

PLANNING GUIDANCE AND MEASURES
FOR ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES
IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Following Order no. 5487/1494/2020, issued by MEC and the Ministry of Health, UMPHST of Târgu Mureş has decided upon the following measures to be applied, in view of an efficient educational process, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

A. TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

The teaching and learning activities will take place on the UMPHST campus in Târgu Mureş, throughout the period marked by the risk of infection with SARS-CoV2 virus, in a hybrid system, combining online and on-site activities, under the conditions of the epidemiological safety rules provided by the legislation in force and adapted to the local situation. In this regard, a series of general measures have been adopted, which *do not affect* the quality of the teaching and learning activities, and which also *provide a high degree of safety* to both students and employees.

a. E-learning infrastructure

- 1) UMPHST has taken the necessary steps to acquire and implement a professional e-learning platform – Blackboard Learn – which will replace the existing Microsoft Teams platform, by transferring information, where possible. The students and teachers will be trained to use of this platform in September 2020 through the Department of Institutional Development SMART University.
- 2) All the teaching and learning activities that involve online communication with students will use only the official email accounts of the university, which will be the basis for reporting the teaching and learning activities carried out by both teachers and students.
- 3) All the teaching and learning activities will be stored in the cloud.

b. The classes

- 1) For the time being, they will be carried out exclusively online, using the existing course platforms and those that will be implemented in the near future.
- 2) The video / audio recording facility of the courses is made available to the teachers – through the Department for Multimedia Educational Resources.

c. **Laboratory activities / practical training activities / projects**

- 1) Those disciplines where the development of skills, abilities and methods method is absolutely necessary and mandatory will have on-site practical training activities. Establishing them is the Dean's task. Of the total number of practical training activities provided in a module, a percentage established at the beginning of the module will be carried out on-site, while the rest of the activities will be carried out online.
- 2) In justified cases, the measures for making up missed practical activities will be approved by the dean, at the proposal of each discipline.
- 3) **As an exception, between 14-27September**, the laboratory activities / practical training activities / projects will be carried out **exclusively online**.
- 4) Starting with September 28, the laboratory activities / practical training activities / projects will be carried out in a hybrid, on-site and online format, as follows:
 - a. The groups will be divided into subgroups that will have alternative activities, by rotation: one week on-site, the other online.
 - b. If the size of a laboratory and the size of a group allow activities to be carried out with a whole group, in conditions of appropriate distancing, these activities will be reorganized accordingly (this is the case of laboratories that were carried out with 2 groups, simultaneously)
 - c. Within the same time interval in the timetable, when the first subgroup will have an on-site activity, under the direct guidance of teachers, the other group will have the online program, under the guidance of another teacher designated by the discipline. These activities can be video presentations, review of techniques, preparation of papers, experimental calculations, elaboration of project stages, depending on the particularities of each discipline.
 - d. If a discipline does not have enough teachers to ensure certain activities on-site and online, in parallel, the dean's offices will decide particular solutions.
 - e. During the practical activity period, the subgroup will participate in the demonstration of 2 practical sessions; therefore, the volume of information and the way it is transmitted will be adjusted by each discipline.
 - f. The teachers will demonstrate the technique/procedure/experiment.
 - g. The direct activity of the students for the reproduction of these techniques will be limited to a minimum.
 - h. The duration of a class will be of 50 min (thus, a practical training class of 2 hours will have 100 min, the one of 3 hours, 150 min, without breaks), to allow the disinfection and ventilation of the laboratory after each subgroup.
 - i. The teaching materials will be disinfected after each use.

It is the students' responsibility to have and wear face masks and protective gowns. UMPHST provides the necessary disinfectants for all practical activities.

- j. In the following week, the two practical classes carried out on-site in the previous week will be consolidated and expanded.
- k. The activities can take place in laboratories and, depending on the availability of amphitheatres, as presentations / demonstrations in amphitheatres as well; the clinical disciplines have priority in the occupation of the amphitheatres.
- l. In the case of the disciplines in which laboratory work involves exclusively computer work, under the guidance of the teacher, the practical training classes will be conducted online using the existing e-learning platforms and those that will be implemented in the near future.

Example: Laboratory class of 2 hours (10-12), with 14 students:

Week 1: at 10-11:50 the first subgroup (7 students), 2 practical lessons in 2 hours; week 2: 10:00-11:50 – the second subgroup – specialty complementary activity.

d. **The seminars** – will be carried out as follows:

- 1) As videoconference, as well as online peer to peer consultations.
- 2) Papers and other materials that support the seminar activity will be sent by electronic means (M-Teams, e-mail, other cloud solutions - subject to availability) between students and teachers.
- 3) The disciplines which do not have practical / laboratory classes will not carry out on-site activities.
- 4) Physical education classes for study programs with the exception of EFS will be conducted only outdoors and online, with demonstration / tutorial materials.

