Dear All,

as is known, art. 2, paragraph 1, a) of decree-law no. 1 of 7 January 2022 introduced the compulsory vaccination requirement for the prevention of SARS-Cov-2 infection, with effect from 1 February 2022, among others, for "university staff".

Therefore, please find below some information on this regard aimed at facilitating a consistent implementation of this provision.

The provision introduces a "compulsory personal performance". Therefore, it must be construed restrictively to identify the “university staff” that will be considered subject to compulsory vaccination (and to which the consequences in case of non-compliance must be applied), with teaching and non-teaching employees who have a permanent or temporary working relationship with the University.

Moreover, under art. 4, paragraphs 2 and 7 of Decree-Law no. 44 of 1 April 2021, vaccination may be omitted or deferred "in the event of an established danger to health, in relation to specific documented clinical conditions, certified by the general practitioner, in compliance with the circulars of the Ministry of Health regarding exemption from SARS-Cov-2 vaccination". In such a case, for the period during which vaccination is omitted or deferred, the staff concerned may also be employed in different tasks, without any reduction in remuneration.

On the other hand, university contractors (meaning, by way of example and without limitation: contract teachers, research fellows, interns, holders of a collaboration contract for teaching and research, coordinated and continuous collaborators, the staff of the research bodies that operate in universities through agreements) must have the green certification, in accordance with the indications previously provided.

Even the staff of companies outside universities, without prejudice to the application of the different and more general age-related measures, is also subject to the Green Pass obligation, due to the specific provision referred to in art. 9-ter.2 of decree-law no. 52 of 22 April 2021.
Under express law provision, compliance with the compulsory vaccination shall be verified in accordance with art. 4-ter, paragraph 3 of decree-law no. 44 of 1 April 2021. To this regard, please note that, precisely in order to facilitate the consequent administrative activities of which the Universities are in charge, this Ministry has already requested to the Ministry of Health, by note sent on 13 January 2022, an update of the operational procedures to allow full interoperability between the information systems of universities and that of the Ministry of Health.

In addition, in view of the resumption of university teaching activities in the second half of the year, on 24 January 2022, a question has been addressed to the Scientific Technical Committee concerning the amendment - due to the further change in the epidemiological scenario and the evolution of the vaccination plan - to the protocols relating to prevention and safety measures to be taken within higher education, including the management of confirmed or suspect cases in university classrooms, also in the light of the most recent quarantine arrangements.

I thank you, as always, for your precious collaboration.

Professor Maria Cristina Messa

Digitally signed by
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To the Rectors and Directors General of the Universities