



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

## Office of the President

<b>SUBJECT:</b> <b>EMERGENCY POLICY</b> Student Behavioral Expectations in Response to COVID-19  <b>THIS POLICY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE</b>  <b>MORE INFORMATION ABOUT UCF RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS AT <a href="https://www.ucf.edu/coronavirus/">https://www.ucf.edu/coronavirus/</a></b>	<b>Effective Date:</b> 9/1/2020	<b>Policy Number:</b> EP-20-5
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	<b>Responsible Authorities:</b> President Vice President, Student Development and Enrollment Services	

### APPLICABILITY/ACCOUNTABILITY

This policy applies to the conduct, whether on or off the UCF campus, of all UCF students (individually or in groups), UCF student organizations, and all UCF housing residents.

### BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic and the state of emergency it has created have presented challenges for all members of our community and for society as a whole. The Florida Surgeon General, at the directive of Governor DeSantis, on March 1, 2020, issued a Public Health Emergency declaration for the State of Florida. Governor DeSantis declared a state of emergency for the State of Florida on March 9, 2020. The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic on March 11, 2020. The federal government issued a Federal Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Florida on March 25, 2020. COVID-19 is reshaping our lives and has already changed how the university must operate.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), federal, state, and local agencies have provided guidance on health measures that should be in place for our campus to reopen and stay reopened. The success – or failure – of these measures depends in very large part on the cooperation of the university community, including individual students, groups of students, and student organizations. UCF’s Campus Reopening Plans hinge on individual behaviors, and it is not an exaggeration to say that individual behaviors in that regard are a matter of community health. As a result, this policy

serves to set behavioral expectations, to be practiced and observed both on and off campus, for all students, groups of students, student organizations, and all individuals residing in UCF residence halls or residential facilities. This policy provides a framework for how we will care for one another, practice healthy and protective behaviors, understand personal responsibilities as UCF community members, and commit to learning and discovery. This policy reinforces existing UCF policies, local and state law, and guidance from health officials. This policy anticipates and relies on the cooperation of all students as individuals, groups, student organizations, and UCF housing residents, but also addresses noncompliance.

## NOTICE

This policy is subject to change with the introduction of additional public health guidelines from local, state, and federal authorities. Any policy amendments or updates will be communicated through the university policies website ([policies.ucf.edu](https://policies.ucf.edu)) and will take effect as of the date and time of publication. It is expected that this policy, or subsequent versions of it, will be in force through at least the Fall Semester 2020 but may be modified or extended at any time.

The university provides general information on the coronavirus and the university's responses to it at <https://www.ucf.edu/coronavirus/>, which is regularly updated. This website may provide more details on items addressed in this policy.

## DEFINITIONS

**Campus.** All property and facilities under the guidance, supervision, regulation, or control of the University of Central Florida or any of its direct support organizations, as well as all fraternity and sorority houses on such properties. In this regard, "campus" includes any facility or premises owned, leased, or controlled by the university. For purposes of this policy, "campus" includes any space or facility temporarily being used for a university-sponsored event for the duration of the university's control/use of that space or facility (i.e., for the preparation for, conduct of, and breakdown after the event).

**Off-campus Conduct.** Conduct that occurs in a place that does not meet the definition of "campus". The university reserves the right to address off-campus conduct when it is specifically prohibited by law or the Rules of Conduct, may have an adverse impact on the health, safety or welfare of the university community or any members thereof, or where such conduct may adversely affect the operations of the university.

**Student.** The term "student" means any person enrolled in one or more classes at the university, either full time or part time, study abroad student, online students, continuing education students, students pursuing undergraduate, graduate or professional studies, either degree seeking or non-degree seeking. Persons who withdraw after allegedly violating the Rules of Conduct, or who are not officially enrolled for a particular academic term but who have a continuing relationship with the university are also "students." Individuals who have been accepted for admission and have paid an enrollment deposit are considered "students" for limited purposes (including the Student Conduct Review Process).

**University Community.** The term “university community” refers, collectively and individually, to students, university officials, Trustees, and all visitors, vendors/contractors, and guests to the university or any of its campuses, facilities or events. The term “university community” includes residents of campus residence halls even if not otherwise affiliated with UCF as a student.

**University Official.** The term “university official” includes any person employed by the university (i.e. faculty, staff, administration, law enforcement officer, and residence hall staff) acting within the scope of their job duties.

**UCF Housing Resident.** The term “UCF housing resident” includes any person, whether or not they are a student of UCF, who lives in housing owned or managed by the UCF Department of Housing and Residence Life (this includes Union West and Northview).

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

The university is particularly focused on the health and well-being of all members of the university community, including but not limited to students (individually, as a group, or as part of a student organization) and UCF housing residents. During this time, we must support one another, take personal responsibility, and remain diligent in taking reasonable precautions in an effort to protect students, faculty, staff, contractors and others who visit campus. We trust that all members of the university community — faculty, staff, and students— will ultimately take responsibility for their own health and well-being and act in a manner that demonstrates respect and consideration for those around them.