e. **Practical clinical activities**

- 1) **The forms of clinical activities will be as follows:** the clinical training activities (**STG**); Case based learning (**CBL**) and Problem based learning (**PBL**) sessions; videoconferences with presentations and clinical demonstrations (**VCDC**).
- 2) Between 14-27 September, the clinical training activities will be carried out exclusively online.
- 3) From 28 September, the clinical training activities will be carried out in a hybrid system, according to the following rules:

a. The clinical training proper (STG):

- a. The duration of a clinical training class will be 120 minutes, without breaks, after the following schedule: 8:00-10:00 and 11:00-13:00; the third hour of the activity will represent a complementary specialized activity, which will be documented by reports and/or case presentations.
- b. The number of students simultaneously present at the hospital / specialized clinic within a clinical training class will be reduced to a maximum of 1/3 of the total number of students in the respective class, thus resulting in subgroups for each interval – 8-10 and 11- 13 (see the table below).
- c. Only students from the scheduled subgroup, wearing appropriate equipment, with mandatory masks and standard protective equipment, will have access to the hospital / specialized clinic / outpatient clinic within the stipulated time interval. It is the students' responsibility to make sure they have protective masks and gowns. UMPHST will provide the necessary disinfectants during the practical activities carried out within its own areas.
- d. The students will put on their equipment in the locker rooms – UMPHST will supplement the locker rooms with special containers for: the SCJ – The County Hospital; the OG2 + The Ophthalmology Clinic; The Infectious diseases Clinic.
- e. At the entrance of each hospital ward, the students will be subjected to the triage process every day, and those with respiratory symptoms not being allowed access to the practical training class.
- f. At the beginning of each practical training class, each student will complete the Epidemiological Questionnaire and will give it to the staff of the clinical discipline where the practical class takes place.
- g. During the pandemic, the practical training classes at Infectious Diseases and Pneumology will not take place at these clinics, but in the form of clinical presentations such as CBL, PBL and video and online presentations (see below). If necessary, the list of these clinics will be expanded.
- h. To the other clinics, where there are COVID support compartments or COVID suspects, no students will be assigned.

b. Case based learning (CBL) and Problem based learning (PBL) sessions:

- a. Will be carried out alternatively with the other types of activities (STG and VCDC).
- b. Will be carried out during the same time interval, in parallel with clinical training sessions.
- c. Will take place in amphitheatres and demonstration rooms, respecting the necessary distances. In general, depending on the available spaces, the internships related to the SCJU will take place in the SCJU and other M&Ph central campuses; the internships related to the SCJ will take place at the SCJ and ST.
- d. The distribution of the halls will be made by the dean's offices, taking into account the size of the study groups in question.
- e. Will be carried out by a single teacher per subgroup (see the example below).
- f. The topics will be prepared at the level of each discipline and will be reported accordingly.
- g. It is the students' responsibility to have and wear face masks. UMPHST will provide the necessary disinfectants.

c. Videoconferences with presentations and clinical demonstrations (VCDC)

- a. These will be carried out alternatively with the other types of activities (STG and CBL/PBL).
- b. They will be carried out online, the students do not have to be physically present at the clinic or UMPHST.
- c. They can include video presentations or broadcasts, clinical demonstrations or annotated presentations.
- d. The topics will be prepared at the level of each discipline and will be reported accordingly.
- e. They will be carried out by a single teacher with only one subgroup and, every other week (on Fridays), with all the groups in training (see the example below).
- f. If a discipline does not have enough teachers to ensure certain activities on-site and online, in parallel, the dean's offices will decide particular solutions.



- 4) The organization of the clinical training in a two-week internship is provided in the table below:

Example: A 3h practical training (8-11: 8-10, without a break), with 54 students (3 subgroups of 18 students each)

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fr	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Subgroup 1	STG	VCDC	CBL/ PBL	STG	VCDC	CBL/ PBL	STG	VCDC	CBL/ PBL	VIDEO webinars 1+2+3
Subgroup 2	CBL/ PBL	STG	VCDC	CBL/ PBL	STG	VCDC	CBL/ PBL	STG	VCDC	
Subgroup 3	VCDC	CBL/ PBL	STG	VCDC	CBL/ PBL	STG	VCDC	CBL/ PBL	STG	

- f. **Specialty practical training for the students of the Faculty of Dentistry** will be carried out as follows:

- 1) A minimum of $\frac{1}{3}$ and a maximum of $\frac{1}{2}$ of the time (depending on the number of hours in the curriculum allocated to each discipline) will be spent in the clinic or treatment room where a maximum of 2 small groups of students will have access simultaneously / room (15-16 students in total).
- 2) The rest of the hours allocated to the internship of each discipline of dental specialty will take place *on-site* – in amphitheatres or halls within the university, in the form of CBL / PBL sessions or online – as webinars.
- 3) Several small groups of students will have simultaneous access to the PBL / CBL type sessions, depending on the occupancy of the halls / amphitheatres.
- 4) The distribution of these 3 types of activities that make up the practical training is established by the dean together with the heads of the departments, for each discipline, and the schedule of the activities will appear in the students' timetable;
- 5) The rules regarding the epidemiological safety will be strictly observed.
- 6) During the existence of the risk of infection with the SARS-CoV2 virus, in the CIMD clinics, the students and the coordinating teachers will perform only *preventive dental procedures and procedures that will not initiate aerosol-generating manoeuvres*. The “measures for organizing and carrying out the activity in dental offices during the state of alert” will be observed, as they appear in Annex 1 to the Order of the Minister of Health no. 873/2020.

