

Decision of the Senate (No. 6/2022, dated 09/02/2022) of the University of Cyprus (UCY) on the way the classes will be conducted for the remainder of the Spring Semester 2021-2022

Taking into consideration the current epidemiological situation and the scientific views of the academics specialising in the management of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UCY Senate has decided that as of 14 February 2022, and for the remainder of the spring semester, all teaching and research will be conducted in-person, by presenting the digital COVID certificate “**Safe Pass**”. Complying with all the decrees and protocols approved by the State and considering the high transmissibility of the new Omicron variant, UCY has decided **to recommend** an additional measure according to which all members of the university community, regardless of their vaccination status, are advised to do a rapid test every week.

In summary, the decision provides for the following:

- All classes in which the total number of students enrolled does not exceed 50% of the classroom capacity will be conducted in-person.
- All other classes will be conducted in-person and remotely at the same time. Students may physically attend these classes provided they have been vaccinated with one (1) dose of one-dose COVID-19 vaccine and with two (2) doses of two-dose COVID-19 vaccine, and provided that the period of seven months has not elapsed since the day of their vaccination. Students who have received the booster dose or have an immunity certificate for having been infected with COVID-19 in the last three months may also physically attend these classes.
- Assessment and exceptional approval of the request of persons belonging to vulnerable groups for attending classes remotely, provided that a relevant medical certificate is presented.

Detailed information on the implementation of the decision:

1. In-person classes

Academic staff members and students may be informed by the schedule of classes about the classes that will be conducted in-person for all students.

Academic staff members and students may participate in in-person classes provided they are in possession of a Safe Pass, as described below:

- Certificate of vaccination with one (1) dose of one-dose COVID-19 vaccine and with two (2) doses of two-dose COVID-19 vaccine, provided that a period of seven months has not elapsed since the day of vaccination, as well as those who have received the booster dose
or
certificate of recovery from COVID-19, valid for three (3) months since the date of the initial positive diagnosis or
- negative 72-hour PCR test or negative 48-hour rapid antigen test (rapid test) prior to their arrival at the University.

1.1. Classroom safety measures

- Distancing and use of antiseptics/disinfection
- Use of an appropriate face mask (surgical). The use of a double surgical mask or FFP2 by everyone is recommended both in enclosed spaces and outdoors where more than one person is present
- Open windows (where available) for ventilation of enclosed classrooms
- There should be at least 15 minutes of break between consecutive classes in the same classroom (provided that, the windows, where available, will remain open, weather permitting).

1.2. Laboratory safety measures

- If the required distancing between students and researchers (distance of 2 metres) cannot be maintained because of the nature of laboratory activities/courses, then the Laboratory Supervisor/Academic Staff Member may request, if they wish, a negative 48-hour rapid test for entering the laboratory/classroom, regardless of the vaccination or recovery status of students and researchers. Likewise, they may request, where this is possible, that smaller stable groups be formed to attend laboratory classes at different hours/days.
- The negative rapid tests will be checked before entering the laboratory/classroom by the Laboratory Supervisor/Academic Staff Member and/or an Authorised person appointed by the former (in collaboration with the Head of the Health, Safety and Environment Division), and/or by the security personnel.
- The use of a double surgical mask or FFP2 is also recommended.

2. Classes conducted in-person and remotely at the same time

Academic staff members and students may be informed by the schedule of classes about the classes that will be conducted in the two ways mentioned above.

- These classes may be attended in-person by students who have a certificate of vaccination with one (1) dose of one-dose COVID-19 vaccine and with two (2) doses of two-dose COVID-19 vaccine, provided that a period of seven months has not elapsed since the day of vaccination, as well as by those who have received the booster dose or Have a certificate of recovery from COVID-19, valid for three (3) months since the date of the initial positive diagnosis.
- Students who are in possession of a negative PCR or rapid antigen test (rapid test) will attend the class remotely.
- Students who will attend the class remotely will be given priority regarding the academic staff members' office hours for resolving queries etc.

3. Persons belonging to vulnerable population groups

Students belonging to vulnerable population groups, as specified by the Ministry of Health, may attend the classes remotely upon request to the Academic Affairs and Student Welfare Service (AASWS), which should be accompanied by a relevant medical certificate. Requests may be submitted to dir-aasw@ucy.ac.cy by completing the form "Attending classes remotely due to medical reasons", which can be found on the AASWS website, and by attaching the relevant

certificate or medical certificate issued by their Personal Doctor or attending physician, specifying the exact category to which they belong. Students who have already submitted the relevant information to the AASWS in the past and have received the respective approvals do not need to resubmit the request for the spring semester.

Academic staff members who are unable to attend the University premises or classrooms due to serious medical reasons may exceptionally submit a request for teaching remotely to the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs.

4. Final and mid-term exams

- Both mid-term and final exams will be held in-person for all students.
- For students who are identified as belonging to vulnerable groups, academic staff members are requested to take the necessary steps to ensure that these students attend the exams in isolation.
- Any exceptions to the above may be approved only by the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs upon request of students, submitted through the academic staff member, who are identified as belonging to vulnerable groups and who also face particular difficulties in accessing the University.
- Provided that, students who fail to participate in an exam may be allowed to take a make-up exam only upon presentation of a documented medical reason (by presenting a medical certificate).

