


NTNU	Guideline for conducting laboratory courses during the Corona pandemic	Faculty of Natural Sciences		
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HMS		Date	16.12.2021	ePhorte 2020/16067
		Replaces	15.01.2021	Approved by Dean

Target group for the guideline

- Employees and assistants with tasks related to planning and conducting laboratory courses.
- Students attending laboratory courses.

For laboratory courses and skills training taking place at NTNU area at St. Olav's hospital Campus Øya, the MH faculty's guidelines apply. For blood sample testing at the hospital in Ålesund, follow the guidelines of HF Midt-Norge.

Background and purpose

In accordance with national guidelines, a general [requirement to keep a minimum distance of 1 meter to others now apply at NTNU](#). In many of its courses, NV Faculty has mandatory laboratory courses that support theory and provide necessary skill training. In some cases, it is difficult to comply with the 1-meter rule. The purpose of this guideline is to provide instructions for how infection control can be safeguarded when the infection situation has resulted in requirements for distance.


Definition of cohorts

In this context, we use the following definition:

Cohort: Students from one study program (as far as possible) and employees who conduct a laboratory activity in a teaching laboratory at the same time.

Planning and carrying out laboratory activity

- Activity should be scheduled with a group size adapted to the 1-meter rule.
- In lab courses where it is not possible to comply with the 1-meter rule, face masks should be worn.
- The cohort should (as far as possible) be constant in the course throughout the semester.
- Special measures must be taken to ensure that students maintain the 1-meter rule at the start and end of the activities. In other situations that may result in a queue, such as collecting chemicals or weighing, measures must be taken to maintain the 1-meter rule.
- **In all situations where it is not possible to keep minimum 1-meter distance, a face mask must be used.**
- Students missing out lab exercises can be solved in two ways:
 - 1) The course manager changes the requirement for carrying out mandatory activity. For example, this may involve that the requirement changes from 8 out of 8 to 6 out of 8 exercises or that report is written with delivered results. This solution is recommended where it is professionally acceptable because the repetition of laboratory exercises will be demanding.
 - 2) Repetition of exercises: Only applicable if the completion of a lab exercise is essential for the learning outcome. If the repetition of tasks is required, it may be pertinent to arrange exercises with students from different groups/cohorts. This must be considered specifically in relation to infection control.
- Employees (permanent, duty, hired and laboratory assistants) can teach multiple cohorts on the condition that infection control measures that minimize the risk of an employee transmitting infection between cohorts are in place.

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Risk groups

Students who apply for exemption with the reason that they belong to a [risk group regarding Covid-19](#), may be asked to provide a medical certificate. Alternative learning methods should be considered for such students. [Sigurd Madsen](#) in the faculty administration can be contacted for facilitation.

Infection control measures

- For all activity in laboratories, the [NTNU Corona guidelines](#) apply.
- All students must use **personal** laboratory coats, **personal** laboratory shoes and **personal** safety glasses if this protective equipment is required. Between activities in the laboratory, these must be stored in a closed bag. If storage lockers are shared with other students, this sharing must take place within the cohort.
- **Routines must be developed for each laboratory/course for cleaning of workplaces and shared equipment.**
- In case of newly emerged respiratory symptoms: Stay home, or leave Campus. Test yourself. See [information from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health](#).