

Dear partners, friends, and colleagues,

In light of the recent developments, uncertainties, and impacts of COVID-19, we would like to inform you about the measures that the BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg has taken to allow the continuation of our activities, while assuring the safety of our students and staff and helping to stop the further spread of the virus.

As many other universities, the BTU has created a Crisis Management Team which works closely with our public health authorities and other experts to ensure that any new measures or recommendations are implemented by the university. The team, in coordination with the university's executive, is meeting frequently to review the challenges that the university might encounter due to COVID-19.

All students, staff, and faculty members, both international and German, are given regular up-to-date advice and the appropriate guidance during this critical time. The BTU has established a Coronavirus website and telephone hotlines to provide information on specific questions related to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic at the BTU. Our focus is to share information when possible and avoid unnecessary uncertainty.

Since Tuesday, March 24th, our university operates online. Nearly all colleagues work from home. Our innovative e-learning projects enable us to adapt quickly to the new situation and implement new online forms of teaching to assure a smooth start of the upcoming semester on April 6. There are exceptions to this (for example, lab classes that require in person teaching). By doing so, we use the advantages of being a small technical university to reorganize our entire teaching and research operations. This is a big task, but at the same time an opportunity.

I hope you find this information useful. Please don't hesitate to contact us should you have any specific questions in relation to the BTU's coronavirus response - we will remain available at any time for consultation or information via e-mail and telephone.

Wishing you, your colleagues, and family all the best and that we will soon be able to tackle the many common projects with new energy.

Warmest regards,

Christiane Hipp Acting President

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