

#return_nr.6



Dear students, dear faculty members, dear staff members,

The concerts, the Mendelssohn Summer School, the pop course, rehearsals, and teaching during the summer months almost made us forget the difficulties of the last semester. The halls of the university were filled with music, theatre was performed, and we were even able to enjoy performances with an actual audience. This was made possible due to intensive consultations on the topics of distance and hygiene rules. Organizational and technical conditions were created so that teaching could be carried out as optimally as possible under the conditions of a pandemic. Plexiglas walls were installed for vocal artists and wind instruments, and air filters were installed in selected rooms. The offices with public access and the library were protected by plexiglass walls. Distance markers were installed in the Foyer and classrooms. Places that should not be used were marked and extensive planning for teaching in the Campus CityNord or at the KMM in Altona was discussed and implemented. All of this enabled us to work together and to conduct face-to-face classes in many subjects; an achievement that we should not carelessly gamble with.

At the beginning of October, the drastically rising infection rates indicated that the situation would worsen again. Last week, the Federal Government and the Hamburg Senate reacted to this development: for four weeks the whole country will be put into a „**lockdown light**“. The second wave of the pandemic has hit us all. Fortunately, despite the stricter measures, we can continue our teaching activities in compliance with hygiene and distance rules without major restrictions. Unfortunately, we must cancel all very carefully prepared public events in November. However, we are making every effort to hold as many of these events as possible as internal teaching events without an audience and to broadcast them online.

Unlike in spring, we are prepared for this situation because we have all learned a lot in the last few months. We have learned how to deal with the hygiene regulations and the AHA-L rules (maintain distance, obey hygiene rules, wears masks and ventilate rooms regularly), which all activities at the university are based on.

The **6th edition of the Return-Newsletter focuses on these regulations**, which are binding with the start of the lecture period on November 2nd. At the end of the newsletter you will find overviews of what you must do in case of a positive corona test and what the different contact categories mean. In this context, it is very important for us to inform you transparently about what information must be forwarded to the university administration at what time. We have set up an e-mail address for this purpose: corona@hfmt-hamburg.de. The university management and the Corona Task Force will be informed via this mail address. The latter consists of Maria Pallasch, Jan Philipp Sprick and Frank Boehme. They coordinate the information and the procedure in case of a positive test result and are available for further questions.

An important question for the students is what happens if they cannot take part in a test or exam due to quarantine regulations. In this case students can withdraw from the exam. If courses are missed due to home quarantine, the grading of students will not be influenced. Furthermore, examinations missed due to quarantine regulations will not be counted as a failed attempt.



Foto: Maria Pallesech

Now to the things that will change compared to the situation in October: The „Belcanto“ will **remain open** for the next few weeks, but it is no longer allowed to stay in the Foyer. However, drinks and snacks may be taken into the classrooms and rehearsal rooms. Please dispose the garbage in the waste bins. **Artistic individual and group seminars** can continue to be held in **classroom format**. If not already planned, such as it is in the case of the KMM, I would ask the teaching staff to examine to what extent theory **seminars and lectures** can be **transferred to digital teaching formats**. To increase your own safety and the safety of others, I recommend that even during seminars, everyone wears a mask. For the time being, until the end of the year, all meetings and sessions will be held as video conferences. Since it is more difficult to trace chains of infection outside the booked rooms, I would ask you not to spend any time in the corridors and staircases. Please leave the university immediately after teaching, rehearsing, or practicing.

Furthermore, the university is now **legally obliged to collect information for contact tracing**. We have already assigned this task to the lecturers in the beginning of September. They must collect the contact data of all participants in all classes. This includes the name, residential address, and a telephone number. Also, the date and time of the course must be written down. Teachers must keep the contact details for four weeks. It must be ensured that unauthorized third parties cannot gain access to the data. Against the background of the now existing legal obligation, the university management has created templates for this purpose, which you can either download here or obtain at the gate: [List for contact data collection](#), attendance [list for individual lessons](#), attendance [list for group lessons](#). Two lists are mandatory for contact tracking: The contact list with the personal data and the attendance list for the individual courses.

Contact tracing is the core concept for controlling outbreaks. Please support each other in this task. Teachers must ensure that the contact details can be made available to the university management quickly. In addition, regardless of the courses, you should write down exactly where you were at the university and with whom you had contact. When data is passed on for contact tracing, your data will be anonymized.

Please watch out for symptoms of illness for yourself and others and act with a high degree of prudence and personal responsibility. Your own health, the health of your parents, your friends and your environment are at stake. Keeping the university open in view of the current situation is based on trust in the common sense of all members of our university. Let us prove together that this trust is justified. Only this trust enables us, as a university, to practice our art, our sciences, our pedagogical processes, all of which depend on physical presence to some extent.

In this spirit, I wish you a **successful semester**.

Yours


Elmar Lampson

