

The SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 Rules & Recommendations from the BOKU

After consultation with DI Griebel (Head of Staff Unit "Employee Protection & Health"), I present herewithin a summary of the suggested BOKU procedures in case of a suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 employee at the BOKU.

A suspected SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 case is someone

- who shows acute symptoms of a respiratory infection (sudden onset of at least one of the following symptoms: cough, fever, shortness of breath¹) and in the 14 days prior to the onset of symptoms, was in close contact with a confirmed or probable SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 case, or
- who shows acute symptoms of a respiratory infection (sudden onset of at least one of the following symptoms: cough, fever, shortness of breath²) and who stayed in a risk area, i.e. a region in which a high transmission rate of SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 is reported.

Risk areas are regions in which continuous transmission of SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 must be assumed. For risk areas or regions with current travel warnings (updated daily by the Federal Ministry) visit: <https://www.sozialministerium.at/en.html>

or <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/reise-aufenthalt/reisewarnungen/>

A probable SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 case is someone

- in whom no evidence of SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 was confirmed by a suitable laboratory diagnostic method, but who shows clinical symptoms (acute symptoms of a respiratory infection) and who was in close contact with a confirmed or probable SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 case, or who stayed in a region with assumed continuous transmission of SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19.

A confirmed SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 case is someone

- who has a laboratory diagnostic evidence of SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19, regardless of the symptoms.

A person suspected of having SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 should stay at home, call +43 1 **1450** to report symptoms and other necessary information (travel itinerary) and follow further instructions. The person should also inform the head of his/her institute/secretary and the BOKU Corona-Service: corona@boku.ac.at and/or contact DI Griebel (0664-8858 6472, erik.griebel@boku.ac.at).

The institute has to identify all contact persons (persons that spend more than 15 min and closer than 2m with a suspected person, with or without mouth-nose-protection, in the last 48 hours). The institute

¹ Note that the Federal Minister lists additional symptoms, such as the loss of smell or taste: „Jede Form einer akuten respiratorischen Infektion (mit oder ohne Fieber) mit mind. einem der folgenden Symptome, für das es keine andere plausible Ursache gibt: Husten, Halsschmerzen, Kurzatmigkeit, plötzlicher Verlust des Geschmacks-/Geruchssinnes“ <https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Infektionskrankheiten-A-Z/Neuartiges-Coronavirus.html>

² Note that the Federal Minister lists additional symptoms, such as the loss of smell or taste: „Jede Form einer akuten respiratorischen Infektion (mit oder ohne Fieber) mit mind. einem der folgenden Symptome, für das es keine andere plausible Ursache gibt: Husten, Halsschmerzen, Kurzatmigkeit, plötzlicher Verlust des Geschmacks-/Geruchssinnes“ <https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Infektionskrankheiten-A-Z/Neuartiges-Coronavirus.html>

will subsequently prepare a “contact person” list including the person names and contact details that will then be sent to DI Griebel (s.a.). All contact persons must be sent home to work in home office; they must wait for the test results of the suspected persons. If this test is negative, the contact persons may return to their offices. In case the test is positive, the contact persons must stay at home in quarantine for 10 days since the last contact with the infected person and have to respond as a person suspected of having SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 as described above (i.e. call + 43 1 1450, etc.). In this case, you must also follow governmental regulatory instructions that will be provided when you call +43 1 1450 or that you can find on: <https://www.sozialministerium.at/en/Coronavirus/Coronavirus-hotlines.html>.

Based on the individual situation, the BOKU-Corona-Service will initiate further action (possibly including evaluation of work presence, further tests of contact persons, etc.)

More information on hygiene measures and other necessary measures to avoid the spread of the disease at the BOKU are on the Staff Unit “Employee Protection & Health” website:

<https://boku.ac.at/en/universitaetsleitung/rectorate/staff-units/staff-unit-employee-protection-health/corona-virus-information-and-recommendation>

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