheet).
- The tracking of close contacts is no longer mandatory due to the lifting of contact quarantine. The person who tested positive must inform their close contacts themselves.
- Overnight stays during excursions may once again be planned in shared rooms.

Building access
- All buildings will remain closed in principle from 20 December onwards. The only exceptions are the Main Building, housing the ETH Library and the Rector's Office service counters, the MM building housing the Mensa canteen and access to ASVZ facilities; on Hönggerberg campus, the HIL Building housing the Architecture and Civil Engineering Library and the Alumni Lounge; and on both campuses all buildings offering catering services.
- Also excluded from closure (up to 24 December 2021) are all buildings in which courses or exams are held. Buildings in which end-of-semester-exams are held will be opened in good time as of 3 January 2022. Access to other closed buildings is possible with the ETH card and valid access code.
- All students may access buildings that are officially open. They can access other buildings if they have an ETH card and individual access authorisation.
- Access to closed buildings is possible with the ETH card and valid access code

Physical presence at ETH
- All university staff generally work from home, but may return to ETH on a daily basis. (recommendation to work from home).
- Face masks must also be worn in all workplaces, unless someone is a sole occupant in a room.

Teaching

- In-person teaching will continue up to the end of Autumn Semester 2021, subject to existing rules (all attendees must be tested, vaccinated or recovered from Covid – "3G", and must also weak a face mask).
- The 3G requirement also applies to end-of-semester and admission exams. The rules governing certificate requirements for session examinations will be communicated in January.
- The 2G requirement (vaccinated or recovered; face masks must be worn) now applies to all in-person events held as part of continuing education programmes. Exams held under these programmes are now subject to 3G requirements.
- All those attending doctoral examinations in person must now comply with 3G requirements and also wear a face mask.

Testing possibilities and coverage of costs

- Up to the end of February 2022, ETH Zurich is offering anyone attending in-person courses who doesn't have a certificate free rapid antigen tests, available every Monday on both the Zentrum and Hönggerberg campuses. The certificate is valid for 24 hours.
- Please note: Any ETH member can take a CoVMass test; their results are still valid for 72 hours, as before. Students should hand in their samples in the morning, and employees in the late afternoon.

Events

- From Monday 20 December onwards, only academic events without on-site catering will be allowed in ETH buildings. Food and drink may only be offered in ETH catering facilities.

Meetings

- Meetings should once again be held online as a rule.

Gastronomy

- ETH catering services will have to cut back their offering on both Zentrum and Hönggerberg campuses. Current information on available services can be found on the [Gastronomy website](#).

Retreats and excursions

- Retreats are no longer allowed, until further notice.
- Excursions are permitted if they relate to the teaching syllabus.

Museums and exhibitions

- Government regulations apply (2G and compulsory face masks for anyone aged 12 and over).

1. General remarks

- Phase 3.5.5 starts on 20 December 2021 and runs until further notice.
- The rules imposed by the federal and cantonal governments, especially those regarding physical distancing and hygiene, continue to apply to all ETH members.
- All members of ETH Zurich are expected to conduct themselves responsibly outside the university as well.
- The Executive Board recommends that all ETH members who have to work on campus on certain days for operational reasons should undergo a free weekly PCR saliva test as part of the CoVMass testing programme, available on both Zentrum and Hönggerberg campuses, irrespective of their vaccination status. If the test is positive, they should follow the instructions of the contact tracer and the cantonal medical service.
- The Executive Board urges all ETH members to get vaccinated, or have a booster jab, where possible.

2. Building access

- All buildings will remain closed in principle from 20 December onwards. The only exceptions are the Main Building, housing the ETH Library and the Rector's Office service counters, the MM building housing the Mensa canteen and access to ASVZ facilities; on Hönggerberg campus the HIL Building housing the Architecture and Civil Engineering Library and the Alumni Lounge; and on both campuses all buildings offering catering services.
- Also excluded from closure (up to 24 December 2021) are all buildings in which courses or exams are held.
- Buildings in which end-of-semester-exams are held will be opened in good time as of 3 January 2022.
- Access to closed buildings is possible with the ETH card and valid access code.
- All students may access buildings that are officially open. They can access other buildings if they have an ETH card and individual access authorisation.

3. General rules for all ETH members

Physical presence at ETH
- From 3 February 2022, employees are recommended to work from home.
- During this phase, employees must consult their supervisors and office colleagues when deciding whether to return to work.
- If work is essential for operational purposes and cannot be done remotely at home, supervisors may require employees to work on site.
- Persons belonging to high-risk groups and/or in specific risk situations should agree individual arrangements with their supervisors.

