BUILDING READINESS GUIDELINES

Last updated: 10-27-2021

These guidelines provide an overview of how the University of Washington is ensuring building readiness on the Seattle campus as faculty, staff and students return. It describes what UW Facilities (UWF) is doing to prepare, as well as what activities are the responsibility of building coordinators, instructional support staff and occupants as they return to campus.

This document has been developed in coordination with Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) and other campus partners and is intended to supplement the requirements of the UW COVID-19 Prevention Plan for the Workplace. It is revised as new information or guidelines are released, with a change log posted online.

Please send general questions to the UWF Customer Care Team at careteam@uw.edu. For questions specific to your unit or program, please reach out to your account manager.

Please note: Campus buildings and facilities vary widely in age, condition and systems. Many have unique issues that may need further investigation and support beyond the general guidelines included in this document. Building-specific concerns should be reported to and managed by your building coordinator who will work in conjunction with UW Facilities and EH&S.

CONTENTS

COVID-19 Safety Training..............................................................................................................................................................2
Hand Washing/Sanitizing.......................................................................................................................................................................2
Face Coverings......................................................................................................................................................................................2
Individual Building Checklists ..........................................................................................................................................................3
Cleaning and Disinfection......................................................................................................................................................................3
Signage............................................................................................................................................................................................3
Space Planning/Traffic Flow ...............................................................................................................................................................4
Elevators/Stairwells............................................................................................................................................................................4
Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC) Systems....................................................................................................................4
Plumbing Systems (Potable Water)......................................................................................................................................................5
Restrooms .......................................................................................................................................................................................6
Instructional Spaces...........................................................................................................................................................................6
Conference Rooms/Shared Spaces ....................................................................................................................................................6
Change Log......................................................................................................................................................................................7
COVID-19 Safety Training

Building occupants:
- COVID-19 Safety Training must be completed by all University personnel before or upon returning to work on site at a University location. University units (e.g.: medical centers) may provide their own training that covers the elements of the University's COVID-19 Safety Training. University units that wish to provide their own training to personnel may download and utilize the Back to the Workplace training slides. Units that provide their own COVID-19 safety training for returning to work must document and retain attendance records as required by Governor Inslee's Healthy Washington Roadmap to Recovery Plan.

- Personnel must also receive training on the unit or site-specific COVID-19 Prevention Plan by their supervisors.

Hand Washing/Sanitizing

UW Facilities:
- Custodians check and refill soap dispensers in restrooms on a daily basis and as needed based on use rates.

- Hand sanitizer stations are provided at main building entrances where possible and in accordance with EH&S guidelines on hand sanitizer.

Building coordinators:
- Place “Wash Your Hands the Right Way” signage explaining best handwashing practices in or near restrooms or other handwashing stations.

Building occupants:
- Wash your hands after contacting high-touch areas such as door handles, elevator buttons, phones, remote controls, light switches, bathroom fixtures, and water fountains.

- Ensure handwashing strategies include washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before and after eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. For more details, see the “Good Hygiene” section of the UW COVID-19 Prevention Plan for the Workplace.

- Make hand sanitizer available in department/unit spaces as needed.

Face Coverings

Building occupants:
- All individuals are required to wear a face covering indoors, regardless of vaccination status, when on site at a University of Washington location. This requirement is applicable indoors 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. See UW Face Covering Requirements for more information.

- Face coverings must also be worn at any outdoor in-person event hosted or sponsored by the University or conducted on University of Washington premises with 500 or more people in attendance.
Individual Building Checklists

Building coordinators:

➢ Make sure you understand how building readiness applies to your particular facility.

➢ Complete the [EH&S Building Readiness Checklist](#) by September 1st.
  - Notify UW Facilities that the checklist has been completed for the space/building that you are responsible by using this [special reporting form](#).
  - Please do NOT send checklist completion information via the online work order request system or by calling Customer Care.
  - For any problems identified during your check of the building, please submit a [work order request](#).

Cleaning and Disinfection

UW Facilities:

➢ In preparation for the UW community’s return to campus, custodial staff conducted a one-time deep clean and disinfection of spaces in academic, research and administrative buildings. This includes upholstery and carpet cleaning, appliance cleaning, window blinds cleaning and refinishing of floors.

➢ Daily custodial service to all buildings will continue as it has in the past. This includes daily high-touch point cleaning in restrooms, conference rooms and other areas in which faculty and staff congregate. Custodians will conduct a second high-touch point disinfection daily of restrooms.

