Test Strategy for Students in Practical Courses

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The use of rapid tests and self-tests when the Corona traffic light for classroom teaching is set to orange

To ensure that practical courses, that cannot be substituted by online courses, can take place, rapid antigen tests or antigen self-tests for the SARS-CoV-2 are used to test the students. This is intended to increase protective measures for practical courses that are absolutely necessary for progressing in the study programme.

According to the current status, testing will take place in a corridor of the 7-day incidence of 35/100,000 to 165/100,000 inhabitants. The value of the Robert Koch Institute for the urban area of Braunschweig is decisive. If the 7-day incidence is smaller than 35/100,000 inhabitants, testing is no longer mandatory. If the 7-day incidence is greater than 165/100,000, classroom teaching is not possible according to the current legal regulations. Please inform yourself regularly about the official 7-day incidence in Braunschweig during your course. If the upper limit is exceeded, students and lecturers will be informed immediately.

The self-tests do not provide a "guarantee" for face-to-face teaching within the aforementioned corridor, as the Corona traffic light for classroom teaching also depends on the absence of infection clusters at the TU Braunschweig. However, self-tests are a prerequisite for face-to-face teaching.

Classroom exams are not covered by this regulation.

Implementation of the test

The following testing regime for students is implemented as mandatory in the practical courses (oriented to the testing strategy of the Infection Protection Act (dt.: Infektionsschutzgesetz, IfSG) for public schools). The self-tests under b) and c) are provided by the TU Braunschweig.

a) At the first appointment of a regularly scheduled practical course, proof of a negative rapid antigen test for SARS-CoV-2 in the context of "citizen testing" must be presented that is not older than 24 hours. Alternatively, a PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 not older than 24 hours can be presented.

b) For weekly recurring events (single day), a negative antigen self-test for SARS-CoV-2 taken on that day must be presented (from the 2nd appointment onwards).

c) For courses taking place five days a week, at least two negative antigen self-tests for the SARS-CoV-2 must be presented within one week (one of them can also be the test according to a)). The interval between the tests should be 48h to 72h.

d) Should TU Braunschweig be unable to provide antigen self-tests for the SARS-CoV-2 due to supply shortages, then a weekly negative antigen rapid test for the SARS-CoV-2 taken at the "citizen testing" must be presented.

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1 The term rapid test refers to citizen testing ("Bürgertestung") by healthcare professionals, whereas the term self-test describes self-administration of the test.

2 Cf. § 28b paragraph (3) Infection Protection Act (IfSG).

3 According to § 4a Coronavirus Test Regulation (dt.: Coronavirus-Testverordnung), these tests can be taken free of charge in test centres, doctors' practices, pharmacies.

4 Various test centres in Braunschweig are also open on Sundays.
On the first day of the course, students receive the tests they need for the following days/weeks. The testing regime is implemented uniformly across the university. If there are special risks, more intensive testing can be carried out.

The obligation to test does not apply to persons who present a vaccination certificate valid for themselves in accordance with § 2 No. 3 of the COVID 19 Protective Measures Exemption Regulation (dt.: COVID-19-Schutzmaßnahmen-Ausnahmenverordnung, SchAusnahmV) or a convalescence certificate valid for themselves in accordance with § 2 No. 5 of the SchAusnahmV\(^5\).

**Documentation and proof of the test result**

The test is compulsory for all students in practical courses (exemptions see above).

The test result is documented with a digital photo (e.g. by mobile phone) and must be shown on request. In addition to the photo documentation, the test must be confirmed on the self-declaration ("Declaration of absence of the suspicion of a SARS-CoV-2 infection when participating in a TU Braunschweig face-to-face event", cf. Appendix), which must be submitted at the beginning of the course.

The documentation is checked in the practical courses attended by the students (before the start of the course: submission of the self-declarations, proof of the negative test result by photo documentation on request).

**No relaxation of infection control measures!**

All known infection control measures also apply in case of negative PCR, rapid and self-test results (compulsory wearing of medical mask, social distancing rules, ventilation rules, etc.).

The buildings of the TU Braunschweig may be entered by the students for the respective practical course.

**Procedure in case of a positive test result**

In case of a positive rapid or self-test result, students must have a PCR test taken to confirm the result ("confirmatory diagnostics"\(^6\)). They should self-isolate until they receive the result. Only upon presentation of a negative PCR test result students may participate in the practical course again. Lecturers are asked to find alternatives in case students had to self-isolate due to a false positive self-test result (e.g. allocation to another cohort at a later date).

**Reporting chain for infected and possibly infected students**

Students with a positive test result (PCR test, quick test or self-test) are obliged to report immediately to Department 16 (Studium und Lehre) at the e-mail address corona_meldung@tu-braunschweig.de. The further necessary steps will be coordinated there. The report serves to protect students and teachers in the university, e.g. by retesting a cohort in which a case of infection has occurred.

Please answer the following questions when reporting:

- When and where did you probably contract the virus?
- Have you been at TU Braunschweig in the past 14 days (date and reason, e.g. participation in an face-to-face event, other appointments/visits to TU facilities)?
- Which people from TU Braunschweig did you have contact with?

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\(^5\) Cf. §3 paragraph (2) SchAusnahmV

\(^6\) According to § 4b Coronavirus Test Regulation, there is an entitlement for the confirmatory PCR test to be taken after a positive self-test.
• Have you already been in contact with health officials (dt.: Gesundheitsamt) and, if applicable, received an official order for isolation/quarantine (which time interval)?

**Distribution of the self-tests**

Students receive the self-tests from TU Braunschweig for follow-up course days on the first course day (the lecturers will inform you about the details). Since students receive the tests on the first course day, a free rapid test must be taken in the context of “citizen testing” (see above) before the first course day, the proof of which is obligatory.

The Office of Occupational Safety (dt.: Arbeitssicherheit) is in charge of distributing the self-tests to the institutes. The demand of the institutes is requested via the faculties (the process is known to the management of the faculties).

**Notes for lecturers**

Academic staff in practical courses receive two self-tests per week in accordance with the regulations for all employees of TU Braunschweig. You can find further information [here](#).

**Appendix**

• Declaration of absence of the suspicion of a SARS-CoV-2 infection when participating in a TU Braunschweig face-to-face event (so-called “self-declaration”)