In keeping with that need for personal responsibility and recognizing that the global pandemic makes certain otherwise-acceptable behaviors too risky to permit at this time, the university requires that students, groups of students, student organizations, and UCF housing residents adhere to published University of Central Florida policies and regulations, as well as local and state and other applicable regulations, guidelines, laws, and orders whether on or off campus. Students, groups of students, student organizations, and UCF housing residents must remain informed concerning policies, regulations, guidelines, laws, orders and community health needs which may change in response to COVID-19. UCF’s primary approach is to educate and engage UCF housing residents and university community members, including students, groups of students, and student organizations, who are each and all expected to take responsibility to be educated and engaged.

### **Required Precautionary Measures**

The university cannot guarantee a risk-free environment. However, the health measures adopted by the university will reduce the likelihood of contracting COVID-19 on campus and therefore are required of all those who come to the university.

Every university student, group of students, student organization, and UCF housing resident must:

- Wear a compliant facial covering indoors and outdoors as required by the university’s [COVID-19 Return to Campus Policy](#).

- Maintain six feet of physical distance both indoors and outdoors as required by the university's [COVID-19 Return to Campus Policy](#).
- Follow all university published guidance on events and gatherings, including the [Event Planning and COVID-19 Considerations](#) Emergency Policy.
- Not engage in conduct which would endanger the health, safety, or wellbeing of others. The science tells us that in-person gatherings, particularly indoors, where physical distancing is not maintained and where masks are not worn, are proven to contribute to the spread of COVID-19.<sup>1</sup> Unless attending or hosting an event planned through the Event Planning and COVID Considerations policy, students must avoid hosting or attending gatherings or events of more than 12 people, either on and off campus, that a reasonable person would conclude demonstrate a woeful or willful disregard for university policy or expectations as it pertains to COVID-19 precautions or that may impact the health, safety and wellbeing of others. When gathering in groups of 12 or less (either indoors or outdoors) all present must wear facial coverings, maintain six feet of social distance, and practice frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer.
- Comply with the Housing restrictions on guests in residence hall suites and rooms. Specifically, UCF housing residents may have only one guest and that guest must live in the same campus residence hall; further, access to residence halls is restricted to residents of the hall – no visitors from other residence halls are allowed (except to utilize services that may be in the residential community, such as laundry, that are not available in the resident's own building).
- Comply immediately with a request from a university official addressing health, safety or welfare, including but not limited to a request to wear a face covering, maintain physical distancing or comply with other applicable law, policy or order while on university property, inside a university facility or attending a university sponsored event. For further information on face covering requirements, see the university's [COVID-19 Return to Campus Policy](#).
- Follow all COVID-19 related published policies, guidelines, laws and orders issued by the county, city, state or other applicable agency while on and off campus. If a county or city ordinance conflicts with a university policy, university policy will control on the university campus.
- Take personal responsibility by following all Florida Department of Health and CDC health measures, including remaining at home (or in your residence hall room) as advised by a healthcare professional and/or in the following circumstances: when you or a housemate are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or are otherwise ill; after close contact with a person who is sick with or positive for COVID-19; until released by a healthcare provider or a public health official after receiving a positive COVID-19 test result; and for the period advised by a healthcare provider or public health official while awaiting COVID-19 test results. You should not come to campus if you have tested positive for COVID-19, even if you are asymptomatic, or if you are awaiting COVID-19 test results, until such time as you are cleared by a healthcare provider to return to normal activities. For further information about isolation and quarantine and how to be released to return to normal activities, see the university's [COVID-19 Return to Campus Policy](#).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html>

- Understand that the Rules of Conduct, the Organizational Rules of Conduct, the Housing Community Living Guidelines, and the housing agreement addendum remain in force and will be enforced.
- Cooperate with campus contact tracing efforts by participating in the process when asked and providing truthful and complete responses. Because the university prioritizes the health and safety of our community during this public health emergency, **any information that is reported to the university for purposes of contact assessment and exposure mitigation** will not result in an individual student or student organization being charged with a violation of university policy if the student or organization cooperate fully and truthfully with the university or public health official.

Reports of alleged violation of this policy that are received through university reporting mechanisms including but not limited to, the IntegrityLine, Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, and/or law enforcement, will be reviewed and may lead to disciplinary action.

### **Specific Student Expectations and Requirements and Precautionary Measures**

Students, groups of students, student organizations, and UCF housing residents must abide by the general health and hygiene rules outlined in the university's [COVID-19 Return to Campus Policy both on and off campus](#). Specifically, the university expects students and UCF housing residents to abide by the following requirements found in the [COVID-19 Return to Campus Policy](#) (For each of the requirements listed below, the word "student" should be read to include all UCF students and UCF housing residents):

- a. Students are required to stay home (or in their residence hall room) if they have tested positive for COVID-19, even if they are asymptomatic, until such time as they are cleared. No student should come to campus (or, if living on campus, leave their residence hall rooms for any non-essential reason):
  - if they are ill, or are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 until released by a healthcare provider, or
  - if any person living in the same residence has tested positive for COVID-19 or is sick with or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or
  - for the advised period after close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is ill with COVID-19 symptoms, or
  - until released by a healthcare provider or a public health official after receiving a positive COVID-19 test result, even if asymptomatic, or
  - for the period advised by a healthcare provider or public health official while waiting for COVID-19 test results.

