

Special Policies and Procedures During the Coronavirus Pandemic

August 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021

Bard College Berlin will continue to prioritize the health and safety of all students, faculty and staff. In order to keep all members of the Bard College Berlin community safe and healthy throughout the coronavirus (SARS-CoV2) pandemic, the following policies and procedures are in force. They follow or exceed all health mandates from the Berlin state and German federal governments and will be 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, Vaccinations and Testing

- All instruction during the semester, beginning with the program in Language and Thinking, will take place in person, as long as this is safe and permitted.
- To protect members of Bard College Berlin community, all students, faculty and staff must get vaccinated with an [EMA-approved vaccine](#) on the earliest possible occasion.
- Students should get vaccinated with an EMA-approved vaccine prior to their arrival at the college, provided that they can do so without incurring unreasonable risks or burdens.
- Students must provide documentation of their vaccination status to the Student Life Manager prior to or upon arrival at the college. The documentation will be kept on file for the duration of their studies. Students must inform the Student Life Manager of any changes to their vaccination status as soon as possible and submit the necessary documentation.
- Students who are not yet fully vaccinated upon arrival at the college must get vaccinated in Berlin as soon as possible. Vaccinations are easily and freely obtainable in Berlin. The Student Life Office will provide the necessary guidance. Students must provide updated information and documentation regarding their vaccination appointments and vaccination status to the Student Life Manager as soon as possible.
- 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 notify the Student Life Manager (k.pretscher@berlin.bard.edu) before or upon arrival at the college. They will be provided with contact information for a designated physician to whom they must send documentation of the contraindication and with whom they will 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 Manager. They may then attend courses at their own risk. The college cannot reimburse them for the cost of the continued mandatory testing, should free public testing become unavailable.

- Unless and until students are fully vaccinated, they must provide proof of a negative SARS-CoV2 test result that is no older than 48 hours to attend any course sessions, use any common college facilities or gather with any members of the Bard College Berlin community outside their own household. In accordance with legal regulations, all relevant members faculty and staff are entitled to check proof of negative test result, vaccination or immunity. The German [Corona-Warn App](#) is highly recommended to facilitate providing such proof.
- Free covid tests (antigen rapid tests) are currently available in public testing centers in the vicinity of campus (e.g. at Grabbeallee 59). Should free testing no longer be available, the college will provide free self-tests or cover the cost of testing for students until (the earliest day on which) they can be vaccinated.
- In order not to endanger the college community, students must exercise caution when off campus: Enter crowded spaces (especially indoors) only when necessary and wear a mask when doing so. Avoid or leave situations in which you see others behave with a lack of caution.
- Students should refrain from any unnecessary travel, especially international travel, during the semester and the fall break. Students should not travel to areas categorized as “Virusvariantengebiete” (“virus variant areas”) or “Hochrisikogebiete” (“high risk areas”) by the [Robert-Koch-Institut](#) (RKI) or by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Students should not travel to countries for which a Travel Advisory (“Reisewarnung”) from the German Foreign Ministry (“[Auswärtiges Amt](#)”) is in effect. The college cannot make allowances for any delays in returning from such travel, or provide quarantine arrangements. Students are responsible for the consequences their non-attendance would have on their studies.

(2) On Campus: Masks, Ventilation, Hygiene and Contact Tracing

- Medical masks (FFP2 or N95 “Mund-Nase-Bedeckungen”) must be worn in all shared indoor spaces in the university. All members of the community must provide their own masks and wash any admissible reusable masks regularly. Please note that this mask mandate currently applies to course sessions and includes fully vaccinated and immune members of the community.
- Social distancing should be maintained whenever possible. In accordance with government regulations for universities, social distancing rules are not applicable to classroom sessions.
- All shared offices, teaching, meeting and common rooms must be vented regularly, with all windows and doors fully opened at least once every 45 minutes for at least 5 minutes. (Please dress accordingly.)
- All members of the community must wash their hands regularly.
- Bard College Berlin expects all community members to download and utilize the [Corona-Warn App](#) to track any potential exposure to individuals who have tested positive (provided that their cellphones have the necessary capacity). The app has several functions that help protect users and facilitate contact tracing, including QR-code check-in for university buildings, spaces and events, a contact log and digital proof of vaccination.

