COVID-19 update from the GCB

The University leadership released an **update on November 29, 2021** to the Covid-19 measures that began September 1, 2020. All regulations put into effect on September 1, 2021 remain in effect. Beginning on November 29, 2021, additionally, facemasks must be worn properly at all times when inside any University of Bern facilities.

Activities within the framework of the GCB, will be subject to a Covid certificate requirement (3G principle = convalescence, vaccinated, negative tested) as of Wednesday, September 1. The certificate requirement applies regardless of the number of participants. Random checks will be made for compliance.

Required for all physically present, a valid COVID-19 certificate and a properly worn facemask.

- All thesis defenses and all mid-term examinations
- Facemasks must be properly worn

Generally, the GCB recommends scheduling the following events online.

1. **Mid-term evaluations**: On site is possible according to the institute-specific guidelines, when the people in presence have a valid certificate. PhD students are responsible for making themselves aware of the guidelines leading up to and on the day of the evaluation. According to the guidelines, at least one examiner must be present.

2. **PhD Thesis defenses**: On site is possible according to the institute-specific guidelines, when the people in presence have a valid certificate and are wearing facemasks properly. While presenting, the presenter is excused from wearing a facemask and are wearing facemasks properly. PhD students are responsible for making themselves aware of and complying with the guidelines leading up to and on the day of the evaluation. According to the guidelines, at least one examiner must be present.

Proceedings will remain as specified in the GCB promotion regulations.

- Apéros are **NOT** allowed.
- If you have symptoms of influenza (fever, cough, breathing difficulties) you must stay at home. Furthermore, you must contact your doctor by telephone. Please follow the instructions of the Canton of Bern (in German) or [https://www.bag.admin.ch](https://www.bag.admin.ch).

The GCB wishes you all good health and would like to express our disappointment that its soon-to-be graduates must graduate under these circumstances, during uncertain times. Thank you for understanding.

Please note: The GCB team is following University of Bern’s and Canton Bern’s advice, working from home office to the extent possible. We can all be reached via MS Teams (chat & video), Zoom and email.

With best regards,

The GCB Administration team