

# *Covid Pandemic and health care utilization*

Seminar Health, Winter Term 2021

*Wolfgang Frimmel and Gerald Pruckner*

## **1 Content:**

This seminar will cover topics related to health and health care utilization during the ongoing Sars-Cov2 pandemic. In particular, we discuss epidemiological aspects of the pandemic, healthcare utilisation and potential collateral damages through preventive measures, i.e. lockdowns, the psychological burden of the disease and nonpharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) of adults and schoolkids as well as the direct impact of an infection on future health status and health behavior (long-covid). In addition, the seminar covers the topic of Covid vaccinations. In an empirical exercise, students conduct their own data analysis on one specific topic based on data from (Upper) Austria and other sources, discuss and present their results in the seminar.

## **2 Target Group:**

Students from the Master Program Economic and Business Analytics and anyone who is interested in topics of epidemiology and health economics.

## **3 Language:**

Seminar will be offered in English

## **4 Prerequisites:**

KS+IK Empirical Economics and ideally the courses in Epidemiology and Empirical Health Economics and/or Health Economics II.

## **5 Course requirements:**

- Exposé: 40% of the grade
- Project presentation: 30%
- Presentation slides: 30%

## **6 Time and place:**

- October 8, 10.15-11.45, HS 3: Introductory meeting

- Separate group meetings for exposé (individual appointments)
- November 12, 10.15-11.45, HS 3: exposé presentations
- November 19, 10.15-11.45, HS 3: exposé presentations
- Separate group meetings for empirical analysis (individual appointments)
- January 28: Group presentations (blocked session to be arranged)

## 7 Outline of the seminar:

Each group (2-3 students, depending on enrolment numbers) chooses one specific topic of the following list (subjects to be changed):

1. The epidemiology of Sars-Cov2
2. Healthcare utilization during the pandemic based on data from Upper Austria
3. The psychological burden of the pandemic
4. Long-Covid: Health status and health behavior after an infection
5. Vaccination and Covid incidence

**First step:** Exposé:

- Short literature review
- Formulate research questions tackling various aspects of the chosen topic
- Summarize how each research question can be tackled in an empirical analysis, i.e. methods (description, graphical evidence, regression analysis, causal research designs if possible) and data availability/requirement
- Discuss challenges and limitations in answering your research questions
- While preparing the exposé, each group is required to arrange a meeting with Wolfgang Frimmel and Gerald Pruckner to discuss your ideas

**Second step:** Empirical analysis:

- Each group gets access to a dataset (or collects on their own if publicly available) - more details in the seminar
- Conduct an empirical analysis (descriptive, graphical, regression analysis) to collect evidence on some research questions
- During this procedure, each group can arrange a meeting with us to discuss questions, problems etc.

**Third step:** Present your findings

- Oral presentation
- Presentation slides