

AAU COVID-19 PLAN 2021/2022

This plan has been approved by the President's Collegium in the Executive format, and takes into consideration regulations and measures from the Czech Government as of August 20, 2021. The plan is subject to change as official regulations and measures are adjusted.

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I. General COVID-19 related information

- In the setting of educational institutions with face-to-face instruction, the risk of COVID-19 is lower in small classes, activities and events, where individuals remain spaced at least 1.5 - 2 m apart and do not share objects.
- COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. Therefore, personal prevention practices (such as [handwashing](#), [staying home when sick](#)) and environmental prevention practices (such as [cleaning and disinfection](#)) are important principles for everyone to follow.

Students, faculty and staff should apply these prevention practices.

COVID-19 symptoms:

- Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms.
- People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:
 - Fever of 37.8 degrees Celsius and higher or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea, abdominal pain or loss of appetite

Students, faculty and staff should self-monitor for these symptoms daily and if they think they are ill, stay home until they can consult with a medical professional or be tested. See below for detailed reporting duties and procedures.

II. On-site, virtual and hybrid classes at AAU

- AAU's default format of instruction is on-site learning.
- Reflecting the current COVID-19 situation in the Czech Republic and related governmental and legal requirements, AAU will return to in-person classes for the Fall 2021 Semester.

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- Remote instruction will be available during the Fall 2021 semester only for those students who are unable to come to Prague for visa denials or reasons related to COVID-19.
- All courses with at least one remote student will deliver face-to-face (synchronous) instruction to both on-site and remote students; the classes will be recorded and recordings made available to remote students.
- Details about how instruction is modified in the fall term can be found in the [Academic Guidelines for the Fall Term 2021](#).
- All students have received login credentials and other information from the AAU IT department in order to access the **NEO e-learning portal** and the **MS Teams** communication platform, relevant for onsite as well as remote learning.

III. Hygienic measures on the AAU Campus

The health and safety of our students, faculty and staff is the primary concern of AAU. Given the contagiousness of the Delta variant of COVID AAU has put measures in place that will help us keep our students, faculty and staff safe this fall. They include the following:

- AAU requires proof of vaccination, a negative test result or a proof of recovery of COVID -19 for its staff and faculty.
- Fully vaccinated faculty and staff and those who have recovered from COVID in the past 180 days, must send their vaccine certificate OR proof of recovery of COVID either to **Lucie Kacovská** at lucie.kacovska@aauni.edu or **Kateřina Fojtů** at katerina.fojtu@aauni.edu by **August 30, 2021**. If you have already submitted your vaccination certificate, please disregard this request.
- Unvaccinated faculty and staff must send an antigen or PCR test every 7 days either to **Lucie Kacovská** at lucie.kacovska@aauni.edu or **Kateřina Fojtů** at

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katerina.fojtu@aauni.edu. They must have a valid negative test on record at AAU at all times before entering campus. The validity is seven days from the date of the test itself. Acceptable tests are those from on-site testing centers or official online testing sites; for more information please see

<https://covid.gov.cz/en/situations/infection-and-general-measures/how-get-tested>

- For unvaccinated faculty and staff, AAU will provide a free testing opportunity every Monday from 7:30am to 10:30am at the AAU courtyard (starting August 30, 2021). If you do not attend this testing session on Monday morning, you must obtain a test on your own and send the result to the emails listed above. Please note that the Czech government has announced that for the time being COVID testing will be free beginning [September 1](#).
- AAU accepts vaccination certificates confirming the administration of the following vaccines: BioNTech and Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Janssen Pharmaceutica NV/Johnson & Johnson. Additionally, AAU will recognize the Sputnik and Sinovac vaccines for the purposes of students attending in-person classes.
- Vaccinated students and those who have recovered from COVID in the past 180 days are encouraged to upload their vaccine certificate OR proof of recovery of COVID to NEO in the corresponding assignment in the course "[Vaccination certificate / Proof of recovery / Test result](#)" (The link may not work yet for those who have not registered and paid for their fall classes.) This should be done prior to attending on-campus orientation or your first fall semester class.
- Unvaccinated students should upload an antigen or PCR test result to NEO in the corresponding assignment in the course "[Vaccination certificate / Proof of recovery / Test result](#)". The validity of both test types is seven days from the date of the test itself. Acceptable tests are those from on-site testing centers or official online testing sites; for more information please see <https://covid.gov.cz/en/situations/infection-and-general-measures/how-get-tested>.