➢ UW custodial units follow the [UW Cleaning and Disinfection Protocol](#). Supplemental personnel are on standby if needed, including dedicated hazardous and biological material specialists.

Building occupants:

➢ Staff and faculty will need to resume daily enhanced cleaning and disinfection of their individual work spaces when they return to their buildings. Departments are recommended to purchase and provide single-use disinfectant wipes for human touch points within their work spaces such as keyboards, public counters, credit card readers, phones, and other shared surfaces and items.

➢ University units can purchase EPA-registered cleaning and disinfectant products approved for use against SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19 illness) at the [Creative Communications Safe and Clean Storefront](#). Information about accessing the storefront is available from [UW Procurement](#).

Signage

Building coordinators:

➢ Remove and replace outdated “Stay Healthy, Huskies” posters, including “Face coverings are required”, “Physical distancing at work”, “Stay Healthy, Huskies” and “Back to the workplace”.

➢ Post new posters as they become available, such as “This area is designated for eating and drinking.”
Other “Stay Healthy, Huskies” posters can remain posted. These posters include: “Stop! Feeling sick? Stay home!”, “Wash your hands the right way”, “Access is limited”, and “Clean and disinfect”.

Updated digital versions of these posters are available for free download from the “Stay Healthy, Huskies” website. Durable versions (clings, graphics, posters, etc.) can be purchased through Creative Communications COVID/Safety Visuals website.

Post all posters in highly visible locations as appropriate such as building lobbies, common areas, safety bulletin boards, break rooms, near elevators, and at entrances to unit/department work areas.

In addition to the signage mentioned above, provide regular announcements on reducing the spread of COVID-19. Building-specific COVID prevention instructions and information may also be included in building newsletters, elevator posters, and other formats where building occupants receive information.

**Space Planning/Traffic Flow**

**Building coordinators:**
- Emergency egress shall be as normally defined in your facility’s Evacuation Plans.

**Elevators/Stairwells**

**Building coordinators:**
- Based on the new EH&S guidelines physical distancing is not required regardless of vaccination status except for health care, child care and K-12 settings. The following items only apply in those situations.

- Post signage reminding people to observe physical distancing guidelines while waiting in the lobby for the next available elevator car, or to consider using the stairs.

- Where feasible, establish one-way stairwell traffic. This means one stairwell utilized for traffic going “UP” and one for traffic going “DOWN”. **Emergency egress shall be as normally defined in your facility’s Evacuation Plans.**

**Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC) Systems**

UW Facilities has been maintaining all building HVAC systems since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and these systems have not been shut off. The UW is following the best practices as outlined by public health agencies and EH&S in evaluating and adjusting building HVAC systems. No two UW buildings are alike and each one has a unique HVAC setup with differences in age, capacity, and type. This means that what might be the best solution for one building isn’t appropriate for another building.

UWF is following the recommendations set forth by the HVAC industry which states that it is best to continue running HVAC systems during this COVID-19 pandemic. HVAC technicians are focused on ensuring that systems are in good working order and are making corrections as needed.
UW Facilities continues to partner with EH&S to address questions and concerns regarding HVAC systems and have jointly developed a list of COVID-19 RTW Ventilation FAQs.

**UW Facilities:**

- UW Facilities conducted an HVAC system check on all buildings curtailed during 2020-2021 academic year prior to returning them to normal occupancy in August 2021. Examples: Supply and return fans operating as designed, building exhaust fans operating as designed, and outside air, return air and exhaust air dampers working.

- UW Facilities purchased and installed portable air purifiers into small and medium sized classrooms, select student collaboration spaces, designated eating spaces and other spaces identified on a case by case basis in consultation with EH&S.

- The UW hired a testing, adjusting, and balancing (TAB) contractor and industrial hygiene (IH) consultant to provide mechanical ventilation assessments and data validation for 93 classrooms in UW-owned buildings at the main Seattle Campus. The Classroom Ventilation Performance Summary Report (10/21/21) summarizes the results.

- UW Facilities completed an out-of-cycle inspection of all air filters in the HVAC systems on campus and continue to check and change filters as necessary.

- Where possible, UW Facilities increased the amount of outside airflow in building HVAC systems. The amount of outside air is adjusted with guidance from EH&S.

**Building coordinators:**

- Please refer to the EHS Building Coordinator Checklist for more information.

**Building occupants:**

- Most spaces with operable windows were designed for natural ventilation, so it is suggested that windows be opened when available. For security reasons and to prevent pest infestation, remember to close windows at night.

