December 7, 2021: COVID-19 update from the GHS

The University leadership continually releases new information regarding the Covid-19 measures. Activities within the framework of the GHS will be subject to a Covid certificate requirement (3G principle = convalescence, vaccinated, negative tested) as of Wednesday, September 1. The certificate requirement applies regardless of the number of participants. Random checks will be made for compliance.

Required for all physically present, a valid COVID-19 certificate
- All thesis defenses and all 1st and 2nd year examinations

Required in all indoor spaces
- Facemasks must be worn regardless of whether the event is subject to a certificate requirement or not. Speakers, people engaged in sports or cultural activities, and guests who are consuming food and beverages are exempt.

What does that mean for the GHS?
Generally, the GHS still recommends scheduling the following events online.

1. **1st and 2nd year exams:** On site is possible, **according to the institute-specific guidelines, when the people in presence have a valid certificate.** PhD students are responsible for making themselves aware of the guidelines leading up to and on the day of the evaluation. According to the guidelines, at least one examiner must be present.

2. **PhD Thesis defenses:** On site is possible, **according to the institute-specific guidelines, when the people in presence have a valid certificate.** PhD students are responsible for making themselves aware of the guidelines leading up to and on the day of the evaluation. According to the guidelines, at least one examiner must be present.

Proceedings will remain as specified in the GHS promotion regulations.

- The University offers testing opportunities for a so-called ‘UniBE-certificate’ at three locations. This certificate is valid only for the University
- If you have symptoms of influenza (fever, cough, breathing difficulties) you must stay at home. Furthermore, you must contact your doctor by telephone. Please follow the instructions of the Canton of Bern (in German) or https://www.bag.admin.ch.

Please note: The GHS team is following University of Bern’s and Canton Bern’s advice, working mostly from home office to the extent possible. We can all be reached via MS Teams (chat & video), Zoom and e-mail.

The GHS wishes everyone well and would like to express our regret that your students must work and do research under these circumstances, during these uncertain times. Thank you for your understanding and commitment.

With best regards,
The GHS Administration team