Information on handling the Coronavirus

Dear members of the University of Siegen community,

As you all know, the novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) has arrived in Germany and in the state of North Rhine Westphalia (NRW). The Federal Minister of Health, Mr. Jens Spahn, spoke of the beginning of an epidemic at the end of February. In future, major events with more than 1,000 participants could be cancelled. As a nationally and internationally interconnected University with students and staff from more than 110 countries, we are of course very mindful of this topic. Therefore, we are addressing this letter to you.

How does the University of Siegen deal with the Coronavirus?

• We have set up a response team, consisting of experts, who meet daily, assess the current situation and can make quick decisions.

• We are in close contact with the City of Siegen, the local public health authorities and the responsible hospital in the county in order to be able to initiate the required measures immediately and in a coordinated manner, if necessary.

• The district of Siegen-Wittgenstein is setting up two centers for corona testing: one in the city of Bad Berleburg and one in Siegen. The Diagnostic Center in Siegen will be located in the gym on the Adolf-Reichwein-Straße Campus (AR-S), occupying several rooms in the multi-purpose gym. Individual patients can be tested there. The procedure entails that a general practitioner first has to issue a referral (Überweisung). Subsequently, the district's Department of Public Health (Kreisgesundheitsamt) will contact these patients to schedule an appointment. The Center is expected to start testing at the beginning of next week.

• In light of the coming summer term 2020, we are taking preparations for both teaching and examinations.

• We have prepared for various possible scenarios, ranging from individual measures to the temporary closure of the University.

• Our International Office is in contact with our international partners and the students who would like to start their studies in Siegen in the near future, as well as with the students who have started or are planning their stay abroad.

Our homepage provides further advice and information—on travel (excursions, research and business trips etc.), on preventive measures and on how to behave in case of a suspected infection.
Please do not hesitate to contact the Department of Occupational Health and Safety (Department 1)–by telephone on 0271.740-3311 or by e-mail: ralf.schmelzer@zv.uni-siegen.de.

Let us stand together and approach this subject with the necessary caution and attention.

On behalf of the University leadership, we would like to assure you that we are monitoring current developments and, if required, we will take the necessary decisions—for the benefit and the health of all members of the University of Siegen community.

Yours sincerely,

[Signatures]

Prof. Dr. Holger Burckhart
Rector of the University of Siegen

Ulf Richter
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