

To the members and students of the faculty of physics

Within the framework of the regulations, which were passed on March 17th, 20, in accordance with resolutions of the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Science, Research and Art (MWK) by the KIT Corona Crisis Staff to all organizational units of KIT, and after discussions within the Dean's Office, I would like to inform everyone about our view of matters and plans. Please note that we are all confronted with a situation that has never existed before in recent history and is taken very seriously. We all suffer from the ongoing changes of the situation and a partly unclear information situation. This message might also be outdated in a few days, but will then be corrected accordingly.

In general, we recommend setting the following priorities and acting accordingly:

1. infection or further spread of the infection must be avoided with top priority. Therefore, all the above-mentioned hygiene and distance rules must be absolutely observed - in the workplace and, if possible, also in the private environment. Use the offers and regulations of KIT for working at home if your activities allow it. If there are any signs of illness, please stay away from your workplace and contact a doctor.
2. our work is essential and we are employed for it. Therefore, we should perform our duties under the condition that rule #1 can be observed. The Dean's Office will continue to carry out its duties and for this purpose will also be present in the offices on a half-day basis until further notice. Visitors will no longer be admitted, but advice will be given by telephone and email. The latter will also be carried out at home in the afternoons as part of a so-called mobile work.
3. regular teaching, exams and examinations are suspended, as are all other events on campus where people have to gather. For some students this means that credits and exams cannot be completed within the regular time frame. It is assured that individual hardship rules will be applied which take into account the restrictions imposed by the current situation. As soon as an end to the crisis is in sight and realistic planning becomes possible, the Dean's Office with the examination board and the study commission will present a corresponding set of rules and announce deadlines for submissions and examinations.

Because it is becoming apparent that the exceptional operation will continue after April 19, the Faculty of Physics plans to use an online teaching system for courses and special lectures. At this time we aim to create the technical conditions for recording lectures and publishing them on the web together with exercises. Details for this, also for the execution of practical courses and exams, will be worked out and then announced.

A note for the institutes: as already recommended by the KIT crisis management team, all employees should start their work "mobile" at home this week whenever possible and create the technical prerequisites now. Work in laboratories and workshops should only be carried out if the distance rule can be observed and in compliance with the hygiene rule. It is also recommended to organize the on-call duty of the corresponding experts for all equipment that has to be kept in operation. Finally, all employees should prepare themselves for the fact that KIT could close on short notice (such as DESY, CERN this week) and that, if it becomes necessary, a possible curfew in Germany might be imposed as of next week.

Thomas Müller, Dean
KIT Faculty of Physics
Karlsruhe, 18.03.2020

(Translation of a message by the Dean to all organizational units.)