Precautionary measures at the University of Bremen concerning the coronavirus outbreak in the People’s Republic of China and other areas

To whom it may concern,

Even though experts assume that there is a low risk of infection and the German health system is prepared for such situations, I would like to inform you of the measures being implemented at the University of Bremen in order to lower the potential risk posed by coronavirus. These are based on the attached recommendations made by the Bremen Health Department.

Please distribute this letter within your areas of responsibility and inform students accordingly.

Business trips to the People’s Republic of China and the other risk areas will not be authorized until further notice. Please use the communication services offered by the Media Office (such as video conference systems), email, and phone services in order to reach your contacts.

I ask for your understanding that staff, students, participants of congresses and conferences etc. travelling/returning to Bremen from the People’s Republic of China and other risk areas must adhere to an isolation period and are thus not allowed to be present at the University of Bremen for 14 days after the time of departure from risk areas.

a) The salary of staff members who are unable to come to the university due to isolation measures, will, of course, remain unaffected as I assume that tasks defined contractually will still be carried out within the limits applied.

b) The period of isolation for students will be considered as sick leave. Please inform your examination office if necessary.

c) The university will endeavor to provide suitable compensation for the delayed start of guest scientists and future employees who must remain in isolation.

Should you (during the isolation period) develop symptoms (see attached correspondence from the Health Department which now also applies to the new risk areas), contact your doctor – initially only via telephone – in order to clarify the further steps. You can contact the
after-hours service of the Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians of the City of Bremen (https://www.kvhb.de/bereitschaftsdienst) outside of your doctor’s office hours.

I ask for your understanding regarding the precautionary measures. I will provide new information in due course.

I hope that these measures can be lifted as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

signed Dr. Martin Mehrtens
Bremen Health Department (Status on February 5, 2020)

Information for travelers/people returning from China, who have spent time in a risk area within the past 14 days.

If you have returned from a risk area in China, you are at an increased risk of becoming ill with the new corona virus (2019-nCoV).

In order to assess your own health and to minimize the risk of further spreading of the infection, you must take precautionary measures.

**These apply to you if you have spent time in a risk area in the past 14 days and display no symptoms.**

1. **Remain in your home for 14 days after departure from the risk area.**
2. Do not go to work/school/university etc.
3. Do not leave your home – do not go grocery shopping. Arrange for food to be delivered to you.
4. Avoid direct contact with people who provide you with food (for example, arrange for groceries to be left in front of your door).
5. Do not socialize.
   - If contact with third parties within your home environment (living groups with shared use of bathrooms/kitchens etc.) cannot be avoided, wear multilayer mouth-nose protection. Adhere to strict hand hygiene rules (thorough handwashing with soap: use disinfectant if available).
6. Try to avoid intensive body contact. Keep a minimum distance of 1–3 meters.
7. Measure your body temperature twice per day and record your temperature and possible symptoms in a diary.
   - Possible symptoms: fever, a cold, coughing, difficulty breathing, general signs of illness, vomiting.
8. **Call your doctor if you display symptoms.**

Chinese citizens can contact the Chinese Embassy in Hamburg if they require help in connection to the current situation surrounding corona virus.

Contact number for Chinese citizens / students:
0049-40 81976030 (24 hours).