

# Reopening plan for NTNU at 15 September 2021 (Version 8)

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.

## **Almost normal everyday life, with increased preparedness:**

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

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).
- One-metre distancing rule in teaching spaces is temporarily reintroduced due to outbreaks in all three cities. Was originally lifted by the Government on 13 August.
- 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 will be allowed to enter Norway from 1 August. PhD students could come to Norway from 15 August.
- Travel restrictions still in place for particularly hard-hit countries.

# Almost normal, with increased preparedness

- National measures will generally be phased out.
- In-person teaching up to about 80% of normal capacity during this autumn. Online teaching methods used where they are best suited.
- Exams will be held as planned previously with a mix of exams on campus and at home.
- General steps to prevent infection will continue, but it is not yet clear how strict these will be.
- All staff back on campus.
- This phase comes into force when at least 90 per cent of the adult population (aged over 18) is fully vaccinated, and the national situation makes this possible.
- Could start at the end of September in the best case, according to the Prime Minister at a press conference on 2 September.

# Gradual phasing out of restrictions at NTNU - 1

The infection situation remains uncertain in all three university cities and local outbreaks may cause restrictions to be reintroduced or extended at short notice. Unless the infection situation gets worse, there will be no new rounds of mass testing (rapid tests) of students or staff.

To be lifted from Tuesday 21 September:

- **The recommendation to cancel large student events in Trondheim.**
- **Restrictions on events and stands on campus.** As long as the infection situation does not get worse, the ordinary rules in effect before the pandemic will apply. The following requirements must still be met until the end of phase three in the national reopening plan:
  - Alcohol use is not permitted on NTNU's premises on campus.
  - Risk analysis must be carried out (the form must be completed).
  - General measures to prevent infection must be followed.

# Gradual phasing out of restrictions at NTNU - 2

To be lifted from Tuesday 21 September - continued:

- **One-metre distancing in teaching situations.** But you should still keep a distance of at least one metre in rooms where there is no teaching (reading rooms, cafeterias and common areas) - see the advice from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health.
- **Arrangements for working from home** The current scheme will end when it is no longer necessary to provide for working from home for staff in Trondheim who use public transport to get to work. The main rule from 21 September will be that staff have a permanent workplace on NTNU's premises.

To end when phase three of the national reopening ends (probably at the end of September):

- **Recommendations on face masks.** Applies where you cannot keep a distance of one metre and where crowding may occur.
- **Ban on alcohol use on NTNU's premises.** NTNU will revert to the scheme that applied before the pandemic, where alcohol can be served at closed events after an application to the Campus Services Division.



# Gradual phasing out of restrictions at NTNU - 3

To end on about 10 October:

- **Testing of students who are about to start practical training or excursions.** The need will be assessed in the academic communities and the scheme will continue until all students have had the opportunity to get fully vaccinated.

To end on about 31 October:

- **Use of Check-in.** The requirement for QR registration in all rooms will last until the end of October, because there is still a risk of minor outbreaks on the campuses in autumn.

# Protection of unvaccinated people and other risk groups

- Although a steadily increasing percentage of students and staff is fully vaccinated and the restrictions at NTNU are gradually being removed, it is important to consider those who are unprotected or in risk groups. The vaccine protects against serious illness, but not against spreading infection.
- Students and staff who need special adaptations for documented medical reasons are asked to discuss this with their course lecturer or line manager. Adaptations will be made according to the same guidelines as for other types of illness or disability.

# Elements of uncertainty: Vaccination rate

- The spread of the Delta variant has led to postponement and then cancellation of Step Four in the national reopening plan.
- All students will get their second dose in the student city where they are staying. Outbound and inbound exchange students will also be offered vaccination.
- Trondheim municipality estimates that at least 90 per cent of all students and staff in the city will be fully vaccinated by 7 October.
  - At 15 September, 71.9 per cent of all people aged 18-24 in the city had been fully vaccinated.
- Uncertain how long the vaccine provides immunity and how well it protects against new variants.

# Exams in autumn 2021

(main period 29 November – 21 December)

- The exam period has been extended until 7 January 2022. Exams for some courses will thus be held during the first week in January.
- 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.
- The exam schedule was published at the start of the semester (week 33/34).