

CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION: RAPID ANTIGEN SELF-TESTS FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GÖTTINGEN

Dear Colleagues,

Since November 2020, the University has been offering its staff and students the opportunity to be tested for infection with SARS-CoV-2 on a voluntary basis (Campus Covid Screen) as part of the University's testing strategy.

In addition, as part of the testing strategy of the German and state governments, Lower Saxony is now providing the University with coronavirus rapid antigen self-tests for its employees to use themselves as an extra measure to increase safety at the workplace.

Rapid antigen self-tests can be carried out by the person being tested on their own and without medical expertise. The benefit is that a symptomless coronavirus infection can be detected at an early stage. If the test result is positive, protective measures can be taken immediately and the possible spread of infection in the institution and among colleagues, family and other contacts can be prevented.

The state provides the University with two rapid self-tests per week for each employee present. The self-tests are for University employees only, not for students or visitors.

You will receive your test at your institution. You will receive the relevant information from your supervisors.

The self-test should be carried out at home if possible. Further instructions on how to do the test can be found in a separate document or in the instructions for using the test.

Any staff member under the age of 18 will need written consent from their parents to use a coronavirus rapid self-test. If you are under 18, please contact the Safety/Environmental Section by email: laienschnelltest@uni-goettingen.de.

What if you have a positive SARS-CoV-2 antigen self-test?

If your self-test shows a positive result, you must inform your supervisor and immediately seek medical attention or go to a rapid test centre for a PCR test and self-isolate awaiting confirmation, or otherwise, of the result. Self-isolation may be interrupted to carry out the PCR test. However, you must ensure that you wear the appropriate face mask and travel via a direct route to get to the centre and back.

According to the legal regulations, you are neither unfit for work nor quarantined in the sense of the Infektionsschutzgesetz (infection protection act) during this time. However, for the protection of colleagues, the Presidential Board has decided on a ban on entering the workplace, and the following regulations:

- Inform your supervisor immediately
- If you are able to work from home, you should do this until a negative PCR result has been obtained



- If your home environment is not suitable for your work, you will be released with pay for this period. In these circumstances, please send the form Corona – Abwesenheit und Freistellung ("Corona - Absence and leave of absence") to the HR Department.
- Once you have obtained a negative PCR test result, you can resume or continue your work as usual.
- In the case of a positive PCR test result, the appropriate University regulations apply, which you can find under the keyword "Infection" on the Corona homepage of the University.

By participating in self-testing, you will be making a significant contribution to improving the chances of protecting not just yourself, but also your family, your friends, and your colleagues against infection. In addition, you will be strengthening the University community and reducing the spread of the coronavirus more widely.

The state's rapid antigen self-tests offer the University and its employees the opportunity to combine the advantages of both Lower Saxony's and the University's testing strategies in a meaningful and optimal way. This means that, in addition to the recommended weekly Campus Covid Screen testing, you can now also take advantage of weekly rapid self-tests.

Thank you in advance!