

PROTOCOL AND PRACTICE FOR COVID-19 RISK MITIGATION AT VENICE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



Information for participants of the Intensive Graduate Activities
(PhD Academies, Graduate Seminars, Winter Schools, Summer
Schools) | 2022 | June 16, 2022

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Introduction

The health, safety, and well-being of our VIU community is the primary focus that guides the decisions of VIU relative to COVID-19.



VIU decisions regarding the Intensive Graduate Activities during 2022 are informed by Italian national legislation, Veneto Regional legislation, Italian ministerial guidance and the recommendations of the scientific community.

All students, professors, staff, and participants of the Intensive Graduate Activities must agree to the co-responsibility pact in order to attend on-campus academic activities and VIU events.

Governmental Measures in Italy

Since the end of the state of emergency in March 2022 almost all measures and restrictions in Italy have been lifted.

Covid Certificates as proof of vaccination or proof of a negative test:

- No longer required for entry to Italy

- No longer required within Italy, except for visiting hospitals and care homes.

Mask Mandates

Almost all requirements to wear a mask have been lifted.

Masks are no longer required indoors nor outdoors in shops, bars, restaurants, cafés, theaters, cinemas, concerts, sports venues etc.

At time of writing, FFP2 masks are still required on public transport.

Employers may continue to require or recommend the use of masks in the workplace.

At VIU

VIU is asking all students and professors of the Intensive Graduate Activities to get a COVID-19 test¹ before your first day of attendance in the program (within 72 hours for a PCR, or 48 hours for an antigen test) as a mitigation measure. Please do not attend classes or other activities on or off campus until you take a test and receive the results. Furthermore, FFP2 masks will be required during all classes and related activities and in the **MacLab and PC Room**.

¹ PCR/molecular and antigen/lateral flow swab tests are acceptable

1. Covid Tests



Rapid Antigen tests:

The rapid antigen test detects protein fragments specific to the Coronavirus. It requires a swab from the back of your nose or throat. Results are usually available within 30 mins.

Also known as lateral flow tests. In Italian: *Tampone antigenico*

Self-administered antigen tests are widely available, however they are not recognized in Italy as certified tests for quarantine/isolation purposes.

However, for the pre-arrival test requested by VIU fully vaccinated students and professors can take a self-administered test.

PCR tests:

The PCR test detects viral RNA (or genetic material) in early stage of infection. It also requires a swab from the back of your nose and/or throat. The swab must be analyzed in a lab and therefore results take several hours to be reported. Outside of hospital contexts it usually requires minimum 24 hours.

Also known as molecular tests. In Italian: *Tampone molecolare*

Antigen tests and PCR tests are both recognized by the Italian health authorities for the purposes of the EU Digital Covid Certificate / Green Pass and by VIU for your pre-arrival test.

In this document when the term "Covid test" is used, either the antigen or PCR test is valid, unless otherwise specified.

Rapid Saliva tests and serological antibody (blood) tests are not included in the term "Covid test" as used in this document, and are not valid for the purposes of equivalence to the EU Digital Covid Certificates / Green passes, for entry into Italy, or for access to the VIU facilities.

[Where to get at Covid test.](#)²

² <https://www.univiu.org/about-viu/brochures-reports-and-regulations/covid-19-protocol-and-practice/covid-test>

General Practice On and Off Campus During Your Visit to VIU



- All students, professors, participants, and staff should self-monitor on a daily basis for symptoms including a cold, sore throat, fever, labored breathing, or other flu-like symptoms and malaise, or loss of smell or taste (consider bringing a thermometer with you).

- Wash hands often with soap and water, or use a gel hand sanitizer.

- Avoid touching your face.

- Maintain appropriate social distancing – minimum 1 meter.

- Avoid hugging and hand-shaking.

- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or into your elbow. Dispose of the tissue immediately.

- As of June 15, 2022 masks are required only on public transport (FFP2 masks) and when visiting hospitals or care homes (surgical or FFP2 masks)

In the workplace, masks are no longer legally required but employers may decide to maintain Covid mitigation protocols that require staff to wear masks.

At VIU all staff and collaborators are required to wear FFP2 masks in shared offices and during meetings.

- Install Immuni the official Covid-19 tracking app in Italy on your phone <https://www.immuni.italia.it>

- In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak at VIU or in Venice, cooperate with the authorities in contact and tracing operations.

- If you develop any symptoms that may be indicative of a Covid-19 infection, **STAY HOME**, (or in your accommodation) contact a doctor, or the health authorities. While waiting for further Health Authority decisions, you are required to self-isolate*.

