Governor Inslee’s Healthy Washington - Roadmap to Recovery outlines health and safety guidelines as our state recovers and continues to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic. The state has also issued guidelines for higher education institutions and requirements for COVID-19 prevention in the workplace (via the Department of Labor and Industries). These state guidelines and requirements govern the University’s ability to gradually reopen in a safe way as the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic improve.

As Washington state advances to Phase 3 of the Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery plan, this document provides updated guidance for UW campuses, units and personnel for instruction-related activities during spring quarter and summer quarter, as well as advance planning guidance for a largely in-person autumn quarter. Notably:

- This guidance is relevant for the period of March 29 – September 10, 2021 regardless of Phase 3 or Phase 4 status. However, if the health situation deteriorates on a campus or locally, units will need to be prepared to return to prior phases as needed and directed.

- **Specific guidance for autumn quarter and beyond, including campus vaccination policies, will be provided as state guidelines are updated and state vaccination efforts progress.**

- A key constraint for operations is the state requirement for physical distancing. Currently, the state requires six feet of physical distancing in the classroom and workplace, with exceptions only for K-12 classrooms (three feet) and in exceptional cases and with additional PPE and/or other safety measures. This is the case regardless of vaccination status. A change in this requirement by the state will be necessary before significant return to in-person work or instruction can occur on campus given space capacity limitations. We anticipate the state will review distancing and density guidelines in late spring or early summer.

**Key considerations for spring and summer operations**

- While COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have declined significantly from winter peaks, the arrival of new COVID-19 variants in the region require continued caution.

- Vaccination efforts are underway, but supply remains a challenge. All adults in Washington will be eligible by May 1, but the state expects it will take into the summer for all adults to be vaccinated.

- State guidelines still require six feet of distancing in university classrooms and the workplace, and density restrictions remain in place for specific university functions (housing and dining, gyms, museums, performing arts spaces, spectator sports, youth programs).

- State guidelines still require face covering/masking requirements in all University spaces.
• Employee support structures – such as public transportation, K-12 schools, and childcare – are slowly recovering but are anticipated to remain constrained into the late spring and early summer.

What is changing for spring and summer operations (March 29 – September 10, Phase 3 or Phase 4)

• Limited in-person academic and co-curricular activities are permitted. These activities include:
  o Small group informal instruction (for example, office hours)
  o Small group academic-related meetings
  o Meetings of registered student organizations

These in-person activities **must** meet the following requirements:
  o Participation is voluntary
  o Attendance and/or participation in these activities cannot be factored into grades
  o Equity must be considered. If students are unable to attend an in-person activity an alternative remote option must be offered.
  o The total number of attendees are within space capacity limitations as dictated by health guidelines (distancing, masking, cleaning)
  o Coordination with Building Coordinators to review building readiness guidelines and ensure spaces can be accessed occupied in a safe manner
  o Participants must maintain six feet of physical distancing and masks/face coverings must be worn
  o Instructors and staff are required to complete the daily attestation through Workday before coming to campus. Students, faculty and staff are strongly encouraged to sign up for Husky Coronavirus Testing and the WANotify exposure notification app.

• Guidance for specific UW functions (housing and dining, gyms, museums, performing arts spaces, spectator sports, youth programs) will be updated to align with state guidelines in appropriate phases.

• **Events guidance** has been updated to both incorporate state guidelines and specific university operational needs. Regardless of state capacity allowances, any events of more than 100 people require EH&S review. Any in-person commencement or graduation celebrations, to the extent determined allowable, will receive specific, separate events guidance.

• We encourage every member of the UW community to get vaccinated when they are eligible.

What will NOT change for spring and summer operations (March 29 – September 10, Phase 3 or Phase 4) **regardless of vaccination status**

• Classroom instruction will largely be offered remotely consistent with the time schedules for spring and summer quarters.
• The State and University still require masks/face coverings. The UW’s policy is posted to the EH&S site.

• Anyone who is sick or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, must stay home. Instructors, students or staff with COVID-19 symptoms should also get tested and are required to notify the UW Environmental Health & Safety COVID-19 Response and Prevention team (covidehc@uw.edu) if they test positive.

• High-risk individuals requesting accommodation must be accommodated.

Planning for autumn quarter

The University is working towards welcoming the Husky community back to campuses this autumn, including providing as much in-person instruction as possible. We understand that transition back to “a new normal” of campus operations will require time and patience.

Here are some things everyone can do to help ensure we can be together:

• Stay healthy – Wash your hands, wear a mask, and watch your distance.

• Get vaccinated – More information about state eligibility criteria and vaccination opportunities is available at uw.edu/coronavirus/vaccines.

• Remember the Husky PACK Pledge – Take care of yourself and each other. The pandemic has had a profound impact on many. Be patient and be kind.

Here are some things instructors and staff can do to help ensure we can be together safely:

• Remember that your decisions have impact on others. Returning to campus requires additional support from our University essential workers – many of whom have been working throughout the pandemic and are still not yet eligible for vaccinations. Also, units in shared or co-located spaces will need to make sure that they are working with their “neighbors” to keep spaces clean and safe. Keep lines of communication open, request support early so central services have time to plan and, when in doubt, ask for help.

• Consider your actions not only from a “COVID safety” lens, but also an equity lens. Pay particular attention to essential workers, caregiver supports and others significantly impacted by the pandemic.

Here are some things the University is doing to ensure we can be together:

• Developing strategies to expand convenient, safe, vaccine access for UW students, faculty and staff as supplies and eligibility expand.

• Continuing to support Husky Coronavirus Testing to allow access to free and convenient testing for students, faculty and staff coming to campus.
• Staying on top of all state and local COVID-19 regulations and requirements and advocating for safe strategies so we can return to “new normal” operations.

• Advocating for state and federal support to mitigate COVID-19 financial losses and impacts.

Additional Resources:

  • Building Readiness Guidelines
  • EH&S COVID-19 Health and Safety Resources
  • COVID-19 Vaccine Information