Office of Research: Archive page for COVID-19 guidance

Last update: 7.8.21

https://www.washington.edu/research/wp-content/uploads/COVID-19-Web-Archives-for-Research.pdf

Mitigating Impacts to Research Activities Due to COVID-19

Background

Current Healthy Washington status: Phase 3

[Note: All documents within this page referring to Phase 2 are currently being updated and replaced with Phase 3 content]

[Updated 3.22.2021] As of March 22, 2021, the State of Washington is in Phase 3 for Healthy Washington:

Healthy Washington plan (pdf) and its Campus Reopening

(pdf) and

Travel : Updated travel quarantine guidance: Anyone who has traveled should still quarantine for either 7 days if they test negative 3-5 days after returning or 10 days if they do not get tested, even if vaccinated. See this <u>link</u>

University policy. Restrictions and requirements described at the HSD webpage are in addition to the broader University guidance about resuming all research. It also provides specific recommendations and considerations about conducting human subjects research during the COVID-19 pandemic.

resuming human subjects research, are announced on this the Office of Research webpage, the <u>HSD COVID-19</u> webpage, and the HSD e-newsletter. The e-newsletter also announces new or revised information about specific issues. Please send any questions to <u>hsdinfo@uw.edu</u>.

Animal Research Issues

Even with all buildings being locked 24/7, your existing animal facility access remains the same. See the OAW website for current information and announcements.

Proposal Deadlines [Updated 1/25/2021]

In accordance with the Governor Inslee's directives, OSP has moved to an entirely remote work platform. Walkin assistance at the UW Tower has been temporarily suspended. Rest assured, during this time OSP continues to operate during normal business hours (Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.).

If your proposal is regarding Covid-19 related research OR your proposal preparation was impacted by Covid-19, please note you can request a GIM 19 waiver. See OSP's homepage for more information.

Canceled Travel

If you have to cancel any Travel, please see the following resources for information on the allowability of non-refundable travel costs:

Non-Sponsored Award Travel Sponsored Award Travel

Conferences

The recently updated <u>COVID-19 Prevention Guidelines for In-Person Events</u> in Phase 3 allows University units to host a conference/event up to 50% capacity of an indoor space, as long as a 6-foot distance between people can be maintained at all times. Groups of more than 100 people at any conference/event/meeting requires University approval through EH&S. A COVID-19 prevention plan must be completed prior to the event. Virtual attendance is still the safest option and should be promoted and encouraged in place of in-person attendance. If an in-person event is necessary, attendance should be limited, and in-person contact during the event should be limited in accordance with the current phase requirements. If the people attending are UW personnel only, you could consider it to be a work-

refer to the <u>Room Occupancy Limits Guidance</u>, which limits the capacity of indoor meeting spaces at 50%. *[Updated 3.25.2021]*

Returning to In-Person Research Involving Fieldwork

Posted below are guidelines and tools for carrying out fieldwork during the COVID-19 epidemic. Updates will be posted as local requirements change. Many thanks to Stephanie Harrington, Suzanne Hawley, Greg Miller, and Mari Ostendorf for putting this information together, and to many at EH&S for providing important input.

UW Field Operations Safety Manual

UW Fieldwork Health and Safety Plan (COVID-19 Prevention) [Updated 3.26.2021]

Returning to In-Person Research Involving Fieldwork: Decision Tree [Updated 3.25.2021]

Fieldwork Authorization Letter

Also, it is important to keep an eye on conditions in a different state or county if requirements are more stringent than King County, it will be necessary to follow requirements in place for the study site.

While some of the preparations and precautions may seem cumbersome, they will enable the safe execution of research activities in the field. Researchers might also consider items that are not necessarily COVID-related as best practice for fieldwork even after the pandemic ends.

Undergraduate and Graduate School Research Guidance

Guidance for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows [Update 6.22.2020]

- 1. Throughout all members of the research group. Your health and safety is our first priority.
- 2. We encourage regularly (at least weekly) scheduled opportunities for the research group to connect (via Zoom

sure to check with your unit head about this. For other research, undergraduates may carry out research either for credit, volunteer, or paid, if it can be done remotely. They can be encouraged to work on activities such as literature review, coding qualitative data or working on other research tasks remotely, writing up research already completed, or watching someone else working at the bench by video as they describe what they are doing. They may carry out approved on-site research, but they must follow the required safety conditions:

Daily <u>symptom attestation</u>, via Workday if an employee, via email to supervisor if not Staying home if sick or experiencing even mild symptoms of illness <u>Social distancing</u> of at least 6 feet. It is possible to provide limited training at less than 6 feet distance, by following our <u>guidance on Research work at less than 6 foot apart</u>. The time spent at less than 6 feet distance should be minimized (keep to less than 15 min if at all possible), and additional PPE and precautions must be taken. Remember that anyone who has been in close contact (less than 6 feet for more than a few minutes) with a confirmed COVID-19 case must stay home for 14 days since their last contact with that person. Frequent laboratory <u>decontamination</u> and <u>disinfection</u> procedures

Personal safety with appropriate personal protective equipment and frequent hand-washing

Environmental Health and Safety Issues

The Environmental Health & Safety Department (EH&S) much like the rest of the University, is <u>operating</u> with fewer staff on campus and more staff members 12 792 reW* n-3(r.20 612 792 reW* n-4MCID 15-BDC q0.000

Guide to Business Continuity and Recovery Planning for Laboratories and Research Spaces

Use this guide to supplement your existing business continuity plans. It includes a checklist and is intended to assist faculty, staff, laboratories and research facilities in maintaining research continuity consistent with their own unique needs and circumstances.