- If you are told to self-isolate, or put in quarantine you must notify immediately VIU (via email: covid19@univiu.org)

Access to VIU on the campus on San Servolo island is not permitted if:

- **you have a fever higher than 37.5 ° C, a cough, or labored breathing;**
- **you have been instructed by the health authorities to quarantine or advised to self-isolate.**
- **you know that you have been in contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days.**



What VIU is doing:

- VIU has drawn up the protocols, practices and guidelines in cooperation with health and safety consultants.
- All VIU offices, classrooms, and common areas will be cleaned and sanitized every morning.
- Gel hand sanitizer will be available in all offices, classrooms, seminar rooms, and conference halls.
- For academic programs VIU has reduced the capacity in all classrooms, seminar rooms, conference halls, the MacLab and PC room to 75% in order to guarantee adequate social distancing.
- The timetable of classes has been amended to avoid crowding in the corridors before and after class.
- Informational Signage will be placed throughout the campus to remind the VIU community of hygiene protocols and social distancing measures.
- VIU will continue to monitor any reviewed legislation and guidance from the local and national authorities relative to Covid-19.
- VIU will cooperate fully with the health authorities in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak at VIU, or in Venice.
- VIU is committed to keeping the members of the VIU community informed of what is happening at VIU, in Venice, and in Italy in general.

For all:

- **All students, professors, participants, and others attending the Intensive Graduate Activities must wear an FFP2 mask during all academic and related activities, and in the MacLab and PC Room.**
- **In all other indoor spaces at VIU, wearing a mask is recommended.**
- Always maintain a minimum social distance of at least one meter from other people.
- Masks are not required outdoors at time of writing (June 16, 2022).



- Eating and drinking is not permitted in the classrooms, the MacLab and PC Room. Consume drinks and food only in designated areas where it is permitted.
- Avoid gatherings of numerous people in common areas.
- The use of the lift is not recommended; if necessary, use it 1 person at a time;
- Do not rearrange the seating in the classrooms. A minimum of 1 meter must be maintained between the chairs.
- Follow all the instructions sent by VIU staff and posted at the entrance to the premises, classrooms, MacLab & PC room or common areas.

For professors, speakers, lecturers:

- The lecturer or speaker may remove their mask while speaking on condition that they can maintain a minimum of 2 meters from the participants/audience in the first row. If the distance is under 2 meters a mask must be worn.
- Please open the windows at the end of your session to ventilate the classroom.
- After 2 hours of activity in a classroom, seminar room, or conference hall, a break is mandatory, during which the room must be ventilated by opening the windows.
- In the event of non-compliance of the participants, the lecturer or speaker must suspend the activity.

Bar / Cafeteria

The Green Pass (or equivalent certification) is no longer required.

During receptions, refreshment breaks, provided by VIU during the activities.

During coffee breaks, buffet lunches or for breaks at the bar or in the canteen:

- hands should be washed with soap or a disinfectant gel before approaching the refreshment area.
- when you are in the refreshment area to take food and beverages, always wear a mask.
- consume food and beverages only in the spaces provided such as tables or counters, maintaining social distancing of at least 1 meter. Also if standing, maintain a minimum social distance of at least one meter when removing mask while consuming food and beverages.

Participants in VIU-arranged housing:

- No visitors whatsoever are allowed in the rooms on campus or in the apartments in the city during the 2nd semester.



- Reports of social activity (dinner parties, parties, and so on) in the VIU-arranged housing may be addressed with disciplinary measures from VIU.
- Be respectful of your neighbors, making sure that you wear your mask in all common areas (halls, corridors, stairwells).
- If you suspect that you may have Covid-19 symptoms, call the health authorities (see the dedicated paragraph below), inform your room-mates, and inform VIU (via email: covid19@univiu.org).

If You Develop Any Covid Symptoms

STAY HOME, contact a doctor or the health authorities. While waiting for further Health Authority decisions, you are required to self-isolate.

Who you should call:

- 118 - emergency medical services, if you have labored breathing. (Veneto)
- 112 - emergency services, if you have labored breathing. (other regions)

If you have mild symptoms:

- Contact your general practitioner if you are resident in Italy
- If you are only living/staying in Venice temporarily, call one of the following:
 - Health Assistance Point for Visitors
 - Piazzale Roma +39 041 5235134
 - Piazza San Marco +39 041 2960784
 - Out-of-hours Health Assistance (ex Guardia Medica): +39 041 2385600
 - Everyday 8pm to 8am, and also Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays from 8am to 8pm

Consult also the information on these pages on the VIU website:

If you have Covid symptoms: <https://www.univiu.org/about-viu/brochures-reports-and-regulations/covid-19-protocol-and-practice/if-you-have-covid-symptoms>

Where to get a Covid Test: <https://www.univiu.org/about-viu/brochures-reports-and-regulations/covid-19-protocol-and-practice/covid-test>

Other useful numbers:

- 800 938 811 Venice District Health Service Helpline (or +39 041 8724999 if calling from a phone registered abroad)
- 800462340 Veneto Region Covid Helpline;
- 1500 - Italian Ministry of Health helpline (or +39 0232008345 OR +39 0283905385 if calling from a phone registered abroad)

If you have private health insurance, contact your insurance company.

