COVID-19 POLICY AND GUIDANCE UPDATE

April 8, 2022
12:00-1:00 PM

BE BOUNDLESS
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

“We acknowledge that while serving the University of Washington, we are on unceded Coast Salish land, including the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People past and present. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the Duwamish Tribe. This acknowledgement does not take the place of authentic relationships with indigenous communities, but serves as a first step in honoring the land we are on.”
WELCOME & OVERVIEW

Housekeeping
Karen Crow, Outreach & Communications Specialist, Environmental Health & Safety

Presenters
– Katia Harb, Senior Director, Environmental Health & Safety
– Denise Bender, Assistant Director for Occupational Safety and Health, EH&S
– Dennis Garberg, Manager, UW Facilities

Topics
1. Update to University COVID-19 safety policies and procedures
2. Building services, maintenance and HVAC

Q&A with additional panelists
– Shelley Kostrinsky, Assistant Vice Provost, Office of Academic Personnel
– Erin Rice, Assistant Vice President, Human Resources
– Natalie Thiel, COVID-19 Response and Prevention Manager, Environmental Health & Safety
COVID-19 PANDEMIC UPDATES

Some COVID-19 restrictions lifted starting February 2022 due to:

– Decreases in cases and serious illness
– High level of immunity
– New CDC COVID-19 community level framework

COVID-19 is not going away; living with COVID-19
King County COVID-19 Community Level Dashboard

Number of new COVID-19 cases

110.1 new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents in the past 7 days

Number of new COVID-19 hospital admissions

1.1 new COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100,000 residents in the past 7 days

Percent of hospital adult inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients

2.6% of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)

Data as of 4/6/22: Pierce and Snohomish counties, all of WA state, classified as low level at this time

CDC Community Level Chart

COVID-19 Community Levels – Use the Highest Level that Applies to Your Community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)</td>
<td>&lt;10.0</td>
<td>10.0-19.9</td>
<td>≥20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fewer than 200</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)</td>
<td>&lt;10.0%</td>
<td>10.0-14.9%</td>
<td>≥15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 or more</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>&lt;10.0%</td>
<td>≥10.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Public health guidance is based on community level.
UW COVID-19 COMMUNITY LEVELS

- Spring quarter start- case increase as expected
  - BA.2 subvariant increasing
  - More traveling and gathering
  - Fewer restrictions

- Majority of UW cases report mild symptoms

View the UW Case Tracking Dashboard
SUMMARY OF COVID-19 POLICY AND GUIDANCE UPDATES

Policy changes:
1. Face Covering Policy and FAQs
2. UW COVID-19 Prevention Plan

Updated for alignment:
1. COVID-19 Information for Contractors and Vendors
2. COVID-19 Safety Training
3. COVID-19 Prevention Guidelines for In-Person Events

Archived:
> Meeting Safely Focus Sheet
> Eating Space Guidelines
> Showers and Locker Rooms Focus Sheet
HOW DECISIONS ARE MADE AND IMPLEMENTED

University President and Provost
   Board of Deans and Chancellors and Cabinet

UW COVID-19 Incident Command
   Led by Chief of Staff for President and Provost

UW Advisory Committee on Communicable Diseases (ACCD)
   Chaired by EH&S medical director, infectious disease physician and investigator
   Subject matter experts and stakeholders from across University system and EH&S
   Local public health officials invited
   Subcommittees meet as needed

Workgroups /Advisory groups
Institute for Health Metrics & Evaluation
Population Health initiative
Seattle Flu Study
Back to Work/Back to School Groups- Return to on-site work/school decision making, criteria and requirements
COVID-19 Operations group
UNIVERSITY POLICY BASED ON MANY REGULATIONS AND EVOLVING SCIENCE

AGENCIES
- Governor’s Office
- Department of Health (DOH)
- WA Occupational Safety & Health Administration (Labor & Industries)

Local public health agencies
- Public Health - Seattle & King County
- Tacoma Pierce County Public Health

Federal
- CDC public health and health care guidelines,
- NIH guidelines (research)
- OSHA

REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE
- Governor's proclamations and orders
- County directives and orders
- COVID-19 workplace safety rules
- Face covering and PPE rules
- General workplace safety rules
- Healthcare, childcare, K-12 guidelines
- Testing, isolation, and quarantine
- Travel

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UW COVID-19 PREVENTION PLAN

Key Elements (layers)
- Vaccination
- Procedures for sick personnel, reporting and case response
- Good hygiene
- Clean surfaces
- Face coverings, PPE, and alternative strategies
- Communication and training

University Plan applies to all units except:
- UW Medicine medical facilities follow UW Medicine policies and procedures

Unit or site -specific COVID-19 Prevention Plan is now optional:
- Checklist is included at the end of University plan
- Review University Plan and updates with personnel
FACE COVERING POLICY

Required indoors, regardless of vaccination status:

– Healthcare settings
– UW Shuttles
– Returning to campus after COVID-19 illness or close contact

Strongly recommended indoors first two weeks of spring quarter

Recommended starting April 9

Expect the face covering policy to change as pandemic evolves.