B. Administrative activities

- a. UMPHST, as well as each faculty, will appoint coordinators of the activities for the prevention of SARS-CoV-2 infection, according to Annex 2 of Order no. 5487/1494/2020 of MEC and MoH.
- b. all the teachers and the administrative staff will wear protective masks throughout their activities within UMPHST buildings and will follow the recommendations of disinfection and social distancing.
- c. The UMPHST administration will provide the administrative staff with the necessary protective equipment.
- d. Access to the UMPHST premises will be made after the application of the triage procedures.
- e. There will be hand disinfection points on the main access areas and the disinfection of the rooms used by the students will be carried out after each activity. The disinfection of each room will be monitored daily.
- f. All the disciplines will update and adjust the Discipline Regulations and the Discipline charts, and will review and adjust their labour protection regulations for the staff, as well as the labour protection sheets for the students by September 14, 2020; these will be presented and signed at the first practical activity on-site.

C. Student hostels

- a. Given the fact that between 14-27 September, 2020, all the teaching activities will take place exclusively online, UMPHST recommends students to participate in these activities from their place of residence and organize their arrival in Târgu Mureş between 22-25 September, 2020
- b. The students who have special requests, accommodation before this interval will be based on an individual request sent by email to the following address: cazare.online@umfst.ro.
- c. Each dormitory room will be occupied by students from the same series and the same year of study.
- d. The correct wearing of masks in the common areas of the student hostels is mandatory.
- e. The common study areas in the student hostels (reading halls) will be closed.
- f. Upon arrival at the place of accommodation, each student will complete the Epidemiological Questionnaire to be submitted to the Accommodation Office.
- g. Any social activities of a party nature, with the participation of more than 4 people, carried out in dormitories, are prohibited. Violation of this provision will lead to the eviction of those involved within 12 hours.
- h. Outsiders are not allowed to enter the student hostels.
- i. In each student hostel, an unoccupied room will be reserved, with direct access to a bathroom, to isolate any potential COVID contacts.
- j. Any suspected COVID cases in student hostels will be urgently reported to the UMPHST administration and the DSP (the national Public Health Department).

D. Students and travelling

- a. Students will limit their travel to other cities. Students who leave the city, before returning to their student hostel, will have to present a negative PCR test done no longer than 48 hours before, at their own expense; the absence of the negative test will lead to the refusal of accommodation.
- b. We recommend avoiding visits of family members to Târgu Mureş and spending time in communities, indoors and without precautions.
- c. International students will be required to comply with the isolation rules imposed by the area they come from, which is why they are advised to inform in advance.
- d. We would like to remind you that those who travel from countries / areas with high epidemiological risk and have the right to enter the national territory of Romania are required to enter quarantine / isolation at home for 14 days upon their return to Romania. The quarantine shall be established at the person's home, at a location declared by him/her or, as the case may be, in a special space designated by the authorities. The quarantine is recommended for all the people living at the same address. UMPHST does not provide quarantine space.
- e. The list of countries with high epidemiological risk is established by the National Institute of Public Health, is periodically updated, and can be consulted here: <http://www.cnsrbt.ro/index.php/liste-zone-afectate-covid-19>.

E. Other particular measures

- a. The students and teachers who have respiratory symptoms will not attend teaching activities.
- b. Inside UMPHST, the pre-established routes of entry, movement and exit from the building will be clearly marked.
- c. The number of seats / pieces of furniture in the lecture halls / laboratories will be made the necessary adjustments by removal / repositioning, so as to ensure the obligatory physical distance of min. 1 m between students; each room will have its own layout of students – in the case of laboratories, the disciplines to which they belong are responsible for organizing the space; in the case of amphitheatre – the building administrators.
- d. The students will not be sitting face to face in lecture halls, the correct wearing of the mask being mandatory for all those present inside lecture halls / buildings.
- e. It is forbidden to organize any on-site scientific events, shows, meetings, etc.
- f. Approvals of travels for professional reasons are granted only in exceptional cases.
- g. The interaction with students at the level of dean's office, registry, and other services will be carried out by phone or by email.
- h. The collection / submission of original documents will be done exclusively with telephone / e-mail appointment. Consultations, meetings and other formal communication will take place online, following a telephone / e-mail appointment.

- i. UMFST will adapt its rules and measures according to the evolution of the pandemic situation.
- j. The measures mentioned above can be adapted and supplemented by decisions of the Administrative Board or the management of the faculties, depending on the particularities of each faculty, and will be communicated to all UMPHST students and staff for information and application.
- k. These measures are completed with those provided in the MEC and MoH Order no. 5487/1494/2020.