Decision regarding the development of the spread of COVID-19

Background
Umeå University has reached the following decision based upon the recommendation of the Swedish Government on 17 March 2020 regarding coronavirus disease COVID-19 in Sweden, and with reference to decisions and recommendations by the Public Health Agency of Sweden, the Swedish Government and the Swedish healthcare.

Decision
On 17 March 2020, to prevent a further spread of disease, the Swedish Government recommended that Swedish universities should cancel all university education that involves physical meetings in university premises. As a result of this, the Vice-Chancellor of Umeå University has reached the decision below. This decision is valid from 18 March 2020 until 7 June 2020 (end of the spring semester) unless otherwise stated. Due to the rapid development, revisions to this decision can be made at a later date.

The Vice-Chancellor of Umeå University decides to abide by the Government recommendation.

The Vice-Chancellor has decided on the following

First and second-cycle education – Bachelor and Master level education.

- that all teaching involving physical meetings is cancelled and replaced with alternative instruction methods,
- that clinical placements (VFU) will continue if the accountable authority gives approval and supervision for the student can be ensured,
- that with regard to clinical placements in health care, Umeå University awaits the regions’ standpoints on the issue and will return with guidelines as soon as such can be given,
- that degree projects and independent projects must not be carried out on the university premises. Further guidelines on this matter will be announced,
- all examination or other assessment methods that involve physical meetings are cancelled, postponed or replaced by other examination formats that do not include physical meetings.

Doctoral education

- that students at third-cycle level – doctoral students – are to be considered employees in this decision, whereby the activities are conducted in accordance with the recommendations for employees, see below,
- that public defences of doctoral theses continue to be implemented. Detailed recommendations regarding this will be decided in the near future,

Employees

- staff at Umeå University who experience symptoms – even mild ones – must stay at home and avoid social contacts. Employees who do not experience symptoms should work as usual but may be permitted to work from home, after agreement with their responsible supervisor,
- that physical meetings are cancelled or replaced, as far as possible, with alternative meeting forms. The responsible supervisor has to decide on meeting types where required,
- all employees over the age of 70 are urged to follow the recommendations of the Public Health Agency of Sweden and limit their contact with others, and hence avoid visiting the university’s campuses and workplaces.

This document has been translated from Swedish into English. If the English version differs from the original, the Swedish version takes precedence.
Premises

- to mandate the library director to decide that the University Library’s premises, including branches, will continue to be open but with limited opening hours (08:00-17:00 Monday to Friday and 10:00-16:00 Monday to Friday at the Umeå Arts Campus library). The possibility of booking group rooms has been discontinued,
- that the University’s other premises are closed to students. Exceptions apply to the Universum Building premises.

This decision was reached by Vice-Chancellor Hans Adolfsson after presentation by Academy Clerk Daniel Andersson.

Hans Adolfsson
Vice-Chancellor

Dispatched to:
Faculties and the Umeå School of Education
The University Library
The University Administration
Trade unions