# Management when students with cold symptoms come to campus for teaching or an examination

## Background

The Public Health Agency of Sweden writes, among other things - Stay at home even if you just feel a little bit of a cold - as a measure to prevent the spread of Covid-19. It follows from the Infectious Disease Control Act that the individual has a responsibility to contribute to preventing the spread of infectious diseases through attention and to take reasonable precautions.[[1]](#footnote-1)

The Public Health Agency's website provides examples of what may be symptoms of Covid-19. [[2]](#footnote-2) The symptoms are largely the same as in the case of a cold.

In the current situation, it is assessed that a student with cold symptoms, who is present during an examination or teaching, will cause concern for the rest of the room, for example other students and exam guards. Therefore, KI believes that a student with cold symptoms will interfere with the completion of the examination in a way that can justify disciplinary action if the student does not leave the premises, after being asked to do so by a representative of KI.

Inform the students on the importance of staying at home even in the case of mild cold symptoms:

**"Stay at home if you have cold symptoms”**

If you have educational modules that are compulsory, contact the course about the possibility to carry out the examination at another time or if it is possible to complete a supplement for the absence."

## Before the examination

When booking a room for an examination on campus, if possible, another smaller room should be booked in connection with the examination room where a student with cold symptoms can be referred to for further conversation.

It should be decided in advance who decides whether to reject a student from the examination. In addition, consideration should be given to whether the examiner, course coordinator or other representative of the course should be present at least before the start of the examination.

Before the examination, students should be reminded by e-mail and/or in Canvas that anyone who feels a little bit of a cold should stay home. At the same time, the students are informed that a person who comes to the examination and shows cold symptoms can be considered to interfere with the examination. This may lead to the opening of a disciplinary case, according to Chapter 10, Section 1(p) of the Higher Education Ordinance, if the student refuses to leave when the examination guard, or another representative of KI requests.

The information should be communicated a few days before the examination.

Examples of information for examinations on campus:

"You have registered for the examination in [course/module] which is carried out [date and time] in [place].

If you have cold symptoms, such as nasal congestion, sniffling, sore throat, cough, or headache, stay at home. You should stay at home if you feel sick, and at least two days after you feel healthy. Contact the course about the possibility to carry out the examination at another time or if it is possible to complete a supplement for the absence. If the symptoms can be explained by other probable causes such as known allergy, asthma, migraine, or tension headache, you can also contact the course about the possibility of conducting the examination.

Anyone who comes to the examination and has cold symptoms will be instructed to remove themselves from the premises. If the instructions are not followed, then the student may be reported to the President for causing disturbance during an examination. Read more about handling disciplinary matters at KI, see https://education.ki.se/disciplinary-matters."

## Measures in the examination room

If there is not already, place a sign/poster outside the premises and at entrances to the building. See KI's web for examples in pdf format that can be printed: <https://medarbetare.ki.se/media/83945/download>.

Students with cold symptoms who have come to the examination should be advised to leave the premises and preferably campus. According to the recommendations, they should stay home. If the student questions this, the student should be referred to an alternative space near the examination room for continued conversation. The student should be directly informed that the refusal to leave is considered interfering with the examination and entails a notification being sent to the President as a disciplinary matter.

If the student refuses to leave the premises, security guards can be called to help the student leave. The event must be documented and reported to the President as a disciplinary matter.

The assessment that this will be done assumes that there will be other students and examination guards who will experience anxiety if they hear and see a person with cold symptoms in the examination room. Additional reasons to reject the student who shows cold symptoms is the risk that the student is infected with Covid-19 and thus risks infecting others during the examination. The hope is that the students take personal responsibility and that there will be no reason to reject any student with cold symptoms because they are staying home.

1. See https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se/smittskydd-beredskap/utbrott/aktuella-utbrott/covid-19/skydda-dig-och-andra/om-du-eller-nagon-i-familjen-har-blivit-sjuk/ (Only in Swedish). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See FAQ https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se/the-public-health-agency-of-sweden/communicable-disease-control/covid-19/covid-19-faq/ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)