

New coronavirus master plan and COVID requirement for teaching events

ETH Executive Board townhall meeting
22.09.2021



Agenda

1. Main changes in the new ETH Zurich master plan
2. How compulsory certificates apply to teaching
3. Covid testing possibilities at ETH Zurich
4. Q&A session (written questions submitted via Zoom's Q&A function)

Participants:

- Ulrich Weidmann, VPIN and Head of the Coronavirus Task Force
- Sarah M. Springman, Rector
- Q&A session:
Hermann Lehner, Head of Academic Services; Reto Suter, Deputy Head of SSHE; Dr Leonhard Sigel, Occupational Med. SSHE; Marcel Zurbuchen, ETH Catering Manager

Main changes in the new master plan 5.3.2

General rules 1/3

Buildings and campus

- COVID certificates are not required for general access to the campus or to individual buildings. No certificate is required for accessing student workplaces (except for those in the Library building).
- General safety measures must be respected: face masks must be worn indoors and valid rules on physical distancing and hygiene followed.
- No certificate is required to use the ETH Link (as with all public transport).

Travel

- The latest government rules apply.

Main changes in the master plan 5.3.2

General rules 2/3

Events (reminder – from master plan 3.5.1)

- COVID certificates are compulsory for all indoor events held on ETH premises. Event organisers are responsible for checking certificates.
- Even at events where certificates are mandatory, all those attending must wear face masks in ETH buildings (exception: children under 12)
- No safety protocol needs to be submitted in future for simple events.

Gastronomy

- Certificates are required in ETH catering facilities *open to the public*.
- No certificate is needed in the large catering facilities on Hönggerberg campus (food market, FUSION coffee, FUSION meal) and on Zentrum campus (Polymensa), where only ETH members are admitted (with a valid ETH card).
- Face masks must be worn when moving around catering facilities. Masks should only be removed when seated. All food and drink must be consumed while seated.
- Face masks must also be worn when queuing outdoors.

Main changes in the master plan 5.3.2

General rules 3/3

Libraries / collections / exhibitions

- COVID certificates are compulsory for anyone visiting any library spaces, as well as for any separate rooms adjoining the library that house ETH Zurich collections and exhibitions. Certificates are required for guided tours (age 16+), as tours are by prior enrolment.
- No certificates are required for exhibits or displays in areas open to the public, but all other safety measures (face masks, physical distancing) must be followed.

How compulsory certificates apply to teaching events – 1/3

Basic principles

- The rules apply to all teaching events in the ETH Course Catalogue.
- In-person teaching events will also be available online wherever possible.
- Certificates are not needed for doctoral examinations, examination inspections, individual meetings between students and their advisors, mentoring of student work, counter services or collecting chemicals.

Certificate requirement

- ETH Zurich is making COVID certificates compulsory for all teaching events. This will allow lecture halls to operate at full capacity and ensure that students have full access to classroom tuition.
- Even with certificates, face masks must still be worn in face-to-face teaching events as an additional safety precaution. Physical distancing must also be respected wherever possible.
- Certificates are not compulsory in buildings or indoor spaces open to the public, but face masks must be worn (even at student workplaces).
- Everyone participating in a face-to-face teaching event – students, lecturers, assistants and scientific/administrative staff – must have a COVID certificate or proof of an internal ETH test.

How compulsory certificates apply to teaching events – 2/3

Validity of certificates

- All certificates (Swiss and international) are recognised that confirm full vaccination with one of the vaccines included on the WHO/FOPH list. This includes AstraZeneca, Sinopharm and Sinovac.
- The Swiss COVID certificate is compatible with the EU Digital COVID Certificate, in other words both certificates are accepted in Switzerland and in the EU/EFTA.
- Official proof of vaccination carrying the date and name of a person who has been fully vaccinated outside Switzerland or the EU/EFTA with a vaccine not admitted for use in Switzerland may still be accepted as long as:
 - proof of vaccination is provided in one of Switzerland's official languages or English, and
 - the vaccine is included in the WHO list published on the FOPH website.

How compulsory certificates apply to teaching events – 3/3

Testing possibilities and coverage of costs

- Up to the end of September 2021, all tests needed to obtain a COVID certificate will be free of charge throughout Switzerland. Political discussions about government coverage of these costs in October are currently ongoing.
- Since 20 September ETH Zurich has been offering members free tests on the Zentrum and Hönggerberg campuses from Monday to Fridays. A certificate is issued immediately after this rapid antigen test which is valid for 48 hours (for restaurants, bars, etc.).
- Tests carried out under the internal ETH test programme (CovMass) are another form of proof on campuses. This is a PCR saliva test whose results are valid for 72 hours from taking the test and is valid solely for ETH events and restaurants.

Certificate checks

- Staff and students without a COVID certificate or proof or vaccination or internal ETH test will not be admitted to any in-person teaching event.
- Centrally coordinated external stewards will monitor compliance regularly through random checks on certificates combined with a valid personal ID or ETH card.
- If necessary, the Rector has the authority to impose sanctions.

Questions and answers

