

## **Subject: Update on education in the new academic year**

Dear student,

The new academic year is about to start. We hope you had a nice summer break and are enjoying the last weeks of it. In this email we would like to inform you about how education will take place starting August 30.

In the press-conference of our Prime Minister last Friday August 13, adjustments of the corona measures were announced for higher education. We're very happy that starting from period 1 higher education can be organized without the need to keep a distance of 1.5m to other persons. We're making a big step forward. A number of limitations remain and we look forward to those being lifted as well. To get there, we need your cooperation.

Also, not everything is completely clear at this moment, so expect an update soon.

### **More education on campus**

At the start of the new Academic Year (2021/2022), we will welcome all our students back to campus and we will use our campus optimally with an emphasis on small scale and interactive education. With the social-distance requirement lifted in the classroom, the capacity of the campus is to a large extent restored to the pre-corona situation. A limit to group size in a classroom remains, this is set at 75 students. So large lectures will often be offered in a hybrid or online mode.

The schedules for period 1 are published and they are in line with the current possibilities and limitations. You can find the schedules of your courses on [TimeEdit](#)

We trust you're looking forward to live, in-classroom interactions with your lecturers and your fellow students.

### **Face masks, Hand Hygiene, Ventilation and One-way traffic**

Due to the lifting of the 1.5 meter distance rule, it is now mandatory to wear face masks if moving through the education buildings (Forum, Orion, Aurora, Atlas, and Leeuwenborch). You have to wear them from entering the building up to the moment you sit down on your seat. The lecturer

might request you to wear your face mask during practicals too. We kindly ask you to comply with such a request.

Keep on washing your hands frequently. At the entrance of all our buildings, hand disinfectant is available. Please make use of this.

We're very glad that at Wageningen University, we have new education buildings that all fully comply with the current ventilation requirements. Therefore, all rooms are available for teaching.

In our education buildings Forum, Orion and Aurora, one-way traffic applies in some corridors and on all stairways, as many of you are already used to. Please follow this one-way traffic. And note that using the elevators is limited to persons with reduced mobility and staff. Elevators are not sufficiently ventilated to allow the 'old normal' amount of students.

### **Covid-19 self-tests**

We urge you to test yourself twice a week, at this moment also when fully vaccinated (i.e. 2 weeks after your last vaccination). We have a limited number of self-tests available at the university building entrances, but we request you to order them online from [www.zelftestonderwijs.nl/zelftest](http://www.zelftestonderwijs.nl/zelftest).

### **A positive corona (self)test result**

When you have Covid-19 related symptoms and/or a positive test result from a self-test, even when fully vaccinated, it is very important to start your quarantine immediately and make an appointment through [www.coronatest.nl](http://www.coronatest.nl) to confirm the test result. Together with the GGD (Municipal Health Service) we're working on a more permanent PCR-test-facility in Wageningen.

When you test positive within 3 days after visiting a campus activity please inform your course coordinator(s). The GGD does report anonymous data to our university, this does not include names and other details, so your own reporting to your course coordinator is essential. Proper reporting assists us in controlling the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

## **Can I come to campus if...**

This new situation brings along new questions. Such as: what to do if you're fully vaccinated (>2 weeks after last vaccination) and a house-mate tests positive in a PCR test?

In that case you don't have to go into isolation but should avoid groups and keep your distance to others. In practice this will mean you should not come to campus.

We're updating the '*Can I come to Campus?*' flowchart and will inform you next week on these details.

### In case you cannot come to campus:

You might still need to quarantine yourself or are not allowed to come to campus due to Covid-19. If such a situation leads to significant study-delay, for example because you missed essential parts of a course, please contact the student-deans (studentdean@wur.nl).

Lecturers might, but are not required to, provide an online alternative to on campus teaching. Check the course description for online possibilities.

All exams (except in the distance learning programmes) are scheduled on campus. Specifics on what to do when you have an exam while you can't come to campus due to Covid-19 will follow soon.

### In case you do not want to come to campus:

There might be personal situations in which you do not want to come to campus. Even when coming to campus is essential to attend your course. In such a situation, contact a student dean (studentdean@wur.nl) to discuss your personal situation.

## **Vaccination**

Vaccination is the best tool available to control the Covid-19 virus and we urge you to get vaccinated when you're not vaccinated yet. It is now possible to get your first vaccination without making an appointment. The closest location for this is close to the Ede-Wageningen train station at the Bennekomseweg 24, Ede. See [Prikken zonder afspraak](#) for more details.

## **Canteens, Library, Labs of chairgroups, etc.**

We're still working on detailed instructions for canteens, library and labs

of chairgroups and we have to wait on detailed guidelines from our government which are expected later this week.

There are study-places available in the library and you can continue making reservations for them through [te.wur.nl](https://te.wur.nl).

All other details will be communicated next week.

### **Excursions and international internships**

For excursions, all course coordinators have been informed on how they can organize the (national or international, one-day or multiple-day) excursions within their course. They will inform you about that.

International travel is still limited at this moment, though there are many more options compared with last year. The generic guidelines apply which means that theses and internships are allowed in green, yellow, and (in certain cases) orange areas. International students are allowed to travel to an orange area if it is their home country and the security risks are entirely Corona-related. Exchange is allowed in green and yellow areas. International travel should always be organised in accordance with the [WUR travel policy](#) and you can find more information about preparing for your travel abroad [here](#).

### **In conclusion**

We have been looking forward to this moment! At the same time, the lifting of the 1.5 meter for education comes with great responsibilities for everyone coming to the campus. Do take the above guidelines into account and please keep social distancing when you are not on campus. After all: Only together we can control Corona.

Kind regards,

Arthur Mol, Rector Magnificus

Arnold Bregt, Dean of Education

*If you have any questions regarding any of the topics discussed in this letter, please check the [FAQ](#) on the website or reach out to [ssc@wur.nl](mailto:ssc@wur.nl)*