You are *not* required to keep your research activities open. If you ramp down or shut down, please see the Research Shutdown Checklist for helpful guidance.

Read the guidance for practicing <u>social distancing</u> in laboratories and other research environments. View a list of COVID-19 health and safety resources on the EH&Swebsite.

University facilities units are implementing enhanced cleaning of high touch surfaces to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, tables, computer keyboards, handrails, exercise rooms).

EH&S asks research laboratories and facilities to also implement <u>enhanced cleaning and disinfecting</u> of high touch surfaces. This includes switches, benchtops, commonly used hand tools, and shared PPE.

Disinfect hard, non-porous surfaces with an <u>EPA-registered disinfectant</u>, an alcohol solution with at least 70% alcohol, or a 10% bleach/water solution.

It is also recommended that all departments purchase single-use disinfectant wipes for touchpoints within their workspaces.

Please avoid putting disinfectant gels or liquids on electronics and other equipment, including elevator buttons, unless they have been indicated as safe to use on those devices.

Additional guidance is available in the enhanced deaning and disinfection protocols.

Contact labcheck@uw.edu or 206.685.3993 for consultation on cleaning and disinfecting your workspace.

If you have any questions about resources for addressing health and safety issues, please contact EH&S Research & Occupational Safety at labcheck@uw.edu or 206.685.3993.

EH&S has moved some instructor-led classroom courses to an online format and delayed others to occur in July 2020 in accordance with social distancing guidelines. (For this same reason, Labor and Industries will not cite renewal expirations.) Please check the Training page for updates on instructor-led courses.

Working Remotely

[This section has been moved to our Archives]

Oritical Personnel

[This section has been moved to our Archives]

Locked Buildings

[This section has been moved to our Archives]

Guidance for Returning to In-Person Research

Ourrent Healthy Washington status: Phase 3

[Note: All documents within this page referring to Phase 2 are currently being updated and replaced with Phase 3 content]

[Updated 3.22.2021] As of March 22, 2021, the State of Washington is in Phase 3 for Healthy Washington:

Roadmap to Recovery, in accordance with the Healthy Washington plan (pdf) and its Campus Reopening Guide (pdf). In Phase 3, physical distancing, masking, disinfection, and staying home if you are sick or experiencing symptoms are still required by the State regardless of vaccination status, and the UW must comply with those requirements.

What has changed that could impact research:

Virtual meetings and small gatherings are still strongly encouraged. However, in-person work or academic and other University-related meetings and gatherings (including those for research purposes) may occur under the following conditions (all must be met):

*in-person refers to an in-person, face-to-face, and/or facility-based activity

This webpage contains guidance and resources to prepare for and implement a safe return to in-person research.

Planning and Implementation Toolkit

The tools included below are provided to assist in developing and implementing a plan for a gradual return to research.

Types of Research and Considerations for Each

This matrix is intended as a tool for units to use when considering the different types of research in their units and the requirements and responsibilities associated with each.

Returning to In-Person Research: Decision Tree

For now, <u>current</u> guidelines (masking, distancing) remain in effect until the University releases formal guidance next week.

What we know: Physical distancing will no longer be required, regardless of vaccination status. Employees who are not fully vaccinated are encouraged to distance if in a crowded setting or in areas that are not well ventilated.

Face coverings will no longer be required for fully-vaccinated individuals. Face coverings will still be required indoors for non-fully vaccinated individuals with the exception of settings where face coverings are required for all people regardless of vaccination status (healthcare, childcare, K-12, shuttles). Units will be required to verify employee vaccination status prior to lifting masking requirements.

While we wait for further guidance, there is time to plan for this full return to in-person research. PIs should review and draft updates to their Return to In-Person Research Plans for rapid implementation.

We will send out final guidance as soon as it is available next week, and then we can all move forward with a more normal implementation of in-person research!

Mary Lidstrom Vice Provost for Research

Document title change

3/26/2021: Changed UW Fieldwork Health and Safety Plan (COVID Return: Phases 1-2) to UW Fieldwork Health and Safety Plan (COVID Prevention)

Conferences (archived 3.25.2021)

Due to directive, you must consider alternate remote technology to hold your

will guide which employees may return to worksites and under what conditions they may return. We have also movement between phases will ha

What in-person* research is allowable under the Governor's Phase 2 for reopening the state directive?

*in-person refers to an in-person, face-to-face, and/or facility-based activity.

