



FAQ regarding the impact of COVID-19 on the organization of instruction

1. What are the objective reasons for organizing instruction remotely?
 - It involves, for example, situations where the instructor is in quarantine, has contracted COVID-19, or where student are in quarantine or are ill, where there are students in the group that cannot physically attend the course because they are abroad, or similar circumstances.
 - However, you must always assess the cases and form of study individually – e.g. **if the course guarantor can arrange another instructor for in-person instruction or replace the instruction so that this solution always has priority over switching to remote learning.**
2. What form should the course guarantor's decision on switching over to remote learning take?
 - The form is not specified. However, we recommend that such decision be in writing – e.g. an e-mail agreement of the course guarantor with the guarantor of the study programme.
3. The study programme prepares students for a regulated profession. How will it be with practical training?
 - Maintaining in-person instruction should be a priority. If the nature of the practical training allows it, we recommend trying to implement it remotely (e.g. using video recordings, etc.) or individually (instead of group training). If, due to external circumstances, it is not possible to carry out the practical training in the required scope, the guarantor will inform the Department for the Quality of Education and Accreditation at the Rector's Office about these circumstances, which will ensure possible cooperation with the relevant regulatory body regarding possible modifications to the requirements.
4. A student is in quarantine. Is it necessary to provide the student with remoting learning for a course that is otherwise organized in-person?
 - Yes. In the case of quarantined students, it is up to the instructor to create conditions enabling the student's further involvement in the course, such as using hybrid or remote learning forms and informing the student about the conditions for completing the course, provided there has been a change. The student is obliged to maintain contact with the instructor, and the instructor is obliged to respond to the student suggestions. For example, if a course has more than one parallel, the student may participate in one that takes place in a remote or hybrid form.



5. A student is not physically present in a course due to quarantine. Should you request confirmation of this fact?
 - The faculty does not need to verify this fact. Students could sometimes not always be capable of providing confirmation.
 - In justified cases, confirmation could be requested from the student, but this is a decision of the faculty (or the course guarantor or study programme guarantor).

6. The course instructor has returned from quarantine and again starts to teach in person, or a group of students ended quarantine, and they may once again attend the course in person – can you change the established remote form of instruction back to in-person instruction?
 - Yes. This change is possible after consultation with the study programme guarantor. However, you must demonstrably inform students about this fact, including any change in the terms for completing the course. In the case of quarantined students, the remote or hybrid form of instruction must also be maintained. With respect to the requirement of the National Accreditation Bureau to inform about the scope of remote learning, study programme guarantors must inform the Rector's Office of implementing instruction. The guarantor will be asked to provide information via a brief questionnaire in the student information system. The provided information will serve as a basis for informing the National Accreditation Bureau, which will be the responsibility of the Department for the Quality of Education and Accreditation at the Rector's Office.

7. From a group of 20 students, 10 are in quarantine. Is this the limit for switching the entire instruction over to remote learning?
 - There is no limit for the proportion of student in quarantine. The decisive factor is the opinion of the responsible person – the instructor – with respect to the nature of the specific course.

8. For objective reasons, the position of the study programme guarantor or the field of study guarantor cannot be temporarily suspended (for example due to being ill).
 - If a guarantor is not capable of performing their position, the dean designates the guarantor's replacement for the necessary period of absence.

9. Can you still take the state final exam and the thesis defence remotely?
 - State final exams may be organized remotely with the consent of the dean, in accordance with Act no. 188/2020 Sb. only if there are objective external circumstances that do not allow exams to be held in person (e.g. for students who are foreign nationals). Thus, organizing state final exams remotely is exceptional and unique.



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- According to the opinion of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Act no. 111/1998 Sb., the Higher Education Act, does not pose major obstacles to taking the state final exam remotely, provided that the commission nature and public rule are complied with.
 - The Department for the Quality of Education and Accreditation at the Rector's Office must be informed of the remote organization of a state exam as a part of providing information for the purpose of collecting data for the National Accreditation Bureau, to which the guarantors will be invited.
10. Does the hygienic service have the duty to carry out an epidemiological investigation (including contact evidence) or do we have to arrange for preventative isolation of the respective group?
- The hygienic service does carry out an epidemiological investigation. However, we recommend proceeding proactively in the case of determining whether a student or instructor has a positive diagnosis and to inform the Rector's Office – SharePoint of CU Point.
 - The City of Prague will soon provide Charles University with the name of the contact person for issues relating to the positive diagnosis of a student or employee – the name will be shared immediately with you and we recommend using a proactive approach and not waiting for the hygienic service.
11. Should we request a physician's report from a student or instructor with a positive diagnosis before they return to in-person instruction?
- We recommend monitoring the current hygiene procedures whether or not all people who have recovered will be re-tested. If not, a negative test cannot be requested from a student or instructor.
12. How are people with a positive diagnosis registered at Charles University?
- With respect to the GDPR, it will involve only reports recorded already during the spring months – provided by a network of contact persons at the faculties and shared with SharePoint repositories.
13. A new student announces that they cannot come to enrolment due to objective reasons.
- In such case, remote enrolment can be used. If they are not able to participate in courses, this fact must be taken into account in the organization of instruction.