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FACE COVERING POLICY

Face coverings are *recommended indoors particularly for*:  
- Immunocompromised and high risk  
- UW-approved vaccine exemption  
- Childcare settings  
- Crowded settings especially when there is a decreased ability to distance from others or when in spaces that may not be well ventilated  
- Activities that generate respiratory aerosols and involve frequent close contact

*Job-specific PPE requirements supersede face covering requirements*
FACE COVERING GUIDANCE

- Masks are still an important layer of protection.
- **Level up** to a well fitted KN95/KF94, N95 or surgical
- **Policy** will be re-evaluated - based on UW community transmission patterns, emergence of new variants, and local/state public health guidance

Please remember: Individuals may need to or choose to wear — or not wear — masks for a wide range of reasons. Thank you for respecting those needs and choices.
FACE COVERINGS

Encouraging mask use when it's not required

You can:

> Remind others that masks offer another layer of protection and they are recommended by the UW
> Politely ask others to wear a mask

Supervisors and instructors: An individual’s decision will have no bearing on their performance rating or working conditions.
FACE COVERINGS

When masks are recommended, but *not* required

You cannot:

- Require masks in the workplace or classroom or other settings where they are recommended
- Require unmasked individuals to leave
- Require the wearing of a mask to receive services
- Refuse to perform job duties
- Refuse to provide services
- Make critical statements towards or about people based on their choice

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COVID-19 CASE & EXPOSURE RESPONSE, REPORTING, NOTIFICATIONS

> All required to self-monitor symptoms daily; stay home if sick
> Managers must ask sick individuals to leave
> Report COVID-19 positive test results to EH&S
> Close contact reporting not required in most cases
> EH&S does contact tracing when a case is reported
> EH&S issues workplace/classroom notifications via the manager or instructor
> Encourage activation of WA Exposure Notifications
View the **COVID-19 Public Health Requirements and Guidance Flowchart**.
An accessible text-only version is available on the EH&S website.

**COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDANCE**

**February 23, 2022 / www.ehs.washington.edu**

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**SCENARIO 1:**
**You tested positive for COVID-19.**
Regardless of your vaccination status and regardless of whether or not you have symptoms.

**STAY HOME AND SELF-ISOLATE.**
Do not go to work or class for 10 days since your symptoms started. Do not go to work until 10 days since your test date (if you were tested). If you were tested by a trusted source, follow CDC isolation recommendations.

**SUBMIT AN EXPOSURE NOTIFICATION VIA WA NOTIFY.**
Go to 6juneos.org to review your exposure alert to determine if you need to test or quarantine. This will also inform you of your risk category in the event of an exposure.

**COMPLETE THE ELECTRONIC SURVEY.**
The COVID-19 Response and Prevention Team will send you a link to an online survey prior to the end of your isolation period.

Did your symptoms improve after 5 days of isolation?

**YES**

- End isolation after 5 days if your symptoms are better.
- Continue to monitor symptoms and self-isolate.

**NO**

- Follow additional precautions through day 10.

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**SCENARIO 2:**
**You were in close contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19.**

**STAY HOME AND SELF-ISOLATE.**
Do not go to work or class for 7 days since your last exposure or as instructed by the contact tracer.

**NOTIFY WA NOTIFY.**
If you were not exposed to a COVID-19 positive case, follow the guidance in the COVID-19 Public Health Requirements and Guidance Flowchart.

**COMPLETE THE ELECTRONIC SURVEY.**
The COVID-19 Response and Prevention Team will send you a link to an online survey prior to the end of your isolation period.

Did your symptoms improve after 5 days of isolation?

**YES**

- End isolation after 5 days if your symptoms are better.
- Continue to monitor symptoms and self-isolate.

**NO**

- Follow additional precautions through day 10.

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**SCENARIO 3:**
**You have a symptom(s) of COVID-19 but no known exposure to a COVID-19 positive individual.**

**STAY HOME AND SELF-ISOLATE.**
Do not go to work or class for 7 days since your last exposure or as instructed by the contact tracer.

