

FHNW Covid-19 protection concept

Applicable from 31 May 2021¹

Due to the Covid-19 epidemic, the “special situation” as defined by the Epidemics Act of 28 September 2012 (EpG) has been in force in Switzerland since 19 June 2020. Based on the EpG, the Federal Council issued the Ordinance on Measures during the Special Situation to Combat the COVID-19 Epidemic (with the latest amendment on 26 May 2021). The specifications for protection concepts are formulated in the annex to that ordinance.

This FHNW protection concept is based on the aforementioned requirement. The measures defined in the protection concept are intended to prevent the spread of the coronavirus (Covid-19), interrupt transmission chains and protect persons present on FHNW premises from infection. The protection concept is based on the sharing of responsibilities: the institutional responsibility of the FHNW and the individual, personal responsibility of all persons present on the FHNW campuses or performing mandated activities.

From 31 May 2021 in-person teaching for students and continuing education participants at the FHNW will again be possible, subject to compliance with the protective measures outlined below. For staff, teleworking from home is recommended. Decisions on whether work should be performed and modules taught in a classroom situation or remotely are a matter for the relevant organisational entities (presidium of the board of directors, schools, Services, campuses).

This document contains binding requirements, formulated by the President, regarding protective measures for the campuses and the schools/services. When applying the protection concept, the needs of schools with more than one campus must be taken adequately into account.

- The directors of the schools and the VP Services are responsible for implementing the organisational protective measures described below at a school/services level (II).
- The campus managers are responsible for implementing the spatial protection measures (see below) at the campuses (III).

I. Organisational principles at a FHNW level

1. Recommendation to work from home

Teleworking is recommended and must be discussed on a case-by-case basis with the line managers.

2. In-person teaching

Degree and continuing education programmes at the FHNW are possible subject to compliance with the protective measures outlined below.

Course work / assignments performed outside the FHNW are subject to the regulations of the institutions where they take place.

3. Access to FHNW premises

From 31 May 2021 access to the premises of the FHNW is permissible for staff, students, continuing education participants and invited visitors, subject to compliance with the protective measures (see 4. below).

The following persons are prohibited from entering the premises of the FHNW:

¹ The FHNW is keeping the situation under close watch and will adapt its protection concept accordingly.

- Persons with symptoms which could be caused by the Covid-19 coronavirus or who have tested positive for it (see the Federal Office of Public Health's (FOPH) instructions regarding isolation).
- Unvaccinated persons living in the same household as, or having had close contact with, a person who is a confirmed Covid-19 carrier (see the FOPH's instructions regarding quarantine).

4. Protective measures

Access to the premises of the FHNW which has been exceptionally authorised is possible only if the following protective measures are observed:

- Hygiene measures
- Social distancing of 1.5 metres
- Wearing face coverings as a general rule

An exception to the obligation to wear a face covering is permitted only for persons who are alone in closed rooms or if the Director has granted an exception where there are grounds for doing so (especially for music making, medical reasons, etc.).

5. Regular Covid-19 saliva tests

At the following campuses

- Brugg-Windisch
- Muttenz
- Olten (Riggerbachstrasse 16 and Von Roll-Strasse 10)
- Basel (HGK, HSM (Musik-Akademie campus and Jazz campus), HSW Peter Merian)
- Solothurn (PH)

the FHNW offers Covid-19 saliva tests (pooled PCR saliva tests). Participation in the tests is voluntary and anonymous vis-à-vis the FHNW. Details of the test concept can be found on [Inside](#).

Taking a Covid-19 saliva test does not exempt from compliance with the protective measures.

6. Business and study trips

Business and study trips should be avoided wherever possible.

7. Social events / events involving third parties

Social events and events with third parties in attendance may be held with a maximum of 100 attendees. The President of the Board of Directors, the Vice-Presidents, the Directors or the campus managers, as the case may be, shall decide what social activities with an in-person presence are permitted.

8. Libraries

The libraries are open for members and visitors.

9. Sports/recreation

The FHNW is facilitating a reduced recreational sports program on the premises subject to compliance with the special protection regulations for sports events.

10. Campus restaurants/canteens

The regulations for canteens and staff restaurants apply to the FHNW campus restaurants and canteens.

11. Information

'Inside FHNW' provides information on the applicable rules of conduct in German and English.

12. Responsibilities

Overall responsibility for implementing the protection concept lies with the President. The directors and campus managers are responsible for its implementation at the schools and campuses respectively.

To ensure the coordinated implementation of any requirements of the sponsoring cantons, the contact person for the cantonal authorities is the head of the crisis management team / Secretary General of the FHNW. The directors and the VP services keep the head of the crisis management team informed about situations relating to Covid-19.

Those responsible for the schools and services are responsible for identifying critical processes and organising them in such a way that they are continuously available.

II. Organisational protective measures at a school/services level

In order to implement the organisational principles at an FHNW level, the schools/services may implement further organisational measures to protect staff, students and participants in continuing education.

III. Spatial protection measures at the campuses

The campus managers have implemented the following spatial protection measures:

1. General measures

Hand hygiene

- Ensuring the availability of soap and disposable hand-drying material
- Provision of hand sanitizer stations according to room type

Social distancing

There is an increased risk of infection if the distance of 1.5 metres cannot be maintained for more than 15 minutes. The following measures are intended to facilitate the required distancing:

- Information via posters
- Signage, floor markings, barriers to control the flow of people
- Seating arrangements
- Measures on a per-room type basis
- Organisational measures at a school/services level

Cleaning

- Periodic cleaning of door handles, handrails, lift buttons, WC facilities
- Measures on a per-room type basis

Ventilation

Where possible, rooms should be ventilated regularly.

2. Additional measures per room type

Type 1: open zones, access areas, transfer areas, libraries, car parking facilities, WCs

- Information/signage (FOPH posters)
- Provision of hand sanitizer stations in access areas (entrances, library, ...)
- Shutting off areas at increased risk of violation of the distancing rule
- Organisational measures at a school/services level

Type 2: break areas

- Must be designated as break areas
- Limited number of available chairs
- Cleaning of table surfaces several times a day

Type 3: auditoriums, teaching rooms, seminar rooms, meeting rooms

- Definition and labelling of maximum number of attendees per room
- Designation and labelling of usable seating
- Limited number of chairs
- Cleaning of surfaces several times a day touched by several people

Type 4: labs, work areas, special facilities (including music facilities)

- Definition of number of persons per room
- Organisational measures at a school/services level

Type 5: work areas, offices (including break areas)

- Specified number of persons per room
- Rearrange furniture as necessary
- Organisational measures at a school/services level

Type 6: Student workplaces

(Workplaces in freely accessible premises)

- Limited availability of seating
- Cleaning several times a day

Lecture halls, classrooms, seminar and meeting rooms used by students and continuing education participants for work are deemed to be student workplaces.

Type 7: Canteens, cafeterias

- Operators' concepts
- Organisational measures at a school/Services level

Specific measures for special zones with direct customer contact in the defined room types (reception areas, etc.), must be provided for in consultation with the schools.

Issued by the President of the Board of Directors on 27 May 2021

Applicable from 31 May 2021

(replaces the protection concept of 16 April 2021 which applied from 26 April 2021)