Dear colleagues, dear patients,

for many months now, our lives have been dominated by the coronavirus pandemic. At Charité, we have treated a large number of COVID-19 patients, including many with severe disease. We also continue to care for patients with other conditions - who account for more than 95 percent of our work.

As a patient, you might be worried about the risk of contracting the coronavirus in hospital, which is an understandable concern. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the measures we have taken to make Charité a safe place for all - our patients, our visitors and our staff. We have developed a system of measures which we continue to implement and adapt in order to prevent infections. Please feel free to have a look at how this works in detail.

Our primary aim is to ensure that all our patients can continue to access the very best diagnostic and treatment services at Charité - without having to worry about catching the coronavirus.

Therefore, our guiding principle remains: Safety first.

Prof. Dr. Petra Gastmeier
Director of the Institute of Hygiene and Environmental Medicine

Dear patients,

we are doing everything we can to protect you against infection with the coronavirus. We count on your support to help us ensure we can all stay safe.

Thank you!

1. **Get vaccinated**
   Before arriving for your planned hospital stay, ensure you are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

2. **Minimize contacts**
   Minimizing exposure prior to your stay will also help to minimize the risk of infection.

3. **Keep your distance**
   Continue to keep a minimum distance of 1.5 meters from others at all times: in your room, in corridors, in waiting areas, and outside.

4. **Wear a face mask**
   Even if you are vaccinated: Always wear a mask when others are present and whenever you leave your room.

5. **Wash or disinfect your hands**
   Continue to wash your hands before eating and after using the toilet. Wash them thoroughly using soap for a minimum of 20 seconds. Always use hand sanitizer when putting on or taking off your mask, before leaving your room, when returning to your room, and after wiping your nose.

6. **Follow respiratory hygiene rules**
   Continue to turn away from others when coughing or sneezing. Always cough or sneeze into your elbow - even if you are wearing a mask.

More info: www.charite.de/en
For us, safety comes first.

Always up to date
We adapt our measures to reflect the latest available scientific evidence and current epidemiological situation and are consistent in their implementation. Our staff receive regular training.

Vaccinated staff
Nearly all of our members of staff are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Unvaccinated staff undergo strict monitoring and testing prior to work.

Physical separation
All COVID-19 patients are cared for in areas which are strictly separated from non-infected patients. Patients suspected of having contracted the virus are isolated immediately.

Coronavirus testing
Identifying infected individuals: All our patients are tested prior to admission and continue to undergo testing at regular intervals throughout their stay.

Mandatory face masks
We protect each other: The mandatory face mask rule applies to patients, visitors and staff. We will work together to ensure minimum distance rules are respected.

Rules for visitors
Visitors and visits are subject to clear rules and restrictions. Controls are in place at all entrances to ensure compliance. Individuals with respiratory symptoms are not permitted in any of our buildings.