

Dear students!

We are entering the new academic year mindful of the experiences and knowledge we gathered in the previous years. Despite the challenges you have faced over the past two years due to the effects the epidemic has had on the school system, your efforts have not gone unnoticed. On behalf of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, we thank you for your tolerance and patience, as well as your responsible behaviour and understanding during this difficult time. Wishing for mutual understanding and cooperation, we want the new academic year to begin in a safe manner.

To ensure a safe educational environment for everyone in the new academic year, it is important that students follow the recommended hygiene measures and guidelines to prevent the transmission and spread of infection in the academic space. We would like to highlight three such guidelines in particular: attend lectures only if you are healthy, self-test for SARS-CoV-2, and use the #OstaniZdrav application according to the recommendations below.

1) Stay at home

We ask that only healthy students attend the higher education institution.

2) Self-testing

The Ministry of Health provided all students with free self-testing kits for SARS-CoV-2. Self-testing for students is recommended:

in case of developing symptoms characteristic of SARS-CoV-2, or in case of contact with a person infected with SARS-CoV-2.

For this purpose, students are provided with 10 free testing kits per month for voluntary self-testing, which they can obtain at the pharmacy by presenting their health insurance card, enrolment certificate and identity document. Self-testing kits are already available in pharmacies. However, we also ask you to first use up any testing kits you already received in the last academic year.

In the event of a positive test result during self-testing, immediately contact your personal physician, or in the event of their absence, call the contact point of the medical centre as soon as possible to arrange a confirmation test. Subsequently, you should wait for the results of the confirmation test in self-isolation. During this time, do not leave your residence, limit contact with other people, and strictly follow the guidelines for preventing the spread of the disease. In the event that the confirmation test is also positive, inform your personal physician and proceed according to their instructions.

Students are kindly asked to inform the higher education institution you are attending about a positive result of the confirmation test, so that they can take appropriate measures to limit the further spread of the infection.

In the case of a negative test result during self-testing, there are no further measures. If the student has symptoms, their personal physician decides on further diagnostics.

Additional explanations regarding self-testing are available on the website of the National Institute of Public Health: <https://www.nijz.si/samotestiranje>

### 3) Using the #OstaniZdrav app

We recommend using the #OstaniZdrav mobile application, which alerts users in a safe and anonymous way that they have been in contact with a person with a confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection.

In particular, we would like to point out the additional "check-in" function of the #OstaniZdrav app, which allows students who have a confirmed positive test result (via TAN code input) to anonymously notify the people they were in a common area or lecture hall with (or up to 30 minutes later).

Each student/visitor/employee scans the QR code that is posted in a visible place (in front of the entrance, on the blackboard before the start of the lecture, on screens or on mobile phones). This is done by using the app's "check-in" function. The application then displays the duration of the session (lectures, exercises, exams, seminars, etc.), which is determined by the creator of the QR code. If a student leaves the session early, they can log out by clicking "Logout", otherwise they are automatically logged out at the scheduled end of the event. If the student stays at the event longer than anticipated, the QR code must be scanned again.

In the event that a student's application indicates a higher risk (red coloured warning), the student can continue to participate in their study obligations, while following the recommendations provided in the app to the best of their ability. Additional information about the #OstaniZdrav app is available at: <https://www.cepimose.si/aktualno/mobilna-aplikacija-ostanizdrav/>.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation and contribution, and wish you a successful start to the new academic year.

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