Decision regarding 2 November 2021 until 16 January 2022 as a result of COVID-19

Background
COVID-19 is currently spreading in society. A national vaccination campaign is underway and the conditions can rapidly change. The university follows the directives, guidelines and recommendations regarding COVID-19 issued by the Swedish Government, the Public Health Agency of Sweden and Region Västerbotten. Additionally, the Vice-Chancellor reaches the decisions deemed necessary. The university revises its decisions if new recommendations from the Government, the Public Health Agency of Sweden and Region Västerbotten give rise to such revisions. The university’s objective is that teaching and assessment can be carried out with maintained high quality. At the same time, the university is also working to reduce the spread of disease. Decisions are made based on continuous dialogue between the university and the Department of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention at Region Västerbotten. The university aspires to return to on-campus activities at the start of 2022, with a gradual return during the autumn 2021. High vaccination coverage among staff and students is an important condition for this return.

The removal of national restrictions does not mean that the university’s work environment responsibilities regarding students and staff are altered. Managers must still investigate and assess the risks involved with activities at the university, and must decide what measures are necessary to remove or limit the risks of negative consequences to the health of students and staff due to COVID-19. This also includes potential individual adaptations for staff in at-risk groups for severe COVID-19.

On 15 September 2021, the Vice-Chancellor decided about the university’s measures and adaptations due to COVID-19 for the period 30 September until 1 November 2021 (FS 1.1-821-21). That decision was a revision of a previously reached decision made on 18 August 2021 and was based on the phasing out of most national restrictions issued due to COVID-19.

The present decision covers the period 2 November 2021 until 16 January 2022, which constitutes the second half of the autumn semester 2021. The idea is that no further decision due to COVID-19 will be necessary from 16 January and onwards. Nevertheless, this assessment will be revised if the situation requires.

Decision
The Vice-Chancellor has reached the following decision to be valid from 2 November 2021 until 16 January 2022.

General communicable disease control measures
All students and staff must follow applicable national and regional regulations, recommendations, and guidelines. Currently, this means that whoever experiences symptoms – even mild ones – must stay at home and get tested for COVID-19.
Individuals who are not fully vaccinated are responsible for maintaining distance to other people and to avoid places that are often crowded. There is no requirement that the university adapts its activities based on people not being fully vaccinated.

If national or regional regulations, recommendations or guidelines change, they apply at Umeå University without the need for new university regulations.

On 29 September 2021, the Vice-Chancellor decided that no restrictions regarding the maximum number of people in university premises due to COVID-19 applies from 2 November 2021 and onwards (FS 1.1-821-21).

Staff and employment
A former decision by the Vice-Chancellor enables all staff to work at the workplace from 30 September 2021. Managers must, in dialogue with their staff, plan for a gradual return to the workplace. The return to the workplace must be completed by 31 December 2021 at the latest.

Teaching and assessment
No limitations regarding the implementation of teaching and examination applies during the period covered by this decision. There is no requirement during this period to adjust ongoing or planned courses from online formats to the teaching and assessment formats stipulated in the applicable course syllabus.

Students who are to carry out a placement, thesis project, clinical training, teaching placement or similar must follow the guidelines and recommendations issued by the host organisation. This includes potential guidelines regarding individuals who are not fully vaccinated.

From spring semester 2022, starting on 17 January, all teaching and assessment (including defences of doctoral theses) must return to regular regulations, unless otherwise stated by later decisions.

Deviations and rescheduling of syllabi
On 22 June 2021, the Vice-Chancellor reached a separate decision regarding the possibility to make deviations from course syllabi regarding formats for teaching and assessment (FS 1.1-821-21) and this applies until 16 January 2022. Beside that, the possibility to make deviations from programme syllabi and the rescheduling of courses, modules or examinations (both within and beyond the semester) will continue to apply until 16 January 2022. Such reschedulings or such deviations must be carried out according to what was described in the previous decision (from 15 September 2021, FS 1.1-821-21). Instructions can also be found on the staff web.

Delegation
The Vice-Chancellor decided, on 28 April and 19 May 2020, on temporary appointments, delegations and adjustments of limitations and prohibitions in the further delegation of authority in the Vice-Chancellor’s decision-making and delegation procedure for Umeå University and in the Delegation of authority for the Umeå School of Education at Umeå University and the Delegation of authority for the Umeå School of Business, Economics and Statistics. These decisions expire on 2 November 2021 and will not be extended.
This decision was reached by Vice-Chancellor Hans Adolfsson after presentation by Academy Clerk Daniel Andersson and Analyst Carl Larsson.

Hans Adolfsson  
Vice-Chancellor

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