Instructions No. 10 to contain COVID-19

Dear Colleagues,

Due to the most recent developments, I am providing you with Instructions No. 10 to contain COVID-19.

What was predictable and should have been decided politically earlier are the steps that need to be taken following yesterday’s resolution by the German chancellor and the German states’ prime ministers. The resolutions and, above all, the actual pandemic situation have prompted the Executive University Board to issue clear and necessary, if unfortunate, restrictive instructions for the period from now until 10 January 2021.

The regulations newly formulated in Instructions No. 10 largely correspond to the regulations set forth at the beginning of the pandemic in March. All University buildings will remain closed as of 16 December 2020. This does not mean that the University will discontinue operations — even though they will proceed under stringent conditions. See Instructions No. 10 for details.

Supervisors continue to make discretionary decisions in a few areas (e.g., in the University Administration with regard to on-site presence for the sake of accessing files), but I would like to point out that, generally, these regulations are the University’s contribution to containing the pandemic’s exponential development. In our conduct, we all bear responsibility for supporting the small chance of pushing back an infection rate that would be a catastrophe for our country.

I thus urgently ask all staff to do their part to minimize contact. There are only a few reasons, also with a view toward the holidays, to come to the University.

To that extent, I ask you for understanding as we continue to monitor whether or not the instructions are being complied with so that our contribution is effective.
If, as so often in the history of our University, we all pull together, we may make a decisive contribution to overcoming the crisis in our areas of responsibility.

Despite the difficult situation, I sincerely wish you all confidence, hope, strength, and resilience in the face of all possible stresses and strains for the holidays and the new year.

Sincerely,

Dieter Lenzen