New corona regulations from the City of Hamburg, effective 1 December 2020; Instructions No. 9 to contain COVID-19 remain in force

Dear Colleagues,

As you have no doubt learned from the media, the Hamburg Senate has issued the 23rd ordnance to amend the ordinance to contain SARS-CoV-2, thereby implementing the measures to contain the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic that were agreed upon in the conference between the German chancellor and the heads of the German states. The new regulations will remain in force from 1 December 2020 until 20 December 2020 initially.

The new ordinance does not require the University to amend Instructions No. 9. Instructions No. 9 is thus valid beyond 30 November 2020 and until further notice.

For example, in these instructions, the University has already taken into account the Senate’s tighter rules on face masks in the workplace. Furthermore, the Senate now explicitly requires that teaching at publically funded higher education institutions takes place digitally. Regulators recognize that the joint presence of students and teachers may be required, in particular for lab work, practical and artistic training, or examinations. Risk assessments are already available for these activities; otherwise, those responsible must provide these in cooperation with the Occupational Safety and Environmental Protection Unit. The instruction requiring that classes be held digitally was already issued in Instructions No. 9 and remains valid in its current form. I would also like to make clear that examinations that have not already been scheduled may still be held in person and in compliance with the current restrictions (cf. no. 1.2 of Instructions No. 9).
The measures agreed upon by the German chancellor and the heads of the German states aim to better contain infection rates. We can all do our part. It is for this reason that I wish to reiterate that staff take the fullest advantage of the possibility to work from home. To ensure you are reachable, you no longer need to be on-site if you can be reached at home. This especially applies to being reachable between the holidays.

Faithfully,

[Signature]

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Dieter Lenzen