



To
our business partners

Bad Oeynhausen, 08.09.2021

Information concerning impacts of Corona

Dear valued business partners,

The past few years of the corona pandemic have all challenged us very much. Problems that previously only had local effects are now global challenges with far-reaching social and economic consequences. The risk of infection, lockdowns and restarting of the systems have posed special tasks to people, families, companies and the global economy in the last 18 months. As a component manufacturer for, among other parts, the medical technology, pharmaceutical industry and biotechnology, we are part of the global efforts against Covid19 - on the one hand, we are responsible for helping to maintain medical facilities for immunocompromised patients, and on the other hand we support the active ingredient manufacturers with laboratory analysis devices and assemblies in their research, development and production. Our coupling systems are required in intensive care units in all parts of the world and our hygienic components technology is used in the research and production race for Covid19 drugs and vaccines.

First of all, we would like to thank our employees, who have carried out their work in the best possible way despite of difficulties caused by occupational health and safety regulations. We would also like to thank the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs in North Rhine-Westphalia, the health department of the district Minden-Lübbecke and the communal vaccination center in Hille for the uncomplicated cooperation in vaccinating our employees. The global, concerted, continuous vaccine development and production as well as the establishment of vaccine protection in societies worldwide are an impressive achievement to win the fight against the Coronavirus. At the moment we are still faced with the immense task of achieving herd immunity to protect our society, but the current development still allows us to look to the future with great optimism.

As part of our regular, in-house risk assessment of the general situation and the economic environment in which our company finds itself, we have identified a possible scenario for the fourth quarter of 2021, which is characterized by the following factors and premises:

- In the second half of 2021, the enormous pent-up demand of restarting economies will meet with a consciously reduced availability of raw materials during the Corona period, which means that prices and delivery times are now increasing.
- The number of workers available in the companies will probably not reach a productive pre-pandemic level again by spring 2022 due to quarantine in the event of a positive test or status as contact person.
- As part of the current wave, the medical systems of the countries will have to take in and care for non-immunized patients until this group has reached herd immunity.
- The saturation of vaccinations before herd immunity is reached will lead to considerable restrictions in Germany for non-immunized persons from October 2021 onwards.
- There will be rifts in society between those who advocate vaccination and those who do not.
- The willingness to possible booster vaccinations will not be as high as with previous vaccinations.

We think that the fourth wave in Germany is the last significant wave that will end in the first half of 2022 when herd immunity is achieved. There are still global problems with material availability, prices and delivery times.

Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, only a moderate reduction in protective measures is appropriate in our company - even to set a good example for our employees. Since we see ourselves to be responsible for the common good, we are doing everything we can to continue maintaining our company operations in its entire range of services in accordance with the situation, taking into account occupational safety and hygiene rules. For this reason, access to our production facilities by external parties or third parties is still absolutely prohibited until further notice for your and our protection, and is only permitted - if not avoidable from our point of view - for reasons of maintaining our production and logistics under strict hygiene requirements. We ask you to continue desisting from direct business visits. We are available as usual by phone, email, screen conference and fax.

We wish you, your families and your company all the best, health, God's blessings and a wise mind to get through this time with optimism, solidarity and tolerance.

Stay healthy!

Fritz Althoff GmbH & Co. KG