



Il Rettore

Pavia, 17 October 2020

Dear Colleagues, Dear Students,

the past week was once again complicated in terms of spreading of the epidemic, so much that it led to an ordinance issued last night by the Lombardy Region aimed at facing and containing the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Specific attention is aimed at reducing the load on local public transport users to limit the risk of congestion of vehicles and areas, transit and waiting, with particular regard to the mobility of all students, including university students. It is recommended, however leaving the decision-making autonomy to each university, to organize teachings in order to further promote online classes. While libraries, laboratories, internships and research activities can continue according to the rules already established.

This morning, I gathered the Crisis Unit for an in-depth meeting on the measures to be taken in light of the spirit of the provision and the recommendation addressed to us. The situation of public transport in Pavia raises less concern than in larger and more complex cities. Different is the case of the means to reach Pavia, where there is a not negligible gathering especially during rush hours. In addition, thanks to a good organization, in almost all degree courses, the management of attendance in the classroom is well organized and the adoption of protective measures and compliance with the safety distance are verified, at least in the University facilities.

At the same time, the general increase in cases of positivity in the population leads to an attitude of great attention, reaffirmed in crisis units, and suggests the adoption of some specific measures and an increasingly frequent monitoring of the situation in the coming days. The idea is to intervene with regard to teaching and examination tests, without prejudice to the mixed provision system, and thinking of measures that can reduce mobility and attendance through organizational choices, as simple as possible, to be adopted and communicated within the very tight timeframes made available.

It was therefore established, starting from Monday 19 October and until 6 November (term of effectiveness of the regional order):

1. to recommend to all students with domicile outside the Municipality of Pavia and who use public transport to opt for distance learning / online classes;
2. to limit the maximum number of students who can be simultaneously present in the same classroom to 100, regardless of any higher capacity previously established, in compliance with current health regulations. This means that classes, in which a number of students in attendance is currently greater than 100, will be divided into smaller groups, which will alternate in classroom attendance (e.g., one week a group and the next week another group). Given the short time available for the new organization, these teachings can be taught entirely online next week. It will be the responsibility of the Department Directors and Presidents to communicate to the students how to attend these courses for the next and subsequent weeks;
3. to allow completely online teachings for those courses for which the vast majority of students, approximately 80% - 90%, have already opted to attend them online;
4. to take final degree exams and oral exams online. While written exams will continue to be in person. For graduation sessions, established some time ago and scheduled for next week, the Department Director can confirm them in person, but relatives and friends of the students will not be able to participate.



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It was then reconfirmed that the entire academic community must strictly observe the safety rules in terms of spacing and correct use of masks in every place of the University, inside and outside.

In reiterating that any new signs of worsening, also at local level, will be promptly interpreted and new provisions immediately implemented, the Crisis Unit has decided to firmly ask for an attitude of great care and attention. But it also wanted to assure the possibility to keep on attending the University safely, in order to allow research activities and to not preclude students from the training that only an active presence can guarantee.

My special greetings go to the new students who have chosen our University and our City: they are a lot and they have made this choice in a convinced way. Unfortunately, this beginning is complicated. We wish them and all those enrolled at our University a great academic year, despite the difficulties. Maybe for this reason, there might be an extra effort to use your skills very well.

Warmest Regards,

Francesco Svelto
Rector of the University of Pavia