

Special Policies and Procedures Regarding Coronavirus (SARS-CoV2) and Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19)

August 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022

Bard College Berlin strives to protect the health and safety of all students, faculty and staff. In order to keep all members of the college community safe, the following policies and procedures are in force. They follow or exceed all health mandates from the Berlin state and German federal governments and are adapted in accordance with changes in regulations, health authority recommendations and local circumstances. Students may suggest changes to these policies through the procedures of the Student Parliament (StuPa). All updates will be posted here: <https://berlin.bard.edu/covid-19/>.

(1) Arrivals and Vaccinations

- All instruction in the fall of 2022 will take place in person (“Präsenzlehre”), as long as this is safe and permitted.
- To protect members of the Bard College Berlin community, all students, faculty and staff must be fully vaccinated. In accordance with current medical consensus, **to be fully vaccinated means to have received at least *three* doses of an [EMA-approved vaccine](#)**. (Three doses are also required if the first or second dose received was of the Johnson-and-Johnson/Janssen vaccine.)
- New students are permitted to attend Bard College Berlin only on condition that they are fully vaccinated (including the third or “booster” shot) before arrival or, if achieving full vaccination status before arrival would entail incurring unreasonable risks or burdens, on condition that they agree to receive any remaining doses at the earliest possible time after arrival in Berlin.
- **Students must provide documentation of their vaccination status [via this form](#) or directly to the Student Life Health and Wellness Officer prior to or immediately upon arrival at the college.** The documentation will be kept on file and must be updated for the duration of their studies at Bard College Berlin. Students must inform the Student Life Health and Wellness Officer of any changes to their vaccination status as soon as possible and submit the necessary documentation. Failure to do so will be considered a violation of the student code of conduct and students will be referred to the conduct process.
- **Students who are not able to be fully vaccinated (including the third or “booster” shot) before arrival at the college must obtain their remaining vaccination doses in Berlin as soon as possible.** Vaccinations are easily and freely obtainable in Berlin. The Student Life Health and Wellness Officer will provide the necessary guidance. Students must provide updated information and documentation regarding their vaccination appointments and vaccination status as soon as possible, [via this form](#) or directly to the Student Life Health and Wellness Officer.

- Medical contraindications to the EMA-approved vaccines are very rare. Students who have been advised by a medical professional that they are subject to a contraindication must share a signed doctor's note attesting this with the Student Life Health and Wellness Officer, before or upon arrival at the college. They will be provided with contact information for a designated physician to whom they must send medical documentation of the contraindication and with whom they must schedule a 15-to-20-minute online consultation. The medical documentation and consultation are protected by doctor-patient privilege. If the physician determines that the student's case falls within a known contraindication, the student must notify the Student Life Health and Wellness Officer. They may then attend courses at their own risk. The college may require regular Sars-CoV2 (antigen) testing and cannot reimburse them for the cost of testing.
- All members of the faculty and staff are entitled to check proof of negative test result, vaccination or immunity. The German Corona-Warn App is recommended to facilitate providing such proof.

(2) Masks, Room Ventilation and Hygiene

- **FFP2 or N95 masks ("Mund-Nase-Bedeckungen," hereinafter: "masks") must be worn in all course meetings and all gatherings comparable to seminar sessions in size and location.** All members of the community must provide their own masks. Please note that this mask mandate includes fully vaccinated and immune members of the community.
- Outside of seminar meetings and gatherings comparable to course meetings in size and location, **Bard College Berlin is a mask-friendly campus.** This means that the wearing of masks is encouraged in all shared indoor spaces in the university, but not mandatory. Please use your best judgement to decide in what situations you should wear a mask on campus. In general, wearing a mask shows consideration for the health and wellbeing of others, especially members of the college and the wider community who are particularly vulnerable to the virus or who are, for medical or regulatory reasons, unable to be vaccinated. Bard College Berlin will reintroduce mask mandates beyond course sessions if and when local circumstances change. In this and other regards, college rules may exceed general health regulations from the Berlin state and German federal governments.
- **Seminar rooms must be aired out every 45 minutes, with all windows and doors fully opened for at least five minutes.** (Please dress accordingly.) All shared-use indoor spaces (including offices, teaching facilities, art studios, seminar, meeting and common rooms) must be aired out regularly.
- All members of the community must wash their hands regularly.

