

## **ORDER**

Considering:

- The current state of the COVID-19 disease pandemic in Portugal, with the maintenance until April 30, 2021 of the declaration of a State of Emergency decreed by the President of the Republic and the Portuguese Parliament, combined with the strategy defined in the Resolution of the Council of Ministers No. 19/2021, March 1, for the gradual and conditioned lifting of the lockdown measures imposed by that state of emergency, which provides for the resumption of face-to-face teaching activities in higher education from the next April 19, 2021;
- The provisions of the Government and health authorities in the context of the pandemic, namely those arising from the most recent Resolutions of the Council of Ministers;
- The Recommendations of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education;
- That there remains a need to impose measures that actively contribute to the containment, prevention and control of the transmission of the SAsRCOV-2 virus causing COVID-19 disease;
- The IPT duty as an intervening agent in the process of resuming academic, social, cultural and economic activities, to ensure the safety conditions for all, without giving way to setbacks, following the positive evolution that has been felt in Portugal;
- That the adoption in the IPT of preventive measures that contribute to the national effort to contain the contagion is justified, renewing the appeal to the whole IPT academic community to maintain the responsible attitude that it has been showing and generating the most effective contribution to meet the challenge our society has been facing;
- The provisions of paragraphs d) and t) of article 92 of Law No. 62/2007 of 10 September (RJES which state that it is the President's responsibility to supervise academic management and take the necessary measures to ensure the quality of teaching and research in the institution and its units);

After consultation with the COVID19 Contingency Plan Monitoring Team and the School Heads, I hereby order the adoption of the exceptional measures listed below:

## **I – FACE-TO-FACE TEACHING ACTIVITIES**

**1.** On **April 19, 2021** all face-to-face teaching activities will be resumed at the IPT and Abrantes campuses without prejudice to the specific timing of some programmes or courses that are scheduled to start later, but according to the following rules and conditions:

- a) Mask-wearing is compulsory both indoors and outdoors, except in the case of outdoors, when it is incompatible with the nature of the activities being performed such as for instance while consuming food or beverages or smoking;
- b) In classrooms, studios and laboratories it is compulsory to respect the appropriate physical distance that is clearly signalled in the respective spaces;
- c) In all other indoor and outdoor spaces within the IPT premises it is mandatory to keep a minimum physical distance of 2 meters between people; this distance shall be increased to at least 3 meters for people not wearing a mask in the situations referred to in the final part of paragraph a);
- d) The hands should be regularly disinfected with alcohol-based solution using for the purpose the various dispensers available across the IPT campuses;
- e) When circulating in the inner areas of the premises of IPT campuses, the staff should strictly comply with the right-hand traffic rules in order to ensure adequate physical distance from those heading in the opposite direction and, if necessary, use the signalled entrance, exit areas and doors.

## **II – WORK MEETINGS**

2. In-house meetings should preferably be held by videoconference or other electronic means.
3. In all meetings with external entities, namely within the scope of recruitment procedures for teaching and non-teaching staff, specialist title awarding processes, defenses of internship reports, master's theses and others of similar nature, preference should be given to remote methods using videoconferencing platforms or other electronic means.

## **III – CANTEENS AND SNACK BARS/CAFETERIAS**

4. In relation to the IPT and ESTA canteens and snack bars, they will resume, on an experimental basis, their functioning during the day, but with a capacity restricted to 1/3 of their capacity, maintaining the possibility of supplying meals in a take-away manner.
5. At the entrance and exit, users must always disinfect their hands with alcohol-based solution, available at the entrance and exit points.
6. In meal areas, all users must ensure that adequate physical distancing is maintained. To that effect, signs will be placed on the tables indicating the places that must not be used, and no belongings of the users may be placed on them, namely suitcases, backpacks, bags, computers, and so on.
7. Wearing a mask is always compulsory whilst on the canteens and snack-bars/cafeterias during times when users are not eating their meals or other foodstuffs.

## **V – OPERATION OF IPT SERVICES**

9. The IPT services which provide services to students, staff or external entities will operate on a face-to-face basis during the normal opening hours.
10. The other IPT services not included in the preceding paragraph shall preferably continue to function by means of remote work by the staff assigned to them, either totally or partially, unless the nature of the work to be performed is such that it can only be done face-to-face or the respective staff members do not have the technological tools for remote work.
11. Thus, IPT staff who ensure face-to-face service and who are currently working remotely shall return to face-to-face work from the date this order enters into force, without prejudice to the following paragraph.

**12.** In cases where face-to-face service in the IPT services is provided by more than one person, the establishment of alternate work and remote work schedules with the duration and frequency deemed most convenient may be approved by the IPT Administrator on the initiative of those responsible for the services, provided that, in any case:

- a. This form of work provision does not prejudice or create constraints on the functioning of the services;
- b. The functions exercised or to be exercised by the staff while on remote work are compatible with this form of service provision;
- c. The staff to be placed on the remote work schedule have the appropriate technological tools.

**13.** When the dimension of the workspace in a certain service does not allow for a minimum physical distance of 2 metres between staff present in the same service, separation barriers made of transparent acrylic material shall be installed between them.

**14.** At workstations involving face-to-face contact with students, staff and external stakeholders, transparent acrylic barriers shall be maintained or newly installed.

All interactions between and with IPT services shall preferably and primarily be carried out via email, phone or the Microsoft Teams platform available for that purpose in order to reduce physical proximity contacts to a minimum.