Conduct on campus

- General access to the campus and to individual buildings (such as student workplaces other than in the library) and use of the ETH Link is still permitted without a certificate, as long as the valid safety measures are followed. Face masks must be worn. Vulnerable people with a medical condition should consult their doctor and then talk to their supervisor to agree on a solution, such as working in a separate office or working remotely from home.
- A minimum distance of 1.5 metres must be maintained both indoors and outdoors.
- Face masks must be worn in all indoor spaces, including all workstations and student workplaces, unless someone is a sole occupant in a room.
- Each individual is responsible for providing their own face mask. Where face masks are required for work, they will be supplied by the organisational units in question.
- Internal spaces should be ventilated as often as possible.
- Face masks must be worn outdoors if a minimum distance of 1.5 metres cannot be maintained when queuing at food stands or waiting at tram/bus stops.
- In the case of waiting areas, the responsible academic and administrative departments will make the necessary arrangements in accordance with the rules on physical distancing and hygiene. Waiting areas should be designated and clearly signposted.
- Outdoor spaces must be put to the most comprehensive use possible as waiting areas to avoid any crowding.

Conduct in the workplace

- All workplaces in offices, workshops and laboratories can be used with normal occupancy as long as the minimum distance of 1.5 metres is maintained.
- Rooms should be ventilated for 5 to 10 minutes every hour wherever possible.
- Separate rules apply to courses, as set down in the safety protocol for teaching AS 2021.
- All administrative departments and research groups that regularly occupy their offices must follow current safety protocols. Supervisors are responsible for ensuring compliance with these protocols.

Meetings

- Meetings should be held online as a rule.
- Face masks must always be worn during meetings that have to be face to face for operational reasons. The mask requirement includes general meetings, consultations, discussions with customers and partner institutions, and bilateral meetings such as HR meetings and consultations. Any protective acrylic screens should be left in place as added protection.
- A minimum area of 4m² must be designated for each person attending a physical meeting. The maximum occupancy of all the meeting rooms that can be booked must be clearly marked on their doors. If these details are not provided, the administrative or academic departments responsible for the meeting rooms will calculate and display the maximum occupancy.
- Meetings should not last more than 1½ to 1¾ hours. After every meeting, or in breaks during a meeting, the room must remain empty for 15 to 30 minutes and be well ventilated by opening any windows.
- No catering is allowed during meetings.

- Participants must clean all desk surfaces at the start and end of each meeting.
- Organisational units with their own meeting rooms are responsible for ensuring these rules are followed.
- Where meeting rooms are used as seminar rooms, the teaching regulations apply.

Events

- From Monday 20 December onwards, only academic events without on-site catering will be allowed in ETH buildings.
- All events taking place at ETH Zurich are subject to a mandatory 2G certificate requirement. The event organiser is responsible for checking certificates and identity documents.
- Face masks must also be worn at all events.
- The rooms can be filled to capacity.
- Requests for permission to hold events may be submitted, but there is no guarantee that a permit will be issued. Details are available on the ETH webpage ETH as an event venue.
- For simple events, it is not necessary to submit a safety protocol. The requirements listed on the COVID-19 requirements for events factsheet shall apply.
- For the rules on event catering, please refer to the Gastronomy section under point 6.
- Only academic events without catering are permitted at ETH, even if held outdoors. Requests to hold such an event must be submitted to the ETH Zurich Permits Office.

4. Teaching

Teaching and exam activity

- The rules applying to teaching include the Federal Council's Ordinance of 23 June 2021 on Measures during the Special Situation to combat the COVID-19 Epidemic, the FOPH Directive on Certificates to Prove COVID-19 vaccination, the ETH Executive Board's coronavirus master plan, the Rector's Directive on Measures with regard to teaching due to COVID-19 (AS 2021) and the safety protocol for teaching AS 2021.
- The following rules apply to all courses included in the Course Catalogue.

Exams

- Copies of the safety protocol governing performance assessments will be sent directly to those involved.
- Lecturers can hold end-of-semester exams as planned, either remotely or in person.
- Written examinations for the Winter 2021/22 exam session, as well as admission exams, will be held in person. Oral exams can be held in person or online.
- Doctoral exams can be held online, face to face, or as a hybrid arrangement. Guests are permitted.

Certificate requirement

- In-person teaching will continue up to the end of Autumn Semester 2021, subject to existing rules (all attendees must be tested, vaccinated or recovered from Covid – "3G" and must also weak a face mask).
- The 3G requirement also applies to end-of-semester and admission exams. The rules governing certificate requirements for session examinations will be communicated in January.
- The 2G requirement (vaccinated or recovered; face masks must be worn) now applies to all in-person events held as part of continuing education programmes. Exams held under these programmes are now subject to 3G requirements.
- All those attending doctoral examinations in person must now comply with 3G requirements and also wear a face mask.
- Everyone participating in a face-to-face course on campus – students, lecturers, assistants and scientific/administrative staff – MUST have a COVID certificate or proof of an internal ETH test.
- Covid certificates are not compulsory in all buildings and all indoor spaces open to the public, but face masks must be worn (including at student workplaces).

