

**EBU HEST Schloss Hexenagger Covid – 19 Risk Reduction measures
Student Brief and Health Declaration Form
September & October 2020, Bavaria, Germany**

Introduction

You are receiving this letter as you are booked into one of a number of Hostile Environment Safety Training (HEST) courses being held at Schloss Hexenagger in Bavaria this Autumn. Currently three x 5 day HEST courses and one 2 ½ day refresher HEST course are scheduled between 14th September & 5th October.

This letter outlines the measures the EBU Academy and Objective Travel Safety, the course hosts, are planning to ensure that the course can run as safely as possible whilst Covid -19 is still an issue in Europe. Attached is a health declaration form, more on that later!

Schloss Hexenagger is privately owned and the courses will only run in full co-operation with the owner and his small, dedicated team. Covid cases and related deaths have been in decline in Germany since April and the country has managed to control the virus in a consistent, measured and efficient manner. However, in late July cases are increasing in some areas so the situation will need to be closely monitored. Running the courses is clearly not without risk but the courses are designed to prepare journalists for a range of risks, some equal if not greater than the threat posed by Covid -19. Two of the courses are full so there is clearly an appetite for training and in many ways it's a good use of time whilst international travel is generally on hold. But it's important that those attending the course feel confident enough to attend the course and to get as much from the course as possible in these strange times.

Schloss Hexenagger has ample space so weather permitting most of the training can be conducted outdoors. It's common practice to eat outside at the castle and for these courses it will happen as much as possible. The EBU Academy and Objective Travel Safety will balance the need to deliver a first class training course whilst at the same time making the courses as 'Covid Secure' as possible.

HEST courses have been conducted at Schloss Hexenagger since 2003 so all the trainers have an in-depth knowledge of the location and have an excellent working relationship with the owner and his support staff.

Objective Travel Safety, led by Charlie McGrath, will be conducting a risk assessment on all the training activities and on arrival there will be a full Covid brief. However, the main reduction measures are as follows:

- Adhere to the German and local Bavarian government control measures.
- Students and trainers will be required to complete a Covid health declaration form 14 days prior to the start of the course. This can be found below at Annex A.
- Temperature checks will be taken twice a day by the course medical trainer, Grant Wootton.

- Each student will have his or her own room and bathroom facilities.
- Students numbers will be restricted to 10.
- Bedrooms will not be cleaned during the student's stay. This measure is designed to protect the occupant and the cleaners.
- All 'common areas' will be cleaned daily and commonly touched surfaces such as door handles and light switches will be frequently cleaned.
- Each training activity will be risk assessed and control measures implemented.
- The castle has ample space both inside and out – this will allow sufficient social distancing.
- As much of the training as possible will be conducted outside.
- Additional tables will be bought for main lecture room to ensure minimum of 1.5m between students during theory lectures.
- Meals to be taken outside, weather permitting & perhaps the use of a tent. Social distancing at meal times will be maintained at 1.5 m.
- PPE; masks, face visors and gloves will be provided although students are be asked to bring their own masks.
- Hand sanitiser will be readily available.
- There will be minimal contact between staff at the castle and students.
- Some medical training activities such as airway control will have to be restricted.
- Each student will be issued their EBU trauma medical pack at the beginning of the course and will use if for all practical exercises. Additional training bandages will be issued.
- For those being collected from Munich airport a sufficiently sized coach will be provided to enable good social distancing.
- Students in cars will be restricted to 3 persons.

As part of the course control measures, so as to give all those attending the confidence that the risk of infection from Covid -19 is very low, we are asking both trainers and students to sign a Covid Health Declaration form. **The form is attached at Annex A. Please send the form to Camille Boutin 10 days before your course is due to commence.** Her email is boutin@ebu.ch

If you would like to understand more about the measures being taken or indeed have any other questions regarding the course please contact Charlie McGrath: charlie@objectiveteam.com +44 7714760431.

These measures will be reviewed during and between courses.

Nathalie Labourdette
Head of EBU Academy

Annex A: Health Declaration Form

EBU Academy HEST: Covid -19 Declaration Form

As part of a range of measures designed to minimise the risk of Covid -19 infection we are asking all students to sign this health declaration form. Whilst this is not a legally binding document, it will provide a measure of reassurance to those attending that their course colleagues do not pose a risk. This page of the briefing letter must be signed & sent to Camille Boutin, boutin@ebu.ch a minimum of 10 days before the course starts.

Course dates.....

Name.....

Network.....

Email.....

Mobile.....

I declare:

- I am not suffering from any coronavirus symptoms and have not had any symptoms within the previous 7 days
- I have not (as far as they are aware) been in contact with anyone with coronavirus symptoms within the previous 14 days
- I have not 'shielded' or have any underlying health conditions which might make me particularly vulnerable to Covid -19.
- I undertake to declare immediately any onset of symptoms or contact with anyone who has symptoms of Covid-19.
- I agree that should I start showing any symptoms whilst on the course I agree to leave (by private transport) and told to seek medical advice
- I have not visited any high risk locations (abroad or in my home country - to include work assignments to higher risk environment such as hospitals or care home) within the last 14 days.
- If any person develops symptoms, or thinks they may have come into contact with someone who has Covid-19, they are not to attend the training venue and should be isolated for a minimum 7 days and not return for at least a further 14 days
- I agree to having my temperature checked twice a day. Test results will be recorded and anyone with symptoms of a raised temperature (above 37.8°C) will be asked to leave.
- If an individual does not consent to having their temperature taken they will not be admitted to the training area

Signature

Date.....