Information on the coronavirus infection risk for pregnant and nursing students (last update 15 July 2020) – Student information

Because of the novelty of the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), relatively little information is available on the illness it causes – COVID-19. Based on the current state of knowledge, scientists cannot yet reliably confirm whether pregnant women are more likely to fall ill with COVID-19 due to the physiological changes of pregnancy and what the probability of contracting a severe case is. One must also consider the limited drug treatment possibilities for pregnant women. Therefore, as you continue your studies, we recommend taking precautionary measures to protect yourself during your pregnancy so as to minimise your risk of infection as much as possible.

When students notify the Student Maternity Protection Coordination Office of their upcoming pregnancy, we normally evaluate their personal risk in the context of their academic activities. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, we have expanded this maternity protection measure to include an assessment of one's risk of contracting COVID-19. As you might expect, participating in digital courses comes at practically no risk. If you are required to take in-person courses, the instructors will speak with you about what kind of protective measures can be implemented to allow you to participate.

If such measures cannot be arranged for whatever reason, you may claim compensation for disadvantages for completing required coursework and degree relevant examinations in accordance with the NRW Higher Education Act (Hochschulgesetz). Please contact the Student Maternity Protection Coordination Office for more information regarding this option.

Based on the current state of knowledge, nursing mothers are at no higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than any other person. Nonetheless, like all students, nursing mothers are required to observe the social distancing recommendations, hygiene rules etc.