

Protection concept of the University of Bern for continuing education under COVID-19 (last amended on September 27, 2021)

The protection concept for continuing education at the University of Bern is the basis for face-to-face courses in continuing education being able to take place in the facilities and on the premises of the University.

Face-to-face courses in continuing education will take place when official requirements allow and only if the measures specified in this protection concept can be complied with.

Statutory basis

- [Ordinance on Measures during the Special Situation to combat the COVID-19 Epidemic](#) of the Swiss Federal Council (818.101.26) of June 19, 2020 (as amended on September 13, 2021)

Validity and responsibility

The protection concept is valid for continuing education courses in accordance with Art. 1 Paragraphs 2 and 3 (excl. lit. c) [Regulations for continuing education](#) at the University of Bern.

Unless otherwise stated, the responsible body for the implementation of and compliance with the protection concept is the organizing body of the relevant continuing education opportunities. It is recommended that the implementation of this protection concept be documented in cooperation with the safety officer of the responsible organizing body.

The organizing body ensures that the measures of the protection concept are also adhered to if the face-to-face course is not taking place on its own premises (e.g. in seminar hotels, in companies etc.).

Protection concept

1. Duty to Inform

Participants and lecturers are to be informed about the valid protection concept for continuing education, the rules of conduct and hygiene as well as for continuing education before and during the course.

2. Certificate obligation and hygiene

a. All continuing education courses (including ones which take place externally such as graduation ceremonies, alumni events etc.) must be carried out with a certificate obligation. All persons present in the course room during lessons (participants, lecturers and employees of the program) must present a valid COVID certificate. Checking the COVID certificate is the responsibility of the program's employees and must take place outside the course room. Social distancing obligations have been suspended in classrooms, and rooms are allowed to be fully occupied.

b. In the case of further education programs in the clinical field which work in practice modules with patient contact, the clinics' COVID-19 protection measures and not the continuing education certificate obligation apply to patients and clinic employees.

c. At the University of Bern, and thus in all continuing education courses (including those held externally), wearing masks is mandatory indoors. Lecturers do not have to wear masks during their course. The obligation to wear masks during face-to-face courses taking place outdoors is suspended. The obligation to wear masks during continuing education courses can be waived if everyone present has a certificate and a distance of 1.5 meters is observed.

d. The Facility Management Office provides hand sanitizers in the entrance area of the buildings and will also provide sufficient waste bins. The Facility Management Office is responsible for the regular cleaning of surfaces, banisters, vending machines, restroom infrastructure and washbasins in the rooms and facilities of the University. The providers of the face-to-face courses are responsible for the regular cleaning and/or disinfection of other objects and equipment used by several people within the teaching setting (e.g. flipchart pens).

e. The teaching rooms must be ventilated regularly (every 30-45 minutes) and extensively.

f. For every course it is ensured that hygiene masks are available for special situations.¹

g. Catering is to be offered by official catering providers. The regulations and protection concepts of the catering providers apply. Otherwise, refreshments in the breaks (catering) are only allowed in the seminar rooms, and seating is mandatory. Joint breaks in the corridors are not allowed.

h. The [Rules on conduct and hygiene issued by the Federal Office of Public Health \(FOPH\)](#) apply for everyone taking part in face-to-face courses.

3. Measures to protect people at especially high risk and to exclude persons who are ill or who feel ill ([quarantine and isolation](#))

a. [People at especially high risk](#) must be protected in accordance with specific protective measures; if this is ensured, access to events is possible.

b. Participants and lecturers are reminded that persons who show individual COVID-19 symptoms or have been in close contact with infected persons are excluded from face-to-face courses.

4. Tracking participants

Attendance lists must be kept for all continuing education courses. These can be destroyed one month after the particular course has taken place.

¹ Hygiene masks are regarded as medical products and carry the CE mark. Type II or Type IIR masks are recommended.