WELCOME & OVERVIEW

EH&S Presenters/Panelists

- Denise Bender, EH&S assistant director for occupational safety and health
- Geoff Gottlieb, EH&S medical director, UW Medicine infectious disease physician and researcher, Chair of UW Advisory Committee on Communicable Diseases
- Katia Harb, EH&S director
- Brandon Kemperman, EH&S occupational safety and health manager
- Eleanor Wade, EH&S occupational safety and health manager, research & occupational safety

Topics

- Overview of University COVID-19 Prevention Plan
- Face Coverings
- Vaccination policy
- COVID-19 case response procedures
- Building readiness- HVAC

Q&A
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

WA State
- 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 proclamation for higher education
- General workplace safety and health rules for COVID-19
- Face covering, respirator, PPE rules
- General workplace safety rules
- Several industry regulations (e.g., sports, food, retail, museums)
- Travel
- Testing, isolation and quarantine
- Childcare, K-12, youth programs
- Health care rules
COVID-19 PREVENTION PLAN

- Several layers working together—Key Elements
  - Vaccination – most important
  - Sick policies/procedures, testing, reporting, contact tracing
  - Practicing good hygiene
  - Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces
  - Face coverings, PPE, physical distancing recommended
  - Communication and training
  - Building and HVAC

- Review and update your plans periodically and when changes are made (quarterly is recommended)
- Units required to train personnel on plans and updates
CURRENT FACE COVERING POLICY

*Expect face covering requirements to change as pandemic evolves*

> All individuals are required to wear a face covering indoors, regardless of vaccination status when other people are present and in all public and common areas, including, but not limited to lobbies, hallways, stairways, restrooms, elevators, and in shared vehicles.

> **Outdoors**, when at an event with 500 or more
MASKS CAN BE REMOVED WHEN:

> Outdoors
  - Strongly recommend in crowded outdoor settings or when you cannot keep a distance
> Alone inside office with closed door
> Actively eating or drinking
> Actively performing
> Alone in a vehicle
> **New: University personnel verified to be fully vaccinated may temporarily remove their face coverings when formally presenting to or instructing a group or class in a large space from behind a podium or in a stage-like setting. A physical distance of at least six feet from others is required at all times while the face covering is removed.**
> Units provide face coverings to personnel (2 face coverings per employee). Units also provide any required personal protective equipment (e.g., procedure mask).
PHYSICAL DISTANCING

> Required, regardless of vaccination status
  - In healthcare facilities, Childcare, K-12 settings, including youth programs

> Recommended
  - Non-fully vaccinated individuals
  - When eating and drinking
  - In crowded settings or in areas that are not well ventilated
EATING AND DRINKING GUIDANCE

Minimize time without a mask while eating and drinking

> Designate eating and drinking spaces where possible, set time limits to allow rotation for others
> Distance while eating, choose well ventilated spaces
> Hydration at desks ok- minimize time without a mask
> EH&S eating and drinking guidance published
> Do not eat or permit eating during indoor classroom sessions or active meetings. Offer break times during longer meetings to allow attendees to eat/drink elsewhere (i.e., in their private office, in a less crowded designated eating space, or outdoors) as needed. Intermittent hydration is ok.
VACCINATION POLICY

> Approximately 97% of students and employees who have attested so far, indicated they are fully vaccinated (over 85% response rate for students, 89% response rate for employees so far)

> UW personnel and students are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19
  – Unless, they have a University approved medical and religious exemption. Unvaccinated will have enhanced safety measures (e.g., testing).

> Supervisors are able to view the vaccination status of their direct reports in Workday.

> Student vaccination data is only viewed by Hall Health and Executive Office, including EH&S.

> Vaccine Verification
  – For students- Hall Health Center
  – For employees- HR, Office of Academic Personnel, HR representatives
COVID-19 CASE & EXPOSURE REPORTING, RESPONSE, NOTIFICATIONS

> Individuals required to self-monitor and stay home if they are sick or experience COVID-19 symptoms.

> Reporting illness/exposure: Regardless of vaccination status, report COVID-19 positive test result and close contact exposure to EH&S.
  - Report at covidehc@uw.edu. Contact tracers will provide specific guidance for isolation, testing, and if needed quarantine.
  - If student/employee reports positive result or exposure to you, inform them to report to EH&S and it helps if you also report it.
  - Close contact is being within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes cumulatively over 24 hrs
  - Cases self-isolate at home for 10 days

> No quarantine for close contacts who are vaccinated unless they experience symptoms. However, they are tracked by EH&S for 14 days and instructed to get tested and wear a mask for 14 days around others.

> Quarantine for non-vaccinated close contacts. Vaccinated close contacts stay home if they develop symptoms during 14 day monitoring period.
COVID-19 CASE & EXPOSURE REPORTING, RESPONSE, NOTIFICATIONS

- Contact tracing: EH&S will conduct contact tracing and issue workplace and classroom notifications via the instructor or manager that provides information while maintaining privacy.
  - Please work with EH&S on any communications related to COVID cases or exposures.
- Close coordination with local public health agencies including daily reporting of cases. Potential outbreaks also reported.
- **Activate WA Exposure notify to support contact tracing efforts.**
- Case summaries on public dashboard
Example Notification Dashboard

WORKPLACE/CLASSROOM COVID-19 NOTIFICATION
(Sent from department management, building coordinator, or class instructor to people in the work area or in-person class)

We learned that a person who tested positive for COVID-19 spent time in Miller Hall, Room 725, on January 22-25, 2020 when they may have been infectious to others. The person who tested positive is recovering at home and we wish them well.