**15.** In the case of libraries, the functionality of providing the academic community with the possibility of requesting the bibliographic resources they need to support their work, teaching and learning activities through email will be maintained as a preferential alternative to doing it in person.

For that purpose, the existing bibliographic resources can be accessed at <http://www.cda.ipt.pt/bibliopac.htm> and users who want to request books should send a request to the e-mail address [cda@ipt.pt](mailto:cda@ipt.pt) (in Tomar) or [esta@ipt.pt](mailto:esta@ipt.pt) (in Abrantes).

Once the request is analysed, the applicant will be informed about the availability of the book and, if available, the day when he/she can go to the IPT to pick it up will be indicated.

Books may be picked-up from the location indicated in the reply referred to in the previous paragraph, always taking into consideration the safety precautions of wearing a mask, adequate physical distance and hand hygiene.

Hand disinfectant is available at the pick-up location and should always be disinfected when collecting and delivering books.

## **VI – ORGANISATION AND DELIVERY OF EVENTS**

16. Delivery of events such as conferences, seminars, ceremonies, cultural and sports events, open classes, study visits and events of similar nature in the IPT premises, internal or external, shall remain suspended.

## **VII – USE OF SPORTS FACILITIES**

17. It is now possible to use the IPT sports facilities, but only for the practice of medium-risk sports, which include the main collective sports such as handball, basketball, football, futsal and volleyball, as well as for the practice of outdoor physical activity limited to a maximum of 6 people.
18. The use of IPT sports facilities for the practice of medium-risk sports in the IPT sports facilities depends on each member of the teams present in the facilities, including technicians, officials and other support staff undergoing a COVID-19 test with negative result up to 48 hours before the start of the first practice session.
19. Use of IPT sports facilities does not include use of changing rooms which shall remain closed.
20. Teams using IPT sports facilities are obliged to comply with the Contingency Plan for IPT sports facilities and, in case of non-compliance, will be barred from using those facilities.

## **VII – STUDENT HALLS OF RESIDENCE**

21. Students intending to enter IPT residences, or re-enter after an absence of more than 48 hours, must present a negative result of a COVID-19 antigen test carried out by an accredited entity in the previous 48 hours.
22. The instructions issued by IPT Welfare Services and posted in the various spaces of the residence halls to protect against transmission of COVID-19 disease are compulsory.
23. It is expressly forbidden for people who do not live or work there, including

other students and relatives or friends of residents, to enter and stay in the halls of residence.

#### **VIII – GENERAL CONTROL MEASURES**

- 24.** For the purpose of pandemic spread control, body temperature measuring operations may be performed at the IPT and rapid tests for COVID-19 may be imposed on members of the IPT academic community and persons intending to enter and stay in the IPT premises.
- 25.** Body temperature measurements will be performed by non-invasive means and without any physical contact with the person (with a digital thermometer) at the access to campuses, workplaces, teaching activity spaces or student residences.

Access to IPT facilities during body temperature measuring operations may be denied whenever the person in question refuses to have his/her body temperature measured or has a result above the normal body temperature, which is considered to be a body temperature equal to or above 38°C, as defined by the General Directorate of Health.

- 26.** COVID-19 testing may be determined for specific individuals within the academic community as a preventative measure or because they are at risk of contamination with COVID-19 or for groups of members of the academic community as collective testing or who may be considered at risk due to exposure to COVID-19 infected individuals in a clinical analysis laboratory approved by the IPT for this purpose.

Access to IPT facilities may be denied whenever the person or persons concerned refuse to undergo the test or present a positive result.

#### **VIII – MASS TESTING MEASURE IN THE IPT**

- 27.** Following the strategy recommended by the MCTES to mass test all students, teachers, researchers, non-teaching staff and collaborators who restart activities in higher education institutions, the IPT joined the testing programme articulated between the DGES and the Portuguese Red Cross (CVP), "CVP Testing Programme - Higher Education".

According to the availability expressed by the Portuguese Red Cross, mass testing will take place between 22 to 24 and 26 to 30 April and the registration of students and teaching and non-teaching staff is underway under the terms already disclosed.

If during this operation any positive result is detected, the measures of the IPT Contingency Plan in force will be immediately activated,

## **VIII – FINAL PROVISIONS**

- 28.** All measures described in this order are applicable from 00:00 hours on 19 April 2021 until 23:59 hours on 30 April 2021, and may be adjusted or extended depending on the evolution of the situation and the evaluation that, at each moment, is made of the adequacy of the measures now adopted for the purpose of containment, prevention and control of COVID-19.

This Order revokes in its entirety my Order of 21 January 2021 (as extended by my Orders of 15 February and 31 March 2021) on the same matter.

- 29.** The present order and the following ones shall be disclosed in the IPT webpage dedicated to information on COVID-19 ([http://portal2.ipt.pt/pt/ipt/covid\\_19/](http://portal2.ipt.pt/pt/ipt/covid_19/) ).

Tomar, 16 April 2021.

The IPT President.

João Paulo Pereira de Freitas Coroado

Note: Any doubts arising from the present order may be clarified by the following means:

General enquiries: to email [covid19@ipt.pt](mailto:covid19@ipt.pt)  
Academic matters: [spoc@ipt.pt](mailto:spoc@ipt.pt) or WhatsApp (0351 913 950 802)  
International students: [gri@ipt.pt](mailto:gri@ipt.pt)