

**University of Wyoming – Fall 2021 COVID Policy**  
*Abbreviated Reference Document*

The following sections provide the framework for the 2021 Fall Semester effective August 23, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

**Masks and Social Distancing**

With some exceptions, masks are required inside most University of Wyoming buildings where 6-foot social distancing is not possible under a policy that took affect August 16, 2021. Classrooms, labs and high-traffic areas, such as the Wyoming Union, are places where 6-foot distancing is not always possible, so masks would be necessary there. But some meeting spaces may lend themselves to required distancing and, of course, masks are not required for people alone in offices, residence hall rooms and private spaces. Exceptions to the indoor mask requirement are voluntary public events such as athletics and music, theater and dance performances; voluntary social events; and private, by-invitation events that involve rental and/or use of UW spaces on campus. For classes where the ability to see speakers' mouths is essential, faculty members will have the ability to seek exceptions to the masking policy through the Provost's Office. Employees and students who have legitimate medical reasons to not wear masks can seek exceptions through Human Resources and University Disability Support Services (UDSS). The mask requirement will remain in place at least through September 20, 2021 – at which time the UW Board of Trustees will revisit the requirement and provide further direction.

On September 17, 2021, the UW Board of Trustees continued this current mask policy with one exception: to allow patrons of Half Acre to remove their masks when participating in recreational activities, sport or fitness or when in the audience if at a voluntary public event. Patrons will still be required to wear masks when entering and exiting the building, at all customer service desks, and in meeting rooms. The mask policy will be revisited at each subsequent Board of Trustees meeting through the end of the Fall 2021 semester.

**Gathering and Event Guidelines**

Masks are *recommended*, but not required for voluntary public events such as athletics and music, theater and dance performances; voluntary social events; and private, by-invitation events that involve rental and/or use of UW spaces on campus. For all other events, masks are required where 6-foot social distancing is not possible. Event participant numbers will continue to remain at maximum facility capacity, as approved on July 1, 2021.

**Visitor Policy**

While on University-owned property or when conducting University business or activities, including instruction and research, visitors must observe the same health and safety requirements as students, faculty and staff. Visitors acknowledge that there are risks related to exposure to COVID-19. Should visitors choose not to abide by the University's COVID Policy while on campus, they will not be permitted to participate in work, events, activities, research or other engagements and will be asked to leave campus.

**COVID Testing and Education**

All students and employees are required to participate in the mandatory COVID-19 testing event prior to the start of fall classes. This one-time surveillance testing event will serve to identify positive cases entering the campus community and allow University leadership to immediately address any issues at the beginning of the term. Additionally, all students and employees will be required to take a one-time mandatory COVID-19 education session regarding the science of the virus and vaccines.

Following the one-time surveillance testing event, the University has implemented a mandatory random sampling testing of 3% of the entire University community on a weekly basis throughout the remainder of the fall term. Sample testing will include both those who are vaccinated and unvaccinated. *[Note that the 3% sample might increase to better detect an increase in cases and may convert to 100% of the University community if warranted.]* The University continues to encourage students and employees to self-monitor for COVID-19-like symptoms and

to not enter campus and communal spaces if they do have symptoms. Students who live on campus must continue to report a positive test result and Q/I housing will be available for on-campus students.

University voluntary diagnostic testing will continue to be available to asymptomatic faculty, staff, students and the public.

### **Vaccines**

At this stage, the University is recommending but not mandating the COVID vaccine for faculty, staff and students. However, the University will continue to strongly encourage and incentivize staff, faculty, and students to voluntarily take the COVID-19 vaccine. Additionally, UW requires that all faculty, staff and students report their vaccination status. For employees, a [quick reference guide](#) has been created to help report vaccinations within UW's HCM. Students who receive their COVID-19 vaccinations should upload documentation to the Student Health Service patient portal as soon as their vaccine series is complete. All vaccinated students and employees are also eligible to win prizes through the University vaccine incentive program, the details of which are found here: <http://www.uwyo.edu/alerts/campus-return/vaccination/index.html>. Student incentives include one semester of tuition/fees, annual parking passes, pregame football field access passes, dining dollar cards, apple AirPods and dinner with the President or the Provost. Additionally, the Albany County health officer asked UW to assist with the County's incentive and vaccine campaign programs, which includes working with Ivinson Memorial Hospital, Albany County Public Health, Laramie Main Street and others to develop a plan that works on combating misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccine and increasing vaccine uptake in Albany County. UW staff and faculty are assisting with video scripts, surveys, clinics, and FAQ flyers for local providers.

### **Travel and Transportation**

Business-related travel shall conform to standard pre-COVID University travel policies. Consistent with WDH and CDC guidance, employees and students must adhere to the following:

- Non-vaccinated individuals must have a negative COVID-19 test 1-3 days prior to traveling (vaccinated individuals do not need a negative test prior to traveling);
- Consistent with Federal mandates, face coverings are required for individuals utilizing any mode of public transportation; and
- Non-vaccinated individuals are strongly encouraged to self-isolate upon returning per CDC guidance.

All travel using University owned vehicle/transportation services should adhere to the travel guidelines outlined in the University's COVID Policy. Per CDC guidance, people who are sick or have recently had a close contact (closer than 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) to a person with COVID-19 should not use public transportation and should stay home except to seek medical care. Individuals who have an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 should limit their travel.

Passenger capacity with UW Fleet vehicles has resumed normal limits. **Face coverings are required in vehicles unless individuals can socially distance.** The University recommends proper hygiene/handwashing, cleaning and disinfecting surfaces, improving ventilation, and trying to share vehicles with members of a household if possible.

### **Remote Work**

All employees are expected to fully return to in-person work by August 23, 2021, subject to the application of the *Flexible Work Arrangement Policy* and/or employment accommodations arranged through sick leave, ADA and/or FMLA.

### **Contingency Plan**

In the event the University needs to adapt to changing circumstances, the following will be reviewed and/or implemented by the University:

- Increased testing of UW community

- Re-implementation of COVID Pass app for required daily screening of campus community
- Re-implementation of the following policies/guidance:
  - Visitor Policy
  - Transportation Policy
  - Gathering Guidelines
  - UW Employee Business-related Travel Guidelines
- Enhanced and routine cleaning/disinfection of classrooms and common spaces
- Decreased social gatherings on campus and event capacity
- Recommended physical distancing
- Mandatory face coverings in certain indoor spaces
- To decrease density on campus, remote work for employees whose positions/job duties allow for it in coordination with supervisor