Notify VIU by email (covid19@univiu.org).

If you are in shared housing, do your best to self-isolate in your room. Your room-mates should also restrict their movements. If you are in VIU-arranged housing, inform VIU staff immediately by email.



Inform VIU:

You can request online access to your classes if you are suffering symptoms that could be indicative of a Covid infection (sore throat, headache, fatigue, fever, cough, cold, etc). We invite our students to be prudent and avoid coming to campus if they suspect they may be unwell:

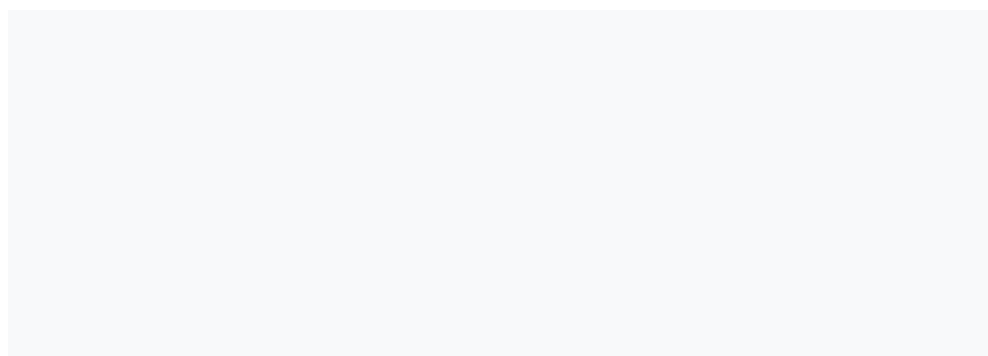
- send a request by email by 8.30am to: covid19@univiu.org
Requests sent directly to the professors or to other email addresses will not be considered.
- If symptoms persist or worsen, you should get a Covid test
- After 2 days precautionary absence you must get a Covid test returning a negative result to return to class (self-test kits are not recognized)

If you develop symptoms while you are on campus:

- Go immediately to the 7K office on the ground floor as indicated in the map on the last page of this information sheet.

If you have serious symptoms:

- 118 for emergency services if you have labored breathing or other serious symptoms;
- 112 for emergency services as an alternative to the first emergency number.
- Notify the VIU staff responsible for your program using the telephone in the 7K office.





Quarantine Rules for Close Contacts

Valid from December 31, 2021 (Legislative Decree, n. 229) and as updated according from April 1, 2022 (Legislative Decree, n. 24)

If you have learned that you are a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 and have no symptoms:

- You must self-monitor for 5 days (*auto-sorveglianza*). If you develop any symptoms you must take a test. Even if no symptoms emerge you are advised to take a test on the 5th day. You must also use an FFP2 mask for 10 days from day of last contact.

The Covid tests in these circumstances can be taken at public testing centers, pharmacies, or private clinics. Self-test kits are not valid for certification.

If you test positive for Covid:

- If you have are vaccinated you must isolate for 7 days as long as you are asymptomatic, or have been asymptomatic for at least 3 days.
- If you are unvaccinated you must isolate for 10 days.

In all these circumstances, you must take a Covid test to end the isolation period. The Covid tests in these circumstances can be taken at public testing centers, pharmacies, or private clinics. Self-test kits are not valid for this purpose.

Additional Precautionary Measures Introduced by VIU

All participants of the Intensive Graduate Activities must take a Covid test before their first day at VIU.

FFP2 masks are required during all academic and related activities.

If you test positive for Covid you must inform VIU by writing to covid19@univiu.org

Conduct

All members of the VIU Community will be expected to participate fully in our joint efforts to limit the potential spread of the coronavirus.

If you have any concerns about the protocols, or compliance, please discuss them with your program coordinator.

Updates and integrations to this protocol will be published as needed.

PROTOCOL AND PRACTICE for COVID-19 RISK MITIGATION at VENICE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



Co-Responsibility Pact:

I confirm that I have received the VIU PROTOCOL AND PRACTICE for COVID-19 RISK MITIGATION: Information for participants of the Intensive Graduate Activities (PhD Academies, Graduate Seminars, Winter Schools, Summer Schools)

All members of the VIU Community will be expected to participate fully in our joint efforts to limit the potential spread of the coronavirus.