Validity of certificates

- All certificates (Swiss and international) are recognised that confirm full vaccination with one of the vaccines included on the WHO / FOPH list.
- Alternatively, proof of a test carried out under the internal ETH test programme (CoVMass) will be accepted for 3G courses held on campus. This is a non-invasive PCR saliva test whose results are valid for 72 hours.
- The Swiss COVID certificate is compatible with the EU Digital COVID Certificate; in other words, both certificates are accepted in Switzerland and in the EU/EFTA.

- Official proof of vaccination carrying the date and name of a person who has been fully vaccinated outside Switzerland or the EU/EFTA with a vaccine not admitted for use in Switzerland may still be accepted as long as:
    - proof of vaccination is provided in one of Switzerland's official languages or English, and
    - the vaccine is included in the list published by the FOPH.

Certificate checks
- Staff and students without a COVID certificate or proof or vaccination or internal ETH test will not be admitted to any in-person course.
- Centrally coordinated external stewards will monitor compliance through systematic and regular checks of certificates, combined with a valid personal ID or ETH card. In smaller courses and lab practicals, lecturers and their teams are expected to check certificates as best as they can. Courses not held on campus (excursions, field trips, etc.) must be thoroughly controlled by lecturers or their staff.

Testing possibilities and coverage of costs
- Up to the end of February 2022, ETH Zurich is offering anyone attending in-person courses who don't have a certificate free rapid antigen tests, available every Monday on both the Zentrum and Hönggerberg campuses. The certificate is valid for 24 hours.
- Tests carried out under the internal ETH test programme (CoVMass) are also free of charge and the results are accepted as valid for 72 hours.
- More information on testing possibilities at ETH can be found on the relevant website.

Viewing exam results
- Viewing is possible either remotely or in person, subject to compliance with protection measures (keeping a safe distance, good hygiene, room occupancy).

Trips abroad by students and receiving guest students
See point 5 "Student travel".

Vocational programmes: general rules to be observed by all those in vocational training or apprenticeships
- Apprentices and trainees should generally work on site subject to compliance with all safety measures (fulfilment of the university's educational mandate, quality of education and supervision, mental health). Exceptions should be discussed with apprentice supervisors or HR for vocational programmes.
- Company vocational training courses can continue at ETH Zurich.
- Trial apprenticeships as part of the career choice process are possible, subject to compliance with the specified rules.

5. Travel and excursions

Staff travel

- All inbound/outbound foreign travel is subject to government regulations.
  - Please check the conditions for entry into Switzerland (FOPH Travelcheck).
  - General FOPH regulations for entry into Switzerland.
  - State Secretariat for Migration rules on entry and stay in Switzerland for foreign nationals.
  - FOPH rules and guidance on travel abroad.
- Before travelling, ETH members must familiarise themselves with the current risk situation and travel restrictions applicable to foreign countries and clarify the current rules on entering the country and the quarantine situation when returning to Switzerland.
- Business trips to foreign countries by ETH members must be limited to those that are strictly necessary. If possible, the trip should be delayed until the risk no longer exists. Business trips that cannot be delayed require the approval of the supervisor and the consent of the employee. In case of doubt, please contact coronateam@ethz.ch.
- Trips abroad taken as holidays are the individual responsibility of the employee. Staff must assume the risk of having to self-isolate on their return. The respective period of absence must be booked as holiday or reduction of overtime if they are unable to work remotely from home.

Student travel

- All inbound/outbound foreign travel is subject to government regulations. Travel should be limited to unavoidable cases.
- An exchange at one of ETH Zurich's partner universities is only possible at a limited number of universities within Europe. The exchange is arranged through the Student Exchange Office.
- Trips abroad organised by the students themselves for study purposes (mainly Master's theses, practicals, or as visiting students, etc.) are at the individual student's own risk and responsibility. Students are advised not to travel to countries with a coronavirus variant of concern. As of 1 July 2021, students will once again be eligible for contributions to travel costs.
- Where visiting students wish to prepare their thesis at ETH, the professorships in question will make the final decision, although restraint is advised.

Excursions and retreats

- Retreats are no longer allowed, until further notice.
- Excursions are permitted if they relate to the teaching syllabus.
- Advice on a suitable safety protocol is available from coronateam@ethz.ch.

6. Gastronomy and services, ASVZ

Use of ETH dining facilities

- Covid certificates are required in all catering facilities open to the public (2G). Catering facilities where no certificate is required can be found on the Gastronomy website.
- Anyone using catering facilities where no certificate is needed must still check in and check out at the cash register.
- Current details of catering services and shops available on the Zentrum and Hönggerberg campuses can be found on the Gastronomy website.
- Face masks must be worn when moving around inside catering facilities. This also applies when queuing outdoors, as a minimum distance of 1.5m cannot always be maintained.
- Face masks should only be removed for eating once seated.
- All food and drink must be consumed while seated.

Catering at events

- Catering is only permitted in the ETH catering facilities.

ASVZ

Details of ASVZ sporting activities are available on the ASVZ website.