

DRAFT 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

The Wyoming Department of Health's (WDH) standing order mandating the use of face coverings in public was lifted, as well as WDH's order pertaining to colleges/universities. On August 4, 2021, the Governor of the State of Wyoming indicated that he will not re-issue a mask mandate.

Therefore, consistent with WDH and CDC guidance, face coverings and social distancing are *recommended* but not required while indoors. UW administration acknowledges that the Provost strongly recommends that instructors be allowed to mandate face coverings in their classroom and labs, but at this stage, the University is not mandating face coverings. The University will continue to actively monitor conditions and may revisit this at any time.

Gathering and Event Guidelines

The use of masks or face coverings and social distancing is *recommended*, but not required. Event participant numbers returned to maximum capacity 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

The University has implemented a mandatory random sampling testing of 3% of the entire University community on a weekly basis, including those who are vaccinated. *[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 Iverson 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. UW recommends but does not require face coverings in vehicles, and 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