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Further information:	Head of Academic Services

Teaching in Spring Semester 2021: Safety concept

A Policy

This safety concept applies to Spring Semester 2021 (from 28 June 2021), including the Summer 2021 examination session. Possible changes during the next weeks are reserved.

All persons involved in teaching at ETH Zurich and all persons who attend courses at ETH Zurich or undergo performance assessments must comply with it. With the help of the associated safety measures, the goal is to hold face-to-face courses, while also addressing the situation responsibly.

If persons do not obey the rules set out in this safety concept they may be refused entrance to individual ETH rooms or buildings. The instructions given by the responsible faculty members (Lecturers, Assistants, Student Teaching Assistants) and security staff and on written directions and signs must be followed at all times.

The safety concept is based upon the federal government's "Ordinance on Measures during the Special Situation to combat the COVID-19 Epidemic (COVID-19 Ordinance Special Situation)" of 23 June 2021¹; the corona master plan of the Executive Board²; and the Rector's directive "COVID-19: Measures with regard to teaching (Autumn Semester 2020 and Spring Semester 2021)"³.

B General safety measures

As a rule, students should only be on campus if their physical presence there is required. Students who are not attending face-to-face courses may not enter the corresponding teaching rooms, and should wherever possible also not connect to online courses while on the ETH campus.

In the case of face-to-face courses, the federal regulations regarding mandatory masks, hygiene and distance must be complied with.

1. Symptoms of illness and rules of behaviour

Persons who show COVID-19 symptoms may not enter ETH buildings until they have been symptom-free for 48 hours. The Federal Office of Public Health requires even persons with mild symptoms to stay at home and recommends that they undergo a coronavirus test. Anyone who has had close contact without protective measures to someone with verified COVID-19 may not appear on the ETH campus for 10 days (even if they test negative for the coronavirus). Information on exemptions from mandatory quarantine can be found [HERE](#) (see also point 1.1 below)

In case of quarantine or isolation, the rules governing illness also apply to performance assessments and continuous performance assessment activities.

¹ [Ordinance on Measures during the Special Situation to combat the COVID-19 Epidemic](#)

² [Corona-Masterplan](#)

³ [DIRECTIVE - COVID-19: Measures with regard to teaching \(Autumn Semester 2020 and Spring Semester 2021\)](#)

1.1 Rules of behaviour for students

Students are subject to the provisions set out in the [“Guidelines COVID-19: Communication of illness, handling close contacts and supporting contact tracing – for ETH students”](#).

Students with verified or suspected COVID-19 should contact the Academic Services Team InfoLehre (infolehre@ethz.ch) immediately.

1.2 Rules of behaviour for teaching faculty

Teaching faculty are subject to the provisions set out in the [“Guidelines COVID-19: Communication of illness, handling close contacts and supporting contact tracing – for ETH staff”](#).

Faculty with verified or suspected COVID-19 must contact the Academic Services Team InfoLehre (infolehre@ethz.ch) immediately.

The communication of individual cases of illness to students is not foreseen.

2. Social distancing rules

The rules on social distancing (at least 1.5m) set by the Federal Office of Public Health must always be complied with as far as possible.

3. Compulsory wearing of masks

It is compulsory to wear a mask on the entire ETH campus inside the buildings. Students can remove their masks at their workspaces, as long as the minimum distance of 1.5m to other persons can be maintained. The masks recommended are disposable “hygiene masks” or cloth “community masks” (textile masks recommended by the Swiss COVID-19 Science Task-Force). Naturally other mask types may be worn, e.g. protective FFP2 masks. The information sheet on types of mask provides guidance.⁴

Students must wear masks in teaching rooms during the entire teaching session. Lecturers are exempt from this obligation.

It is also compulsory to wear masks during face-to-face oral and written examinations.⁵ Persons who have a medical dispensation from mask-wearing are excepted from this (they will be required to produce the document). It is the duty of lecturers or the respective examination invigilators to inform all participants before the examination that persons with medical dispensation from mask-wearing will take part in the examination (to prevent unnecessary accusations or irritation). Persons with dispensation are also subject to the following stipulations:

- They must report the medical dispensation to the responsible lecturer two weeks before the examination at the latest (to give time to set up the examination room(s)).
- They must sit the examination at a table which is equipped with technical safety means (e.g. plexiglass panes).
- Participants who cannot wear a mask who belong to the particularly endangered risk group should sit the examination in a sufficiently large additional room with as few other participants as possible (risk reduction) and sit the examination at a table which is equipped with technical safety means (e.g. plexiglass panes).
- Students who cannot wear a mask taking a face-to-face exam must provide a negative COVID-19 test that is less than 48 hours old.