**Plumbing Systems (Potable Water)**

Flushing water systems on a regular basis in unoccupied or low-occupancy buildings is an important way to reduce the risks of water-borne diseases from stagnant or standing water.

**UW Facilities:**

- On a weekly basis, flush fixture groups (cold and hot) for restroom sinks, urinals, toilets, drinking (water) fountains/bottle fillers, kitchenette sinks and laboratory faucets (in teaching classrooms). This is a continuation of work that has been ongoing since the campus closed in March 2020. Follow EH&S and public health guidance for flushing and representative testing if required.

- Plumbing Shops have maintained domestic hot water and lab hot water systems on normal operating schedules, with no change to the temperature set point (typically > 120°F).

**Building coordinators:**
Building Coordinators should continue weekly testing of emergency eyewashes in public corridors to flush water through the system. Principal Investigators are also asked to periodically flush eyewashes and laboratory faucets in research areas (once per week).

Contact UWF Customer Care if eyewashes or laboratory faucets cannot be flushed weekly.

**Restrooms**

**UW Facilities**

- Custodial staff thoroughly clean and disinfect all restroom facilities at least once a day. Custodians will conduct a second high-touch point disinfection daily as well. Please do not enter restrooms while cleaning is in progress.

- Facilities staff also flush water down every fixture on a weekly basis (see Plumbing Systems, above). For this reason, unused toilets or urinals may not be covered or blocked.

**Building occupants**

- When entering a restroom, assess the number of occupants and wait in the hallway if the facility is at capacity. Do not linger in restrooms. Keep your stay as short as possible and wear a face covering at all times. Do not enter restrooms when custodial staff are cleaning.

- Wait at least a minute to enter a stall after the toilet has been flushed by the prior user. Turn your head away from the toilet when flushing.

- Adjacent stalls may be used when partitions are in place.

**Instructional Spaces**

**UW Facilities:**

- Custodial Services conduct a fully daily cleaning of classrooms with disinfection of high-touch points.

**Building coordinators:**

- Post COVID-19 Cleaning and Disinfection Protocols document in all spaces used for instruction: [COVID-19 Prevention: Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection Protocols](#).

**Instructional support staff:**

- Maintain inventory stock of supplies for safe classroom operation (staff and classroom occupants) available through the Safe and Clean Storefront:
  - Face coverings and masks
  - Cleaning solutions/sprays
  - Disinfectant wipes
  - Hand sanitizer
  - Gloves

Supplies for General Assignment and Health Sciences managed instructional spaces will be provided by those groups. **Department-managed instructional spaces are responsible for their own supplies.**

**Conference Rooms/Shared Spaces**
Follow the [Eating and Drinking Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention](#) best practices when eating and drinking, food sharing, and designating areas for eating and drinking.

For questions about cafeteria or food service facilities on campus, see the [EH&S Food Establishment Reopening Guidance](#).

Individuals who are hosting an event or social gathering at a UW location must follow the [COVID-19 Prevention Guidelines for In-Person Events](#).

### Change Log

**10/27/21:** Updated the following sections: Face Coverings, Signage, Heating Ventilation & Air Condition (HVAC) Systems, Instructional Spaces, and Conference Rooms/Shared Spaces.

**8/30/21:** Updated the following sections: Elevators/Stairwells, Restrooms, and Instructional Spaces.

**8/20/21:** Updated the following sections: Face Coverings, Individual Building Checklists, Cleaning and Disinfection, Heating, Ventilation & Air Condition (HVAC) Systems, and Conference Rooms/Shared Spaces. Removed Pleixglass and Other Barriers section.


**4/28/21:** Clarified that safety guidelines apply regardless of vaccination status and that face coverings are required outdoors if keeping a six-foot distance isn’t possible. Updated HVAC information and made other minor updates throughout. Updated links to state guidelines.

**10/23/20:** Updated definition of close contact to match [CDC definition](#).

**10/15/20:** Updated Instructional Spaces section to add a handout from Academic Technologies.

**10/1/20:** Updated Instructional Spaces section to include information about how to request on-campus space.

**9/17/20:** Added Instructional Spaces section.

**9/15/20:** Links added to building checklist and restroom guidance documents from EH&S and to building systems curtailment web page.

**8/27/20:** Added Restroom and Visitor Log sections. Updated classroom cleaning plans in the Cleaning and Disinfection section.

**7/17/20:** Added information/links regarding HVAC systems and water testing protocol.

**6/29/20:** First version of document published.