

# Reopening plan for NTNU as of 15 August 2021

From the Central Emergency Response Management

# The Government's reopening plan for Norway

## **Step 1 from 16 April:** Easing the restrictions that were introduced before Easter

Change back to 1 metre social distancing, limited serving of alcohol permitted, more people attending events in person, etc.

## **Step 2 from 27 May:** Further relaxation of restrictions

More in-person teaching, even more guests allowed in private homes and at events, longer hours for serving of alcohol, more scope for recreational sports, etc.

## **Stage 3 from 20 June:** Opening in more areas

Frequent use of rapid tests and Covid-19 certificates, competitions in recreational sports, more travel abroad, more scope for cross-border workers, etc.

## **Step 4 – when all adults are protected:** Almost back to normal

Continued measures to prevent infection, entry restrictions from some countries, etc.

Data and not dates control the time between each step. The conditions for moving from one step to the next are that there is no negative trend in infection rates, that the public health service has good capacity and that the vaccination plan is followed.

## NTNU's reopening plan - **Step 1** (from 19 April)

- About 50% in-person teaching
- Maximum 200 at lectures and 50 in group teaching
- Continued working from home for those who can
- Cautious reopening of social activities on campus
- Focus on psychosocial initiatives for students

## Step 2 at NTNU (from 27 May)

- Increased in-person teaching.
- Increased use of regular testing and mass testing.
- Online exams take place (11 May - 11 June)
- Continued working from home for everyone who has the opportunity and/or flexible working hours.
- More people present at social events for students and staff (indoors maximum 10 without fixed seating, 100 with fixed seating).
- Separate rules for outdoor activities.
- Mandatory face masks in many places in Trondheim municipality from 20 May.
- Travel within Norway is possible. Travel abroad is still not advised.
- Strict restrictions on entry still apply to foreigners who are not resident in Norway.

## Step 3 at NTNU (from 22 June)

- Increased in-person teaching where applicable (up to about 80% of normal capacity).
- Physical distance requirements for teaching lifted from August 13. In other settings, both students and staff is still advised to keep their distance.
- All staff members can have their main workplace on campus if they want this after the summer break. Still possible to work from home when this is suitable based on the nature of the work; and by agreement with the line manager.
- General measures to prevent infection and use of Check-in.
- Holding events outdoors rather than indoors is still recommended.
  - Indoors: Up to 400 people at events without fixed places, 1000 with fixed places. If pre-event testing and Covid-19 certificates are used, the number can be increased by 50 per cent.
  - Risk assessments must be done for events on campus.
- International students can come to Norway from 1 August. PhD students can enter from August 15.
- Travel restrictions still in place for particularly hard-hit countries.

## Step 4 at NTNU (at the earliest from mid-August)

- In-person teaching up to about 80% of normal capacity. Online teaching methods used where they are best suited.
- General measures to prevent infection and use of Check-in continue until October.
- All staff members can have their main workplace on campus if they want this. Still possible to work from home when this is suitable based on the nature of the work; and by agreement with the line manager.
- Events outdoors rather than indoors.
  - Indoors, 750 are allowed to attend without fixed seats, 2500 with fixed seats.
  - Using pre-event testing and Covid-19 certificates, the number can be increased further.
  - Risk assessments must be done for events on campus.
- All measures will probably be lifted and we can live almost normally from the end of September, according to statements from the government on 9 August. But preparedness measures will be held on standby.

# Elements of uncertainty: Vaccination rate

- The spread of the Delta variant has led to postponement of Step Four in the national reopening plan.
- All students can get their second dose in the student city where they stay. Outbound and inbound exchange students will also be offered vaccination.
- Not all students will be fully vaccinated at the start of their studies. Most students and staff will get their second dose by October.
- Uncertain how long the vaccine provides immunity and how well it protects against new variants.

# How the autumn semester will start

- From 9 August, NTNU's buildings will be open 7-16 on weekdays and 8-15 on Saturdays. In the evenings and on Sundays, a card and code must be used.
- Matriculation Ceremony and start of the orientation (buddy) week on Monday 16 August. Students meet in person in their study programmes around the campus. Stage programme will be streamed.
- Welcome activities in week 33 (16-22 August)
- Start of teaching in week 34 (23-29 August)
- Special safety measures for the orientation week on campus. Greater number of smaller events; no large gatherings.
- All employees can work on campus.



# Exams in autumn 2021

(main period 29 November – 21 December)

- There will be digital and analogue exams written on campus as well as digital home exams.
- Capacity in Trondheim has been reduced by 20% because parts of the exam buildings are being used as a vaccination centre.
- With an extension of the interim Covid-19 Regulations, there is scope for exams in the first week of 2022, but only for a few courses.
- The exam schedule will be published at the start of the semester (week 33/34)