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- Students should have their proof of vaccination or test result at hand also in classrooms, as teachers are authorized to check them and will ask students to leave the class if evidence of a vaccination or test certificate can not be provided by the student who is not wearing a face mask.
- Students, who do not provide a vaccination certificate or a negative test result can enter the AAU campus and attend classes, however, are required to wear masks everywhere in the AAU building, including classrooms and the library. AAU strongly recommends that everyone wears a N95 type mask in common spaces.
- Students, faculty and staff members who do not comply with these guidelines may face disciplinary measures.
- Visitors must wear N95 type face masks everywhere at AAU campus unless they provide proof of their infection-free status to the receptionist before entering campus. In addition, general governmental COVID-19 regulations apply.
- Every person entering the AAU campus is expected to use hand sanitizer from one of the hand sanitizer stations placed on campus.
- Everyday disinfection of door handles, water dispensers, keyboards, tables, classroom chairs, and other high-touch surfaces is done by AAU as well as additional deep cleaning throughout the semester.

IV. Classroom setting, Home Office and Events at AAU

- Because of AAU's small classrooms, full social distancing may not be possible so students and faculty are encouraged to wear an N95 type mask, use hand sanitizer and keep windows open as much as possible.
- Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to keep their personal items (e.g., cell phones, other electronics) and personal work spaces clean and to use disinfectant wipes or cleaning

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solution to wipe down shared desks, equipment, and other shared objects and surfaces before use.

- Distance between desks may be adjusted if necessary. *If assistance is needed to relocate furniture please contact mar.tykhonovych@aauni.edu*
- Home Office (work from home) regulations for AAU staff are subject to the decision of the AAU President during the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic, taking into consideration the instructions or regulations of the Czech Government and AAU's accreditation agencies. Employees should speak with their supervisor to request home office approval.

Opening hours/shifts of AAU offices are the responsibility of each department or office. Each supervisor decides on shifts for the department and is responsible for the regular function of the department or

Events on AAU Campus will be organized by the AAU Events Manager in accordance with Czech Government regulations. All members of the AAU community are asked to follow instructions and cooperate with the AAU Events Manager, Operations staff and AAU management in this regard.

V. Reporting Duties and Procedures

- AAU requires students, faculty and staff to report to AAU:
 - If they have arrived in the Czech Republic from abroad, they are required to undergo a COVID-19 test according to Czech Government regulations and have tested positive.
 - If they have been in contact with persons who have tested COVID-positive, who show COVID-19 symptoms or have arrived from “red zone countries”
 - If they have COVID-19 symptoms and therefore are in self-quarantine and/or in contact with a medical doctor and/or the respective hygienic station

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- AAU recommends that its permanent faculty and staff undergo a standard COVID-19 test if they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19. If a student, faculty or staff member has reported that he/she has tested positive for COVID-19, AAU will undertake respective measures concerning other AAU community members, following the instructions of the respective hygienic station, which might include quarantine or a COVID-19 test from classroom peers, involved faculty and staff of the student, faculty or staff member, who has tested positive for COVID-19. Unless the hygienic stations recommends a different procedure, the following applies:
 - Students or faculty in an on-campus class testing positive: every student in each of the students' classes, along with every faculty member, will be notified of the positive test. Each class will switch to virtual learning for a minimum of 10 days. Everyone in the class should self-isolate for 10 days and get a COVID-19 test if they begin to exhibit symptoms.
 - Staff member testing positive: every member of that person's immediate department will be notified of the positive test. The staff member must stay off campus for a minimum of 10 days before returning to work. The staff members' colleagues should self-isolate for 10 days and get a COVID-19 test if they begin to exhibit symptoms.
 - Anyone testing negative for COVID-19 does not need to be quarantined, but should continue to wear a mask, wash hands frequently, and stay at least 1.5 meters away from others.
 - Anyone who has had prolonged, direct contact with a person who is COVID-positive or exhibiting serious symptoms (standing closer than 2 meters without masks, or touching the person and then touching your own eyes, mouth or nose) should stay home to see if you develop symptoms, then consult a doctor before going for testing.

VI. Important Contacts and Resources

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- All **students** who have questions about AAU's COVID-19 requirements and measures should email ana.blackstad@aauni.edu.
- All **faculty and staff** who test positive or have questions about AAU's COVID-19 requirements and measures should email lucie.kacovska@aauni.edu.

SUMMARIES ABOUT CURRENT COVID-RELATED MEASURES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC ARE UPDATED ON AAU'S WEBSITE:

<https://www.aauni.edu/covid-19-information-and-resources/>

IMPORTANT RESOURCES ABOUT CZECH GOVERNMENT COVID-19 RELATED MEASURES:

<https://www.mvcr.cz/mvcren/article/coronavirus-information-of-moi.aspx>

<https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/en/>

<https://www.prg.aero/en/testing-covid-19>

TESTING LOCATIONS:

<https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/seznam-odberovych-center/>

TRAVEL:

Travelers entering the Czech Republic should regularly check the [Czech Ministry of Interior website for the latest information regarding COVID-related travel](#).