5. Advice for students who need to self-isolate

5.1. A person who has symptoms of COVID-19 should self-isolate and refrain from going to the University, even if criterion 1.1. above is met and despite having tested negative.

5.2. A person who tests positive or has been identified as a close contact should inform the University (Health and Safety Division, tel. 22895270, 22894147) so that the Action Plan and the relevant Protocols of the Ministry of Health are activated and should self-isolate according to the State Health Protocol. They should also inform academic staff members for the purposes of academic accommodations.

6. Access to the University premises

Access to all University premises, including the Student Halls, the Sports Centre, and the Library, requires the presentation of a Safe Pass.

7. Control Mechanism

- The Senior University Officer, who is also the Head of the Health, Safety and Environment Division, is responsible for control issues. As the authorised Health and Safety Officer, he will designate/authorise additional persons who will form the Health and Safety Team (H&S).
- The access control to the University premises for students will be as follows:

- Academic staff members, students, and all other staff will be required to submit a relevant statutory declaration through a special UCY application www.ucy.ac.cy/ucysafeapp, and attach the **EU Digital Covid Certificate** which certifies their vaccination or recovery status, or their negative PCR or Rapid test result.
- The certificate will be checked by the responsible person/s designated by the Health, Safety, and Environment Division (H&S Team). The relevant valid certificates should be submitted at least 6 hours before the first class starts, according to each student's timetable.
- The H&S Team will approve or reject said declarations with the attached document, which will be immediately destroyed and not stored in any database.
- Through the application, all academic staff members will have access to the lists of the courses they teach, which will show both the type of the test students did and its result, thus indicating whether the student should be allowed to enter the classroom.
- All academic staff members will be authorised to ensure that their students are in possession of a Safe Pass. Provided that, the lists will be kept up to date under the responsibility of the H&S Team.
- Several members of the University Security Team will be appointed under the responsibility of the H&S Team, who will be present in the classrooms and laboratories to support our students and academic staff members in implementing the decision.
- Everyone entering the University should always be in possession of a Safe Pass certificate and an identification document (ID, passport, or student ID for students).
- If a student or any other person is found not to have the required Safe Pass while at the University, they shall be immediately removed as directed by the authorised officers.
- A student who is found for a second time not to have the required Safe Pass while at the University, shall be considered to have committed a serious disciplinary offence and shall be immediately removed as directed by the authorised officers, while they shall be referred to the University Disciplinary Committee for Disciplinary Action. If the University staff violate the relevant Decrees, they shall be subject to the sanctions provided therein.

8. Information and Vaccination

The University will expand its efforts to provide the student community with accurate information on issues related to the pandemic and vaccination.

Moreover, the University has taken the necessary steps for the operation of the rapid test station at the Health Centres, as depicted in the table below, as well as for the operation of the walk-in vaccination centre at the University Campus on a regular basis. Access to COVID-19 sampling stations is provided to the beneficiaries, as defined by the State.

ΩΡΑΡΙΟ	Δευτέρα		Τρίτη		Τετάρτη		Πέμπτη		Παρασκευή
	Πανεπιστημιούπολη	Καλλιπόλεως	Πανεπιστημιούπολη	Καλλιπόλεως	Πανεπιστημιούπολη	Καλλιπόλεως	Πανεπιστημιούπολη	Καλλιπόλεως	Καλλιπόλεως
07:30:00	UCY-Rapid test		UCY-Rapid test		UCY-Rapid test				
08:00:00	UCY-Rapid test		UCY-Rapid test		UCY-Rapid test				
09:00:00	UCY-Rapid test		UCY-Rapid test		UCY-Rapid test				
09:00:00	Ministry of Health Rapid Test		UCY-Rapid test		UCY-Rapid test		Ministry of Health Rapid Test		
10:00:00	Ministry of Health Rapid Test	UCY-Rapid test	UCY-Rapid test		UCY-Rapid test	UCY-Rapid Test	Ministry of Health Rapid Test	UCY-Rapid Test	UCY-Rapid Test
11:00:00	Ministry of Health Rapid Test	UCY-Rapid test	UCY-Rapid test		UCY-Rapid test	UCY-Rapid Test	Ministry of Health Rapid Test	UCY-Rapid Test	UCY-Rapid Test
12:00:00	Ministry of Health Rapid Test	UCY-Rapid test				UCY-Rapid Test	Ministry of Health Rapid Test	UCY-Rapid Test	UCY-Rapid Test
13:00:00	Ministry of Health Rapid Test	UCY-Rapid test				UCY-Rapid Test	Ministry of Health Rapid Test	UCY-Rapid Test	UCY-Rapid Test
14:00:00	Ministry of Health Rapid Test						Ministry of Health Rapid Test		
15:00:00	Ministry of Health Rapid Test						Ministry of Health Rapid Test		
16:00:00	Ministry of Health Rapid Test						Ministry of Health Rapid Test		

9. Competent Body

The Rector's Council is the Competent Body for decision-making regarding any other matters not mentioned above.