



## Health & Safety protocol University College Fryslân August 2020

We cannot predict how the virus will develop and what the world will look like in a few months, but we hope that you will trust that we are doing our utmost to ensure a safe and secure living and learning environment for our entire UCF community. For that purpose, we have developed this Health & Safety protocol with different plans to prepare for all circumstances.

To make sure we are always updated about the latest COVID-19 developments and to provide a safe learning environment for all our students in Leeuwarden, we are advised by three bodies:

- **The national guidelines of the Government and the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM):** the latest regulations regarding the COVID-19 measures are regularly published in Dutch and English.
- **The regional guidelines of the Frisian Safety Region (Veiligheidsregio Fryslân, VRF):** the Dean of our faculty is in regular contact with the chair of the VRF, the Mayor of Leeuwarden, to align safety measures in the region.
- **The university guidelines of the University of Groningen (UG):** as one of the 11 UG faculties, Campus Fryslân is dependent on the Central Corona Team of the university which formulates specific university regulations.

Based on the current developments in the Netherlands, and Friesland in particular as one of the three [least affected regions](#) in the Netherlands, we have two main plans in place for our education in August 2020 (see below). Our current estimate is that the first plan will take effect as of 1 August 2020.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us via email ([ucf-grl@rug.nl](mailto:ucf-grl@rug.nl)) or phone (+31(0)6 15 54 84 41).

The UCF Team

### 1. Corona plan 1: 1.5-meter distance at all times

[The Dutch approach to COVID-19](#) is aimed at keeping the virus under control as much as possible in order to protect vulnerable groups and make sure the healthcare system can cope. Thanks to people complying with the measures, the situation has improved since March and the figures show a positive trend. There is a step-by-step approach in place to keep the virus under control. The -regularly updated- main measures are:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Cough and sneeze into your elbow
- Use paper tissues to blow your nose and discard them after use
- Do not shake hands
- Stay 1.5 metres (2 arms lengths) away from other people
- Only use public transport if there is no alternative (and always wear a facemask), avoid the rush hour and travel by bike or on foot as much as possible



- If you have mild cold-like symptoms, such as a sore throat, a running nose, sneezing, a mild cough, a mild fever below 38 degrees Celsius or sudden loss of smell or taste, stay at home until you are fully recovered

We have implemented these measures in our 1.5-meter distance protocol with regard to education, the faculty building, and our housing facilities.

### **Education**

Learning environment: we are preparing for hybrid education, a mix of high-quality and accessible in-person and online learning. As our educational concept of interactive and small-scale learning is best suited to in-person instruction, we aim to provide on campus education where possible. When it is not possible, we have put in place technological solutions to facilitate smooth transitions to online education and tutoring. To ensure a smooth transition to the UCF community, students are all assigned to an Academic Advisor and peer advisement group for support and our Study Advisor has an open-door policy which students can use whenever needed.

Distance measures: in-person learning will take place in small classrooms of max 11 students and larger classrooms of max 20 students, always keeping 1.5-meter distance. We are investigating the use of advanced technology making “bi-directive” education possible, where one lecturer can communicate with two classes at the same time.

### **Faculty building**

Distance measures: in terms of the number of people that will be given access to the building at the same time we will be working with 40% of our capacity, in our case this means a total of 271 people. This is to ensure that health and 1,5-meter distance measures can be safeguarded at all times. Classes and activities for UCF students will be organised in such a way that we will not exceed this maximum capacity, while staff will work with a reservation system for the building.

Hygiene measures: we will indicate walking directions in the building with stickers on the floor, and provide disinfectants at the entrance, in the classrooms, and in all the bathroom facilities. In addition, there are always Emergency Response Officers (BHV) present in the building and they will be trained in line with specific COVID-19 instructions for health and safety.

### **Housing**

Every student has their own studio with private bathroom facilities and a kitchen. If someone needs to be quarantined, they can therefore easily stay in their studio. The housing facilities are located on a 10-minute walk distance from the faculty building, meaning there is no need to use public transport to go to class.

There is disinfectant available in the shared community room, and 1.5-meter distance stickers indicate the walking -and distance directions at all times.



There are two ways to enter and exit the accommodation: the main entrance at the street will be labelled as “entrance” and the exit through the garden will be labelled as “exit” to streamline the walking directions.

### Health

All students are required by national law to register for health insurance and strongly advised to register at a local GP for health emergencies and referrals to specialist care. We recommend [Compas Huisartsenpraktijk](#) for international students. In addition, everyone with COVID-19 related complaints is allowed to get tested at the local Health Authority (GGD). A test appointment can be made through the national number 0800-1202. In case a student is tested positively for the virus, they need to stay in quarantine in their room for two weeks, during which the university will provide support with online learning and our student-buddy system ensures support regarding grocery shopping and helping out with additional needs.

## 2. Corona plan 2: second (intelligent) lockdown

In case of a second wave of COVID-19, the Netherlands will likely implement its previously successful approach of an intelligent lockdown. This would mean that the government asks its citizens to stay home as much as possible and act responsibly to combat the virus. During the previous intelligent lockdown, all universities in the Netherlands decided to close their faculty buildings and continue with remote education.

### Education & faculty building

All our courses are currently being redesigned in such a way that we can easily adapt to an online learning environment whenever needed. COVID-19 has brought its challenges, but it has also opened a door of opportunities for innovative solutions that we will keep exploring. In case of a lockdown, the faculty building will be closed and staff and students will work from their respective homes. Our support system of Academic Advisors and Study Advisor remains in place to ensure students stay in regular contact with us at all times.

### Housing

During a potential lockdown, the community room will be closed off and students are asked to study in their rooms and maintain the 1.5-meter distance in the hallways.

Students can of course go home, but they are encouraged to stay at the safely restricted campus facility to reduce the spread of the virus through travelling. Previous experience has shown that students staying on our campus housing and in the community positively impacts their learning.

### Health

In case of a second lockdown and return to online education, students and staff are again expected to follow the health guidelines from the Dutch government. In addition, we want to stress the importance of student's mental health when education is fully online and contact with peers and family (abroad) may be limited. Students are invited to contact the Study Advisor or their assigned Academic Advisor when this situation is difficult for them



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and hinders their mental well-being and study behaviour. Apart from UCF staff, the UG's student psychologists and Student Service Centre will remain available online for mental support at all times.