

Opening concept of the HGB with testing strategies to allow for in-house teaching and artistic practice for the winter semester 2021/22

Opening strategy to allow in-house teaching & events:

By complying with current corona health protection regulations (Coronaschutzvorschriften) of the federal government and the Free State of Saxony as well as the hygiene and infection control concept of the HGB Leipzig, we aim to allow in-house teaching and artistic practice.

In-house teaching inside HGB rooms and exhibitions as part of the curriculum may be conducted with visitors if:

- current health and safety regulations, such as rules for distancing, wearing masks and hygiene, are observed.
- all participants have completed and submitted credible evidence of a same-day rapid test or self-test with a negative result.
- measures to trace contacts are followed either electronically via the corona warning app (Corona-Warn-App) or mitdenken.sachsen.de or by completing a written form before entering the building.

Using central facilities such as the library and workshops is only permitted with a same-day negative test result.

Members of staff working in the central offices, workshops and administration continue to be available by prior appointment only. You can arrange an appointment by email or telephone. Open consultation hours will not take place. All people entering the building must wear a medical face mask, FFP2 mask or an equivalent protective mask during their entire stay. Provided you can keep a distance of 1.50 m from other people, you may remove your mask once you have reached your permanent location.

Credible evidence or proof of negative test results must be presented to access control at the entrance of the main building prior to entering the institution. If access controls are waived because the number of occupied hospital beds has fallen below the critical threshold, you must present your evidence to your course leader or a member of staff at the respective central facility. The same rules apply to in-house teaching at our campus on Trufanowstraße.

Any guests and visitors attending these courses/events must also provide credible evidence of a same-day negative test result.

Individuals who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or have fully recovered are treated the same as individuals who have tested negative.

If the seven-day incidence rate for the city of Leipzig falls **below** the threshold of 35 **or below the critical threshold of occupied hospital beds**, mandatory testing and contact tracing are no longer required. There will also no longer be any entry controls. Regardless of this regulation, negative test results will still be required in order to use the workshops.

If the national rate of occupied hospital beds exceeds the critical threshold, in-house teaching can only take place in small groups appropriate to the size of the room. Only people who are fully vaccinated, recovered or can provide a negative test result (no self-tests) may enter the building. There are access controls at the entrance of the main building.

Testing strategy:

Every individual is entitled to receive testing for the direct detection of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, subject to legal requirements and testing capacities. The so-called PCR tests provide conclusive evidence of whether an infection is present and are performed by medical professionals. The academy does not organise or take responsibility for the availability of rapid antigen and PCR tests.

Please note that the availability of rapid antigen and PCR tests may change and that these changes are outside of our control.

Consequently, any restrictions limiting HGB operations may be in part a result of shortages caused by external factors.

Under the present concept, publicly available self-tests (“Laienschnelltests”) and tests from so-called test centres are both accepted. If the national rate of occupied hospital beds exceeds the critical threshold, self-tests will no longer be accepted and you must provide a negative test result from a test centre.

General conditions and objectives of the testing strategy:

- Testing with rapid antigen tests and self-tests does not replace the measures of the academy’s hygiene and infection control concept, but rather complements and supports them. Testing is a measure which relies on voluntary commitment and helps tackle the pandemic by emphasizing personal responsibility. You should avoid entering the academy if you haven’t been tested within the last calendar week.

- Given the increased number of alarming variants of the virus, which are associated with a higher risk of infection, we recommend testing as soon as you notice any symptoms. The aim is to prevent outbreaks, detect them earlier and contain them effectively. In addition, cases which have the potential to be more serious in nature should be treated early on and cases where a person has been in direct contact to someone belonging to a risk group should be identified at an early stage in order to prevent the infection of high-risk individuals.
- Self-tests can be carried out by the person themselves without any medical expertise as long as they follow the instructions strictly. Ideally, positive self-tests will allow identification of people who are already infected but who haven't yet shown any typical early symptoms. In the event of a positive test result, protective measures can be taken immediately, preventing the spread of possible infections within the institution and among colleagues, students, family and acquaintances.
- Self-testing is an occupational health and safety measure intended to help create safe working environments inside the academy buildings during times of attendance.
- **The Free State of Saxony and the HGB Leipzig currently offer free self-tests to their students and all direct employees twice a week.**
- The self-tests are not intended for the public, but strictly reserved for HGB officials and enrolled students. If, during a specific calendar week, employees exclusively work from home, are on holiday or are off work due to illness, they are not entitled to a self-test for that week and cannot claim an additional test the following week.
- The academy provides a maximum of two tests per week for students of the HGB, provided that they are attending in-house.
- Each person is responsible for collecting their test from the central post office (Zentrale) twice a week. The central office is open for collection from Monday to Friday, 8 am to 4.30 pm.
- Each person performs the self-tests themselves. The self-test instructions must be followed. It is the individual's sole responsibility to interpret the test results and fill out the attached confirmation form with the German title „Bescheinigung über das Vorliegen eines positiven oder negativen Antigen-Selbsttests zum Nachweis des SARS-CoV-2 Virus“ (confirmation of an existing, positive or negative antigen self-test for the detection of the SARS-CoV-2 Virus).

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Things to note following a positive self-test:

- You are required to immediately obtain a PCR test from a doctor or a testing centre.
- Until the results are available, you must stay at home and isolate yourself. Do not leave your apartment or house unless there is a medical or other emergency.
- Members of your household (family, shared apartment) should reduce direct contact to other people. If the PCR test results confirm an infection (i.e. are positive), the regulations concerning infected individuals apply, in particular your obligation to self-report to the public health department (Gesundheitsamt), to self-isolate for 14 days from the day of testing and to immediately isolate yourself from other members of the household.
- If the PCR results do not confirm an infection (i.e. are negative), the obligation to self-isolate is suspended with immediate effect. Please also inform the members of your household.

The concept will come into effect on 04 October 2021.

Thomas Locher
Rector

Leipzig, 13 September 2021