(3) Testing

- All members of the college community should get tested if and when they suspect that they may have been exposed to the virus. Covid tests (antigen rapid tests) are widely available. The public testing center closest to campus is located at [Grabbeallee 59](#).

(4) Isolation and Quarantine

- Members of the college community who
 - receive a positive (rapid) test result, or
 - are not yet fully vaccinated and experience symptoms associated with Covid-19, or
 - learn that they may have been exposed to the coronavirusmust immediately isolate themselves from all other college members and notify the college:
 - Students, please email the Student Life Health and Wellness Officer and all your current professors and instructors.
 - Faculty members, please email the Registrar and copy the Dean and the Managing Director.
 - Staff members, please email the Managing Director.
- In addition, students who receive a positive (rapid) test result should call the Berlin state [Coronavirus Hotline](#) and follow its professional guidance on follow-up PCR testing and quarantine (+49-30-9028-2828). The Student Life Health and Wellness Officer can assist with arranging care when requested.
- Bard College Berlin recommends that community members download and use the [Corona-Warn App](#) (provided that their cellphones have the necessary capacity) to help to track any potential exposure to individuals who have tested positive. The app has several functions that help protect users and facilitate contact tracing, including automatic contact warning, QR-code check-in for university buildings and events, a manual contact log and digital proof of vaccination.

(5) Residence Halls

- **If any students believe they have contracted the virus or are suspected to have contracted the virus, Student Life staff may direct them to isolate within their apartment from the community.** During this time, students must wear masks and limit contact within the apartment. Due to limits in college housing capacity, students who have tested positive for coronavirus must isolate in their room. Students who occupy a double room must isolate together, even if only one of them has tested positive for the virus.
- During isolation and quarantine periods, further restrictions may be put in place. These will be announced by the Student Life Office, the Registrar's Office or the Managing Director.
- Students are responsible for maintaining hygiene in apartment kitchens and shared living rooms. Dishes must be washed immediately after use. Trash and recycling items must be

disposed of in outside containers whenever receptacles are full. **Staff and RAs are entitled to perform unannounced hygiene checks in student apartments at any time.**

- All student rooms and shared kitchen and living room areas in student apartments must be aired out regularly (and at least twice a day), with all windows fully open for at least ten minutes.

(6) Cafeteria

- Access to the cafeteria is from the rear of the building only. Please line up for entry outside, around the north side of the building (opposite Henry Koerner Hall). Use the north stairs up to the terrace. Please exit the cafeteria through the front door only.
- On-campus students must not sit inside the cafeteria to eat. They are required to take their lunch, breakfast and dinner to their residence hall or sit outside.
- Off-campus students may sit in the cafeteria's upper-floor dining rooms to eat lunch. However, they are encouraged to eat lunch outside or in other suitable campus spaces.
- Weather permitting, all community members may sit and eat outside the cafeteria at any time.
- Students must use the take-away containers provided in the cafeteria. (Students who are allowed to eat lunch in the cafeteria's upper-floor dining rooms may use china plates and metal silverware.)

(7) Library

- Users should return books and other library items via the drop-box if they are visiting the library only for this purpose. (Reserve-shelf items should be returned at the front desk.)
- Users must wash or disinfect their hands before browsing library items.
- The gardens should be used for reading and studying whenever weather permits.
- During longer stays in the library study rooms, users must open the windows for at least ten minutes every hour.

(8) Teaching Formats and Attendance

- Unless announced, all instruction is in-person ("Präsenslehre"). Regular attendance is essential to the collaborative work of learning in the seminar format and forms part of the participation grade. The participation rules apply to students who have to attend seminar sessions remotely.
- If a student has to refrain from in-person seminar attendance because of a possible or suspected infection, they may request that instructors offer alternatives to in-person attendance, such as remote participation or asynchronous options. Students remain responsible for ensuring that they stay current with or make up course work.