

Working arrangements from 1st June 2020 at the Biological Research Centre, Szeged

I hereby order that from 2nd June 2020 the employees of the Biological Research Centre, Szeged should return to the original place and schedule of work, as defined in their appointment, previous to the presidential instructions of 10th March 2020 of the Eötvös Loránd Research Network (ELKH), with regard to the details described below. Directors should withdraw home office and downtime orders using the previously sent form. If the employee is unable to be present at the place of work, they can take paid leave or can also request unpaid leave.

The regulation still holds that only employees of the BRC can enter the building. Persons providing non-delayable repairs, maintenance or services are an exception; on entrance they have to fill out a form declaring their risk status in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Wearing a mask in the building for these people is obligatory.

Until further notice, university students cannot visit BRC. Students with a permit from the Rector to enter university buildings are an exception (4th year medical students, students doing their clinical-professional practice and students of the Szeged Scientists Academy (SZTA)). They also have to fill out the COVID-19 declaration upon their first entrance. Students will be able to start their summer practices foreseeably after 1st July.

From 2nd June the cafeteria and the restaurant of the BRC will be open, but only for BRC employees, and wearing a mask and keeping a 2 meter social distance when standing in line will be compulsory. To avoid massive queues, the use of the restaurant will be scheduled according to the different institutes, as already established in March (11:00-11:30 Administration, Core Facilities, Directorate General; 11:30-12:00 Institute of Genetics and Institute of Biophysics; 12:00-12:30 Institute of Biochemistry; 12:30-13:00 Institute of Plant Biology). The tables in the restaurant will be arranged to meet the requirements of minimum social distance: single tables with a maximum of 4 chairs. The use of the terrace is also possible, this way decreasing the use of the closed space.

Employees working in the same laboratories or offices have to make arrangements locally to establish work hygiene practices.

Institute directors are responsible to withdraw textile towels and provide paper towels in the bathrooms and toilets of the institute.

Organizing mass events and institute seminars continues to be forbidden, until further notice; these have to be held via the online forums already in use. Laboratory meetings and small group consultations (with a maximum of 10 participants) can be held in the seminar rooms of the institutes. Meetings of 10-20 participants can be held in the Club; wearing a mask in this case is compulsory.

Foreign travels are restricted, fresh information on the webpage of the Consular Services of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (<https://konzuliszolgalat.kormany.hu/utazasi-tanacs>) are to be taken into consideration. On return from a private trip, if the restrictions of travelling to and from the country of destination are not lifted yet, the employee should take an official leave and stay at home in quarantine for 14 days. On return from an official trip, work from home can be authorised. Until further notice, 1 trip per month is allowed for researchers. Both types of travels have to be reported in advance to the superior with employer rights.

Besides complying with the enhanced hygienic regulations, I ask all BRC employees and other visitors to the BRC to immediately inform their employer or the director of the relevant institute if there is a change in their health status. Especially if they experience high body temperature, coughing, sudden breathlessness or a sore throat, or if a respiratory disease occurs in their direct environment (family, friends, other communities) that raises the suspicion of coronavirus infection.

29 May 2020, Szeged

Ferenc Nagy
Director General