COVID-19 update September 14th, 2020

Dear PhD students,

In the wake of the current situation here is an update how we can proceed by following the governmental implications (https://www.bag.admin.ch) and the directives of the University of Bern. This decision is supported by the PhD committee (steering board GHS):

- The GHS coordinators and office team are still working partially in home office
- **Thesis Defenses and 1\textsuperscript{st}/2\textsuperscript{nd} year Examinations:**
  - Continue to send all relevant documents to the GHS electronically
  - Hold via videoconferencing, e.g., Zoom and with at least one thesis committee member (or tutor in the case of exams) in the room together with the student.
  - Verify the maximum capacity of the room you reserve – the physical presence within the room may not exceed maximum capacity and physical distancing guidelines must be adhered.
  - Apéros - or any social gathering should be held according to the Guidelines of the University of Bern and according to the Guidelines. The correct handling is your own responsibility.
  - Schedule an appointment in advance to drop off the three hard copies of your thesis defense
- **Course Certificates and other study documentation**
  - Continue to send all relevant documents to the GHS electronically
- **General communication**
  - Communicate with the GHS via email whenever possible.
  - Schedule appointments in advance should you need to discuss with the GHS by telephone

Stay healthy and still have a good summertime!

Dr. Tullia Padovani Schipper, GHS Coordinator, and the GHS Administration Team