

No. 5 / Urgent Information on Measures to Contain the Coronavirus at the HfM

Dear Members of the Hanns Eisler School of Music,

The coronavirus situation is developing rapidly. Therefore, we are holding daily telephone conferences with the Senate Chancellery. In today's conference it was noted that the measures taken so far must be adapted and increased.

Since we wish to keep our academies and universities open, we must ask you all for your cooperation:

The Charité Clinic, which is represented in our phone conferences by Prof. Dr. Frei (Director of Patient Care), recommends that we try to avoid all physical and close social contact inside our buildings, so that the facilities can be kept open for your individual work (especially practice opportunities).

The School is closed to external persons. The buildings are open to all students, teachers and staff as well as to persons who are present because the School has authorized them. All persons entering the buildings are to register with the porters on duty.

We need to find new manners of dealing with each other and creative solutions. The Undersecretary of State is not excluding the possibility that we will have to take more drastic measures during the coming days. However, as long as we can maintain the possibility for you to work, we wish to do so. However, please be aware that we can only implement the measures described above with your full cooperation.

This afternoon at 2 pm, there will be a special meeting of the Cabinet, after which we will receive further information from Undersecretary of State Krach. The following steps, however, must be communicated to you immediately:

- Starting immediately, all university and academy libraries in Berlin are switching to online services. All return dates on media are cancelled and no late fees will be imposed.
- Information regarding the cafeterias will be made available this afternoon.
- Starting immediately, work-related travel, including within Germany, is prohibited.
- We have just been informed that all child-care facilities and schools will be closed starting on Tuesday. We need to have an internal discussion about the implications of this for those of you with children to care for. We are considering how we can enable you to work digitally.
- In particular, we will confer with the teachers about possibilities of digital teaching towards the beginning of the semester (currently scheduled for April 20).

Undersecretary of State Krach, who is providing outstanding crisis management, would like to maintain administration services for now. This opinion is shared by all university and academy leaders.

We will inform you, if possible on a daily basis, about further developments and are taking such decisions as are necessary for the School community on a daily basis.

These are times we could not have imagined when 2020 began. Everything truly depends on the collaboration and personal attitude of each individual. Your health is of paramount importance and is the main focus of the School's leadership.

Kind regards,
Sarah Wedl-Wilson

Rector