- The college is required to keep attendance lists for contact tracing at all college gatherings with individuals from more than one household. This includes all course sessions, college events and cafeteria meals. All attendees must sign in and provide the necessary contact information. Attendance lists for college events and the cafeteria will be kept on file for fourteen days.

Masks MUST be worn	Masks are not required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inside all academic, administrative or other shared-use indoor spaces on campus, • While waiting in line inside in the cafeteria, • While speaking with faculty or staff in their offices, unless otherwise directed by faculty or staff, • During seminars. (Faculty may permit temporary removal by individuals.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoors (where social distancing can be maintained), • In your apartment, • While eating in the cafeteria or in another indoor space (where social distancing can be maintained), • When alone in a room with other members of your own household group, e.g. in the library, reading room or computer lab.

- Members of the college
 - who receive a positive (rapid) test result, or
 - who are not fully vaccinated and experience symptoms associated with Covid-19, or
 - who learn that they may have been exposed to the coronavirus

must immediately **isolate** themselves from all other college members and **notify** the college:

- Students, please email the Student Life Manager (k.pretscher@berlin.bard.edu) and your professors. You may also use the college's 24-hour emergency phone line (+49-1575 7926095).
- Faculty members, please email the Registrar and copy the Dean and Managing Director.
- Staff members, please email the Managing Director.

In addition, students who receive a positive (rapid) test result should call the Berlin government [Coronavirus Hotline](#) and follow its professional guidance on follow-up PCR testing and quarantine (+49-30-9028-2828). Student Life staff can assist with arranging care when requested.

(3) Residence Halls

- No visitors from outside Bard College Berlin are permitted anywhere inside your residence hall without written permission by Student Life staff.
- For on-campus students, the students with whom you share your apartment are considered your “household” group.
- Masks are not required within your household group.
- Visits to your apartment by up to two members from other households are permissible. During visits, masks must be worn.
- All student rooms and shared kitchen and living room areas in student apartments must be vented regularly, with all windows fully open for five to ten minutes.
- Household students are responsible for maintaining hygiene in 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 hygiene checks at any time.
- During quarantine periods, further restrictions will be put in place. These will be announced by the Student Life Office, Registrar’s Office or the Managing Director.

(4) 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.
- Attendance will be taken at the cafeteria entrance. Please use the Corona-Warn-App QR-code function to check into the building.
- Maintain a distance of 1.5 meters while in line outside. Maintain distance as possible and wear a mask while in line inside the building.
- Due to space limitations, on-campus students must not sit inside the cafeteria to eat lunch. On-campus students are required to take their lunch to their residence hall or sit outside. On-campus students are permitted to eat breakfast and dinner inside the cafeteria, provided social distancing can be maintained.
- Off-campus students may sit inside the cafeteria to eat lunch, provided social distancing can be maintained. However, they are encouraged to eat lunch outside or in other suitable campus spaces.
- Faculty and staff should eat lunch in their offices or outside, or to use kitchens, terraces or other suitable spaces in the academic or administrative buildings.
- All community members may sit and eat outside the cafeteria at any time, provided social distancing can be maintained.

- Students who are allowed to eat inside should use china plates and metal silverware. All other students must use the take-away containers provided in the cafeteria.

(5) Library

- Users should return their items in the drop-box if they are visiting the library only for this purpose. (Reserve shelf items should be returned at the front desk.)
- Attendance will be taken and attendance list will be kept by the Librarian for fourteen days. Please use the Corona-Warn App QR-code function to check into the building.
- Users must wash or disinfect their hands before browsing library items.
- Gardens should be used for studying whenever weather permits.
- Each library room may be used for studying by up to two people at a time. A third person may enter the room to browse items for no longer than ten minutes at a time.
- During longer stays, all users must open the window for at least ten minutes every hour.

(6) Teaching Formats and Attendance

- 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.
- Attendance must be taken at all seminar meetings. Attendance lists will be kept by instructors. Please use the Corona-Warn App QR-code function to check into the seminar room.
- If a student has to refrain from in-person attendance because of a possible or suspected infection (see section (1) of this document), instructors will offer alternatives to in-person attendance such as remote participation or asynchronous options.