In general, all research must be carried out while maintaining social distancing of 6-feet at all times, but some exceptions are possible. It is your responsibility to ensure critical tasks not possible to be performed while maintaining the current 6-foot separation requirement are reviewed and approved by the unit head or designee, and consult on enhanced safety protocol with EH&Sas needed. See information at this link and see the checklist on the University of Washington COVID-19 Prevention Plan for the Workplace on the EH&S COVID-19 Health and Safety Resources webpage. Other restrictions apply, see an approved Checklist for Developing a Return to In-Person Research Plan and the Returning to In-Person Research: Decision Tree for more information.

Note: Restrictions on research subject to <u>human subjects restrictions</u>, on fieldwork (see: <u>UW Fieldwork Health</u> <u>and Safety Plan (COVID Return: Phases 1-2)</u> and <u>Returning to In-Person Research Involving Fieldwork: Decision</u> Tree), and on research requiring travel are also in place.

1. Areas of research previously allowed (still allowed):

Research that will help deal with the pandemic.

Public health research.

Research that has the potential to lead to therapies to treat human health problems.

Research that will help the nation recover after the pandemic eases.

Research involving long-term experiments, or maintaining vital equipment, cell lines, animals, and ot[Un)6(iT-4(t)-4(,)10()-3(c)3(ell)-5(lin)5(es,)-4(a)9(n)-0 g06 454.8612 792 3.980 0 1 72.024 396.19 Tm0 g0 G[-

cannot be conducted on the award due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This information is evolving and will be updated as necessary.

I have reviewed this guidance, including the decision tree below, and I am still not sure my research qualifies. Who can I ask?

Send your question to resear

Remember, when interacting for significant time periods with more than one person at under 6 foot distance, if anyone is diagnosed with COVID-19, the entire team will need to self-isolate for two weeks. Thus, it is important to institute a high level of protection.

Note that it is important to ensure you have permission to take samples and that you know the local COVID-19 related requirements.

My fieldwork involves going into a local community and interacting with individuals. Is this work allowed, and do I need to fill out the Field Health and Safety Plan?

Yes, you need to consider the health and safety of those personnel. They must follow and be trained on University and all local requirements. The requirements and training must be documented. In addition, if they are UW employees, they must carry out the required daily symptom attestation in Workday or via other acceptable means as determined by HR. Information on symptom monitoring is listed on the UW Guidance for Symptom Monitoring for COVID-19. If they are not UW employees, you must have them attest each day in a written format on paper, email or an online survey. If the field site is not their usual workplace and they must travel to the field site itself, then that travel needs to be addressed in the Health and Safety Plan. If the fieldwork involves time on a boat, additional considerations should be addressed, including the safety of the crew, deaning and disinfection schedules, PPE, procedures for responding to illness developed after boarding, and social distancing.

I need to carry out fieldwork on day trips in a small boat. What precautions should I take?

Please see the EH&S guidance, OVID-19 Prevention Guidelines for Small Boat Operations.

Updated "Background" for the Mitigating Impacts to Research Activities due to COVID-19 (archived 1.20.2021)

guidance titled,

Healthy Washington Roadmap to Recovery

Background

Stay Home, Stay Healthy

strengthening mandates already in place to encourage social distancing, a crucial measure for slowing the spread of COVID-19. The Stay Home, Stay Healthy directive took effect on March 25. The University of -19 Safe Start Status is now Phase 2 of its COVID-19 recovery, in accordance with _______. Non-critical personnel may return to worksites if work can be performed safely and is absolutely necessary to maintain unit operations, or if they are unable to perform their work effectively at home. Lab and practicum courses with physical distancing and safety protocols may be offered in-person.

Updated Background for: Guidance for Returning to In-Person Research (archived 1.20.2021)

Stay Home, Stay Healthy

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writing, or proposal and progress report writing. All meetings, including journal clubs, must continue to take place remotely. All students, post-docs, staff, and faculty involved in research projects should have access to information they need to carry out work remotely, such as access to literature, access to existing datasets and research-related files, and access to meeting software (such as Zoom). Discuss any new plans with each member of your research team; it may be useful to have a regular remote check-in on weekly plans and progress for those working remotely. ASEs are allowed to have their work reassigned, to allow them to work at home (see HR policy and advice). We recognize that this is a highly challenging time, with many juggling childcare and logistics issues in addition to remote work. HR has developed a set of resources to provide solutions for most child care challenges: LW Emergency Baby and Kid Stter Network and LW HR Working During COVID-19 (Child

available to help you determine your best options.

Remember to be as accommodating as possible for the members of your research team; each person will have unique circumstances. Regular and frequent communication is key for your research group.

Care. Options exist to help either with identifying low-cost or no-cost options, and HR personnel are

Critical Personnel (archived 6.22.2020)

Oritical employees are designated to come to work physically if work cannot be performed via telework and work can be done safely.

Only critical personnel are allowed to come to their usual work location. For research, critical personnel are those who are involved in carrying out approved research and in addition, those who carry out specific critical functions, such as maintaining critical equipment, caring for animals, monitoring safety issues, etc. that require them to come to their usual work location. Note that critical personnel designations and continuity plans should be updated as situations change. Please work with your department administrator or an equivalent administrator to identify such personnel.

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