
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](#)

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 [link](#)

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 [HSD COVID-19 webpage](#), and the HSD [e-newsletter](#). The e-newsletter also announces new or revised information about specific issues. Please send any questions to hsdinfo@uw.edu.

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.

In accordance with the Governor Inslee's directives, OSP has moved to an entirely remote work platform. Walk-in 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.

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

The recently updated [COVID-19 Prevention Guidelines for In-Person Events](#) 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 [Room Occupancy Limits Guidance](#), 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

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:

must stay home

Environmental Health and Safety Issues

The Environmental Health & Safety Department (EH&S) much like the rest of the University, is [operating](#) with fewer staff on campus and more staff members 12 792 reW* n-3(r.29 612 792 reW* nQEMC /P /MCID 15>BDC q0.000

not

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 [enhanced cleaning and disinfecting](#) of high touch surfaces. This includes switches, benchtops, commonly used hand tools, and shared PPE.

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.

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[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:

following conditions (all must be met)

may occur under the

**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.

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, current 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

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

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movement between phases will ha

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

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University of Washington COVID-19 Prevention Plan for the Workplace

Note

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

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?

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

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



Critical Personnel (archived 6.22.2020)

work can be done safely.

physically if work cannot be performed via telework and