Inclement Weather/Suspended Operations

The University’s normal policy is to remain open during inclement weather. In the event of severe inclement weather that closes the University, the Power Plant must continue to operate, roads must be cleared to allow access for fuel deliveries and emergency vehicles, solid waste must be disposed of, and support systems for students, patients and research animals must be maintained. Depending on the extent and duration of the emergency, other support personnel, including administrative staff, may be needed.

In the event of an emergency situation adversely affecting University operations, public health, or the well-being and safety of the campus community, the University President or his/her designee may declare a suspended operation of any or all operations of the institution. Emergency situations that might initiate such a suspension include, but are not limited to, severe weather conditions, natural disaster, fire or related hazard, pandemic, mechanical and/or equipment failure.

When the University suspends its academic and administrative operations because of severe weather conditions or other emergencies, Harborview Medical Center, UW Medical Centers, the UW Police Department, Facilities Services, and Housing and Food Services provide essential services that must continue even when the University is closed.

Most Facilities Services departments provide essential services and essential staff must report to work even if it is announced that the University is closed. Essential services employees will be informed by their supervisor of their responsibilities should severe weather or other emergency require that the University suspends its operations. Supervisors must periodically review with their staff the department’s responsibilities in case of inclement weather and/or suspended operations.

Employees required to work when University operations have been suspended shall receive their regular rate of pay for work performed including overtime as appropriate during the suspended operation.

More information about the University’s policies and procedures on Inclement Weather and/or Suspended Operations, including provisions regarding leave use for employees not directly involved in essential services can be found at the following web pages:

UW Inclement Weather Policy

UW Suspended Operations Policy

For information about the three University of Washington Seattle campus operations during emergency situations or severe weather conditions, call:

206 897-4636 OR 1-866-897-4636 (toll free)