

Procedure for suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 among FH JOANNEUM students

Every **student** is required to notify info_covid19@fh-joanneum.at immediately if they suspect they have COVID-19.

What is a suspected case?

- If the person exhibits COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, catarrh or inflammation of the upper respiratory tract, sudden loss of the sense of taste/smell).
- If the person does not exhibit symptoms: contact (see definition of "contact person" below) with a confirmed COVID-19 case within 48 hours before the symptoms started, or in asymptomatic cases 48 hours before the positive sample was taken.
- The following additional criteria apply if other (non-COVID) symptoms (e.g. vomiting, diarrhoea, etc.) occur:
 - Return from areas with a high level of the virus (the current travel warnings of the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs can be found at <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/reise-aufenthalt/reisewarnungen/>) or
 - Previous contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.

What is a contact person?

A contact person (i.e. suspected infected person) is

- a person who has had contact with a confirmed case from the beginning of the infectious period (i.e. contagious contact) to the end of the quarantine. The infectious period/contagious period starts as early as 48 hours prior to disease onset (i.e. occurrence of symptoms);
- in asymptomatic cases the infectious period begins 48 hours before the positive sample was taken. The end of the infectious period cannot be established with certainty at the present time.

1. Contact person with high-risk exposure (K1):

- A person who has had direct physical contact with a confirmed case.
- A person who has had face-to-face contact with a confirmed case within 2 metres and for longer than 15 minutes (especially household contacts).
- A person who has provided direct care to a confirmed case (including healthcare and nursing staff, family members or other care workers).
- A person who was in the same room with a confirmed case for 15 minutes or more and at a distance of less than 2 metres.
- A person who has very probably been exposed to a relevant concentration of aerosols (e.g. during parties) irrespective of the distance.

2. Contact person with low-risk exposure (K2):

- A person who has had face-to-face contact with a confirmed case within 2 metres for less than 15 minutes; a person who was in the same room (e.g. classroom, meeting room, rooms in a healthcare facility) with a confirmed case within a distance of more than 2 metres for more than 15 minutes or within 2 metres for less than 15 minutes.

I.	Suspected case at home		
	Go into self-quarantine.	Affected person	
	Contact the health hotline (1450).	Affected person	Follow the instructions given by the health hotline.
	Inform info_covid19@fh-joanneum.at and the head of degree programme using the COVID-19 reporting form: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specify the instructions given by the health hotline. • List all contact persons at FH JOANNEUM. 	Affected person	
II.	Suspected case during classes / presence on FH JOANNEUM premises		
	Isolate away from others.		
	Wear a face mask.	Affected person and persons who were in direct contact with the affected person at the time the case was confirmed.	
	Contact the health hotline (1450).	Affected person	Follow the instructions given by the health hotline.
	Inform info_covid19@fh-joanneum.at and the head of degree programme using the COVID-19 reporting form: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specify the instructions given by the health hotline • List all contact persons at FH JOANNEUM 	Affected person	
	Transport home, if required.	Affected person	Transporting the affected person home from the workplace following a

			<p>sudden onset of illness must be clarified with the health hotline. The ambulance service must be informed in advance that the person concerned is suspected to have COVID-19.</p> <p>The use of public transport is prohibited and the affected person should drive home in their own car, if possible, to avoid contact with others. Once at home, contact with others, including family members, should be avoided as much as possible.</p>
	Home quarantine acc. to the instructions given by the health hotline.	Affected person	Remote participation in courses, where possible.
	If the health hotline orders a test: Disinfect the workplace wearing appropriate PPE (gloves and face mask).	Head of degree programme in consultation with FMA	
III.	Testing decision of the health hotline		
	Test is carried out.	Affected person	Notify info_covid19@fh-joanneum.at
	Contact the health authorities.	GEF office	Follow instructions and measures issued by the health authorities.
	Test is not carried out.	Affected person	Notify info_covid19@fh-joanneum.at .
	Follow further instructions from the health authorities.	Affected person	Notify info_covid19@fh-joanneum.at .
	No further instructions from	Head of degree programme in	End of measures.

	the authorities: Inform contact persons.	consultation with GEF office	
IV.	Procedure until a test result is available		
	Self-quarantine and online teaching, where possible, or sick leave (sick note).	Affected person	
	Inform contact persons at FH JOANNEUM, degree programme staff and cohort.	Head of degree programme in consultation with GEF office	
	FH JOANNEUM contact persons work from home or teach online, where possible.	Head of degree programme	
	Suspend in-person courses for relevant cohort, switch to online teaching if possible.	Head of degree programme	
	Test result negative: Notify info_covid19@fh-joanneum.at	Affected person	Continue to follow instructions from the authorities.
	No further instructions from the authorities: Give the all-clear to all FH JOANNEUM contacts.	Head of degree programme in consultation with GEF office	End of measures.
	Test result positive: see procedure for positive test result (point V).		
V.	Procedure for positive test result		
	Communicate test result to info_covid19@fh-joanneum.at .	Affected person	
	Contact health authorities.	GEF office	Follow instructions and measures issued by the health authorities.

	Inform contact persons → enable working from home and online teaching.	Head of degree programme in consultation with GEF office	Continue from point I or point II.
	Continue home quarantine – do not come to FH JOANNEUM.	Affected person	
	Suspend in-person courses for relevant cohort, switch to online teaching.	Head of degree programme	
	Return to FH JOANNEUM only after the health authorities have lifted the quarantine.	Affected person	

Further information

You can get yourself tested here:

- Via your family doctor
- Via a laboratory:
LKH University Clinic Graz – Styria
Clinical Institute for Medical and Chemical Laboratory Diagnostics
Auenbruggerplatz 15, 8036 Graz
+43 (0) 316 385 31265
gabriela.egger@klinikum-graz.at

Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) – Styria
Institute for Medical Microbiology & Hygiene
Beethovenstrasse 6, 8010 Graz
+43 (0) 50 555 61 217
humanmed.graz@ages.at

Labor Dr. Tiran
Stadlgasse 3, 8020 Graz
+43 (0) 316 712176
office@labor-tiran.at

Medius – Primary Health Care Centre
Leonhardplatz 3, 8010 Graz
+43 316 90 44 88
info@medius.at

Costs of testing will only be covered by health insurance if there is a reasonable suspicion that the person is infected with SARS-CoV-2 and only if the test has been ordered by the health hotline.

Further contact details concerning psychological advice can be found at
<https://www.sozialministerium.at/Informationen-zum-Coronavirus/Coronavirus---Hotlines.html>
https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/public/Seelische_Gesundheit.html