⁴ [Information sheet: Types of mask](#)

⁵ The following measures will help to prevent steaming up of glasses: First put on the mask, then put the glasses over the mask / Use a mask with an integrated metal nose holder, and squeeze it tightly / Wear glasses with an anti-steam surface, or use an anti-steam spray / Wear contact lenses if you have them.

4. Contact details and maximum number of participants

Only enrolled students may attend courses. Absences need not be recorded additionally. The maximum allowable number of participants may not be exceeded. The set allocation of participants to a course may not be altered arbitrarily.

If cases increase and if requested by the responsible cantonal authorities, the contact details of enrolled participants, including mobile telephone numbers, may be communicated. Academic Services will establish a procedure for delivering the necessary information to the cantonal contact tracers in such cases.

5. Hygiene measures

The ventilation systems in teaching rooms must be set in such a way as to achieve the best air quality possible and to minimise the concentration of aerosols.

If the lecture covers a double lecture period, the break at half-time should be cancelled or shortened such that the room can be aired thoroughly before the next class arrives and so that the flow of students in and out of the room can be distributed more flexibly. If the class lasts longer than a double lecture period, the room must be aired for 15 to 30 minutes after 90 minutes of class at the most. Participants must leave the room during this time. Any diverging stipulations for face-to-face examinations still apply.

If students leave their places temporarily (e.g. during the break) they must return to the same places as before.

Any surfaces and equipment intended for common use must be cleaned by participants and instructors at the beginning of the session. Disinfecting materials will be made available.

6. Signs

Signs at the entrances to auditoria and seminar rooms will indicate how many people are allowed in them. The numbers given reflect federal regulations and must be adhered to. They apply to the following:

- From 28.06.2021: Potential supplementary face-to-face teaching spaces (maximum capacity 1/2 of normal room capacity [keep every other seat free])
- Temporary student workspaces

There are place markings in some of the rooms. These are for taking exams and are not relevant for face-to-face teaching. These markings must be followed at all times, and may not be altered or removed.

Information on the signs does not apply to

- explicitly permitted face-to-face courses which depend on the infrastructure or other specific features on site and which are, where required, subject to a separate safety concept (see also C (1) below;
- face-to-face performance assessments, where social distancing rules (at least 1.5m between the persons present) must in any case be adhered to (in the auditoria most frequently used for examinations the available places are labelled).

7. Special protection for persons in risk groups

Students who belong to a risk group should attend ETH courses online in Spring Semester 2021, wherever possible. If their courses absolutely require physical presence, they should be offered special face-to-face conditions, if necessary. Students in risk groups should discuss the matter with the responsible teaching lecturers.

C Special safety measures and further instructions

1. Other courses

Teaching in drafting rooms, design classes or studios, department computer rooms, laboratories and during practicals partially takes place in very specific settings which are determined by the respective degree programme. The responsible teaching staff must create separate safety concepts for these types of course and make them available in the Course Catalogue or the course website linked to it. The Safety, Security, Health, Environment unit (coronateam@ethz.ch) is happy to provide guidance.

The following provisions apply:

- The rules set out in the governing documents ([links](#)) must be complied with.
- The rules set out in this safety concept must be complied with, unless they have been replaced by other measures (e.g. mandatory contact tracing if close contact without masks is unavoidable).

Excursions and field courses count as special courses in particular. Specific guidelines apply to the planning and conduction of excursions⁶.

2. Continuous performance assessment activities and face-to-face performance assessments

The directive “COVID-19: Measures with regard to teaching (Autumn Semester 2020 and Spring Semester 2021)” determines the possible ways to conduct continuous performance assessment activities and performance assessments in Spring Semester 2021. If these are conducted face to face, the provisions of this safety concept must be complied with. Specific instructions may come into force for the end-of-semester examinations and the Summer 2021 examination session, if necessary.

⁶ [Excursions, field courses.html](#) + [Corona-Masterplan](#)