Individuals identified as having been in "close contact" with the person who tested positive for COVID-19 are contacted by the University's contact tracing team and provided instructions for getting tested, monitoring for symptoms, and, if needed, quarantining. "Close contact" is defined as being within six feet for at least 15 minutes cumulatively during a 24-hour period.

If you are not contacted by a contact tracer, you have not been identified as a close contact. Activate WA Exposure Notify on your mobile device to support contact tracing efforts and ensure you are notified if you have had close contact with someone who tested positive. If you have any concerns about possible exposure, get tested and contact the UW COVID-19 Response & Prevention Team in the Environmental Health & Safety Department (EHS) at covidhec@uw.edu.

The University's custodians follow the University's COVID-19 cleaning protocol and regularly clean high-touch surfaces in common areas of UW buildings. The surfaces used by the individual who tested positive have been cleaned since they were last in the space.

As a reminder, if you experience any COVID-19 symptoms, such as cough, fever, shortness of breath, chills, sore throat, muscle pain, loss of taste or smell, unexplained headache, and gastrointestinal symptoms— even if you are fully vaccinated:

1. Stay Home, do not go to work or class, or to any public location (except a health care facility/testing site).
2. Get tested. Enroll in the Husky Coronavirus Testing program or read the University COVID-19 FAQ, I want to get tested for COVID-19. Where can I go?
3. If you test positive, notify EHS at covidhec@uw.edu or 206-616-3344.

The most important things we can all do to limit the spread of COVID-19 are:

King county 6.7% of tests positive, 7 day average as of Aug 31. Expected to be lower now.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
Husky Coronavirus Testing Program (HCT)

- Return to campus testing in process.
- HCT works in close coordination with EH&S.
- Ongoing community testing for those not fully vaccinated, for all those with symptoms or those exposed. Surge testing as needed.
- Mandatory weekly testing for non-vaccinated implemented soon.
- UW Club testing site (walk-ins are now welcome), test kits also mailed and available in residence halls.
- UW Medicine will also maintain test site at E4 parking lot.
Building ventilation systems are safe and ready for normal occupancy:
- MERV 13 filters meeting CDC & WA L&I standards in place and regularly checked.
- Systems operated and maintained throughout the pandemic.
- Extra checks performed during ramp up to fall quarter.
- Extended operating hours for mechanical systems.
- Increased outside air ventilation rates where possible.

Supplemental precautions underway:
- Spot checking air flow in classrooms.
- Installing air purifiers in small and medium classrooms, eating areas and other designated spaces.

Process in place to resolve reports of ventilation problems:
- Ventilation assessments of classroom/instructional spaces.
- Contract UWF Customer Care Team to report problems.
- UWF and EH&S working group will assess and resolve problems.
- Place a work order.
Hand sanitizing dispensers at main entrances to buildings
Cleaning wipes will be placed centrally
Re-started normal cleaning operations Sept 13, 2021
  • Daily high-touch point cleaning in restrooms, conference rooms and other areas in which faculty and staff congregate
  • Second high-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
EH&S POLICIES, GUIDELINES, RESOURCES

COVID-19 Health and Safety Resources

Updated July 9, 2021, at 8:07 a.m.

The Environmental Health & Safety Department (EH&S) has developed COVID-19 prevention guidance and resources for the UW community.

Additional information for the UW community about COVID-19 is available on the UW Novel coronavirus & COVID-19 page.

UW students or employees reporting a positive COVID-19 test result, close contact exposure or a related issue, please email covidehc@uw.edu or call 206.616.3344.

What's new

New and updated COVID-19 safety policies and guidelines as of July 7, 2021

1. Physical distancing is no longer required regardless of vaccination status in most settings: Physical distancing is recommended for individuals who are not fully vaccinated when in crowded areas or in spaces that are not well ventilated.

CONTACT

Environmental Health & Safety Department
Contact
(206) 543-7262
ehsdept@uw.edu

REFERENCE FILES

University of Washington COVID-19 Prevention Plan for the Workplace (Word, updated 7/8/21)
1.92MB (.docx)

University of Washington COVID-19 Prevention Plan for the Workplace (PDF, updated 7/8/21)
252.558KB (.pdf)

Please contact us with questions or for assistance.

Please be patient as we continue to work to update guidance.
RESOURCES

University Novel coronavirus & COVID-19
www.washington.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/coronavirus / ap.washington.edu ahr/resources/covid-19-resources

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

> UW EH&S General: ehsdept@uw.edu
> UW EH&S Employee Health Center: covidehc@uw.edu
> UW FACILITIES: careteam@uw.edu
> UW HUMAN RESOURCES: Contact your unit’s human resources consultant hr.uw.edu/contact-us/
> UW ACADEMIC HR: apleaves@uw.edu
> REPORT A CONCERN: www.ehs.washington.edu/report-concern