**WEBSITE:**
Download the CDC's COVID-19 app to help track your exposure.

**COMPLETE THE ELECTRONIC SURVEY.**
The COVID-19 Response and Prevention Team will send you a link to an online survey prior to the end of your isolation period.

Did your symptoms improve after 5 days of isolation?

**YES**

- End isolation after 5 days if your symptoms are better.
- Continue to monitor symptoms and self-isolate.

**NO**

- Follow additional precautions through day 10.
COVID-19 VACCINATION POLICY

- UW personnel and students are still required to be vaccinated OR have a University-approved medical or religious exemption.
  - Weekly testing required for those with UW-approved exemptions
- Contractors, vendors required to follow UW Vaccination Policy
- UW units must verify the vaccination status of volunteers
- Vaccine verification for event entry is no longer required
- Visitors are not required to be vaccinated, except in some settings
  Refer to the Vaccine verification by population webpage on the UWHR website.
- Boosters strongly recommended for all who are eligible
Eating/drinking and meeting guidance archived
- Designated eating spaces are optional (not required)
- Best practices included in UW COVID-19 Prevention Plan
- Distance while eating when possible
- Choose well-ventilated spaces

COVID-19 Safety Training
- Updated 4/6/22
- Required for all personnel
COVID TESTING

> Many local testing options available
> [Husky Coronavirus Testing (HCT), a voluntary research study](#)
> Local [UW Medicine](#) (E4) testing
> Community testing sites
> More people are testing at home
> Testing planning in process for next academic year—more antigen tests available
> [Types of COVID-19 tests: PCR vs. antigen](#)

*Image source: Seattle Flu Study*
Hand sanitizing dispensers at main entrances to buildings

UW COVID-19 cleaning schedule is still followed

- Daily frequent touch point cleaning in restrooms, conference rooms and other areas in which faculty and staff congregate
- Second frequent touch point disinfection of restrooms
- Classrooms, lecture halls and auditoriums will be cleaned before the first class of the day
- Staff and faculty are responsible for daily cleaning and disinfection of their individual work-spaces
Building ventilation systems are safe and ready for normal occupancy
- MERV 13 filters meeting CDC & WA L&I standards in place
- Systems operated and maintained throughout the pandemic
- Routine maintenance checks performed monthly on filters
- Extended operating hours for mechanical systems
- Increased outside air ventilation rates where possible

Supplemental precautions underway
- Spot checking air flow in classrooms
- Installing and maintaining air purifiers in small and medium classrooms, eating areas and other spaces designated by EH&S

Process in place to resolve reports of ventilation issues
- Contact UWF Customer Care Team to report concerns
- UWF and EH&S working group will assess and resolve
UW FACILITIES – AIR PURIFIERS

- **Current major effort is the first 6-month filter replacement**
  - Replacement air filter kits on the way for September ‘22
- **Maintaining ~5% inventory for ongoing placement requests**

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HEERF Funded</th>
<th>Dept Funded</th>
<th>UWF Funded</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classrooms</td>
<td>1,212</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eating areas</td>
<td>269</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td>78</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tacoma</td>
<td>162</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bothell</td>
<td>250</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not allocated, temp placement, other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2023</strong></td>
<td><strong>78</strong></td>
<td><strong>133</strong></td>
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UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON
Facilitator: Karen Crow, EH&S Outreach and Communications

Facilities:
- Dennis Garberg, Manager, UW Facilities

Human Resources (HR) /Office of Academic Personnel (OAP)
- Shelley Kostrinsky, Assistant Vice Provost, OAP
- Erin Rice, Assistant Vice President, HR

EH&S:
- Denise Bender, Assistant Director for Occupational Safety & Health
- Natalie Thiel, Manager, COVID-19 Response and Prevention
- Katia Harb, senior director, EH&S
Get updated UW COVID-19 policies

Visit the COVID-19 Health and Safety webpage for a list of updated policies

READ MORE
RESOURCES

University Novel coronavirus & COVID-19
www.uw.edu/coronavirus

EH&S COVID-19 Health and Safety Resources
www.ehs.washington.edu/covid-19-health-and-safety-resources

UW HR / Academic HR
hr.uw.edu/returntowork
ap.washington.edu

UW Facilities
facilities.uw.edu/buildings/covid
CONTACTS

> EH&S General: ehsdept@uw.edu
> EH&S COVID-19 Response & Prevention: covidehc@uw.edu
> UW FACILITIES: careteam@uw.edu
> UW HUMAN RESOURCES: Contact your unit’s human resources consultant hr.uw.edu/contact-us/
> Office of Academic Personnel: apleaves@uw.edu