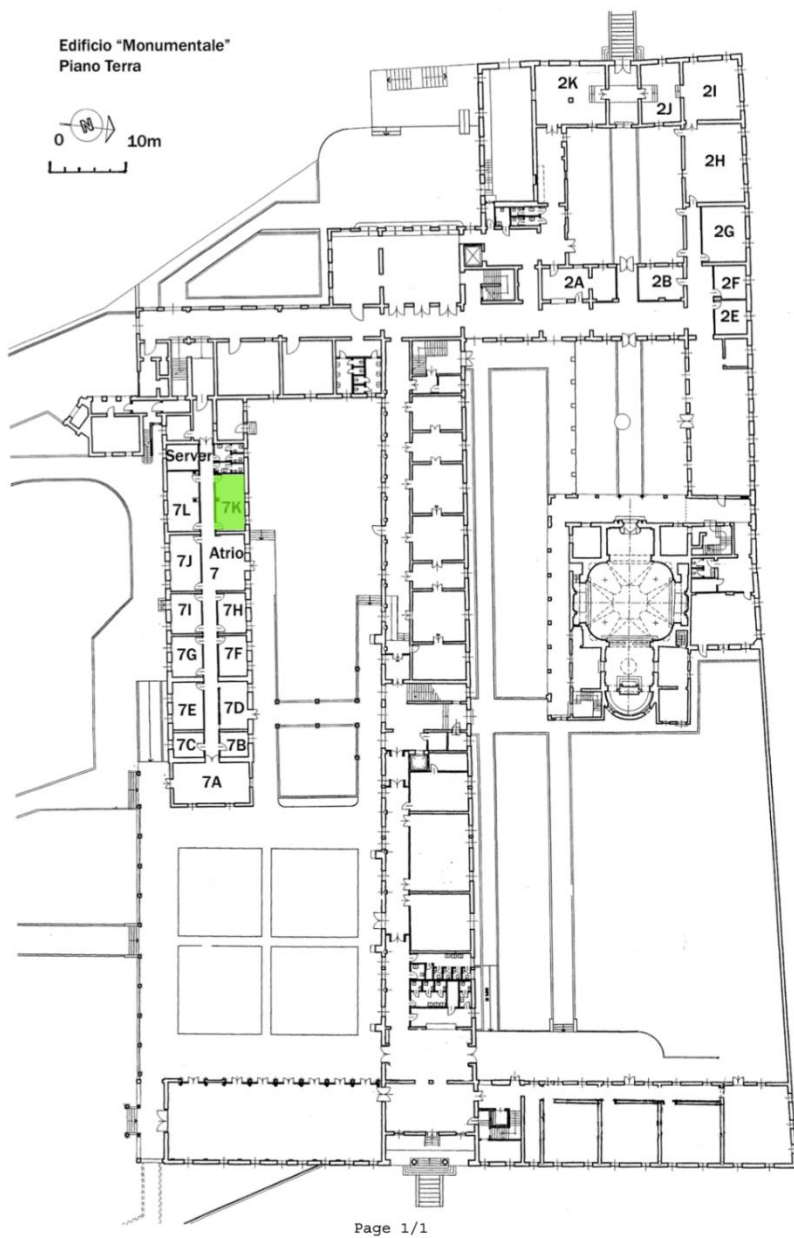
I agree to adhere to the provisions provided for therein, and in particular:

- I undertake to take a COVID-19 test prior to my arrival at VIU (within 72 hours for a PCR test, 48 hours for an antigen test).
- I will not go to the VIU campus on the island of San Servolo, or participate in-person in any VIU activities, even off campus, until I have received the negative result of the aforementioned COVID-19 test.
- I undertake to follow the instructions of the health authorities in the event I test positive for COVID-19.
- I undertake to follow the instructions of the health authorities, and VIU, in the event that there is an outbreak of COVID-19 among the VIU community.
- I will not go to the VIU campus on the island of San Servolo, nor participate in-person in any VIU activities, even if off campus, if I have a fever above 37.5° C, a sore throat, cough, or loss of smell or taste, or general malaise.
- I undertake to inform VIU (via email: covid19@univiu.org) if I receive a positive test result, or contact the health authorities because I suspect I have symptoms.

To accept the co-responsibility pact, go to the form on the VIU website and enter your name, surname, and email address:

<https://www.univiu.org/component/rsform/form/87-covid-19-protocols-and-practice-protocolli-e-comportamenti>

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding!



7K OFFICE Map