CDC guidance as to COVID-19 symptoms is found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>. The CDC offers detailed guidance on ending home isolation at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html>. Students who have received testing and treatment from UCF Student Health Services can request a release to return to work or school from UCF Student Health Services. Students not receiving treatment from Student Health Services or who prefer to see their own provider should contact the UCF COVID Line for a release. Student

employees at UCF should provide the release to their supervisor. Students should also provide a copy of the release to their instructor(s), as needed.

b. Students coming to campus (or leaving the residence hall) must complete the symptom-checker each day that they come to campus. The symptom-checker may be accessed through the UCF Mobile App (a free application available for download from the Apple App Store or Google Play), see <https://ucfmobile.ucf.edu/>. If a student answers YES to any of the screening questions, the student should not come to campus (or, as applicable, leave the residence hall).

c. Face coverings are required to be worn in all indoor common spaces with other people present (e.g., classrooms, common work or living spaces, meeting rooms, etc.) even if physically distant; all enclosed spaces with other people present (e.g., campus vehicles, UCF shuttles, including when gathering in groups of 12 or less, etc.); and outdoors. Exceptions to the facial covering requirement are discussed in Section F.3 of the university's [COVID-19 Return to Campus Policy](#).

d. Each student is responsible for having a facial covering when coming to campus or leaving their residence hall room. If a student comes to campus without a facial covering, the student must acquire a disposable mask or some other facial covering. Disposable masks will be available for sale on campus and may be available at different distribution points across campus.

e. Students should engage in and encourage frequent and thorough hand washing.

f. Students should abide by physical distancing expectations – specifically, by maintaining as much as possible six feet of distance between individuals, including when gathering in groups of 12 or less.

g. Students should expect that meetings with university employees will occur virtually as much as possible. Some of the available tools are Skype, Teams, and Zoom.

h. Students should engage in respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes.

i. Students should avoid sharing phones or other tools and equipment, when possible.

j. Students should frequently clean their own personal space, workspace, and belongings.

k. Students should abide by local guidance on physical distancing, including directives related to size of meetings or gatherings. Meetings and other gatherings should continue to occur in virtual platforms rather than as physical groupings, as much as possible. Students are advised to plan any meetings or gatherings with health measures in mind, including wearing of facial coverings, maintaining physical distancing, abiding by capacity limits for the space, and encouraging hand washing or use of hand sanitizer.

l. A student may be asked to leave a facility or a classroom if they are not abiding by the university's health and hygiene rules as outlined in this policy and the university's [COVID-19 Return to Campus Policy](#). A student who refuses to leave a facility or classroom may be referred for student disciplinary action for causing a disruption and failing to adhere to university policy.

## **Policy Enforcement**

All students, student groups, student organizations, and campus housing residents must comply with the instructions given to them for the return to campus in their conduct both on and off

campus. The success of the university's COVID-19 response depends on the compliance and cooperation of every individual who comes to campus. The goal of the university is that all members of the university community and all other persons on campus will voluntarily comply and cooperate with this policy. It is the university's intention that most policy violations will initially be addressed as an educational matter and addressed with progressively stronger responses if violations continue.

Therefore, in most instances of a violation of this policy, the university will seek compliance first through education and repeated training. Repeated acts of non-compliance may result in the individual's removal from campus until compliance is achieved. Continued non-compliance may result in a more severe response – specifically, disciplinary action, up to and including separation from the university; removal from campus, including trespass orders as necessary. Flagrant, repeated, or egregious behavior may automatically result in a referral to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.

Not all violations of this policy are the same. An instance of failing to wear a mask or not performing the daily symptom screener may be a matter of inattention or miseducation that can be corrected with a reminder or retraining. However, reporting to campus for work or classes knowing that one is COVID-19 positive and has not been released to return to normal activities by a healthcare provider, or engaging in conduct that impacts the health, safety and wellbeing of others or that a reasonable person would conclude demonstrates woeful or willful disregard for university policy or expectations as it pertains to COVID-19 precautions may constitute an egregious policy violation that directly endangers others and/or may result in substantial disruption and/or cost to the university. The university reserves the right to respond immediately and at the highest level to any egregious policy violations including but not limited to those indicated above. This response may include substantial disciplinary action (up to and including, interim suspension, suspension, disciplinary dismissal, or expulsion) and/or removal of the individual from campus housing (up to and including with the issuance of a trespass order). For a complete listing of the the Rules of Conduct and additional information regarding the conduct review process please see the following: <https://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/>.

### **Community Health Commitments by Students and Campus Housing Residents**

The university asks every student and UCF housing resident to take the UCF [Armor Up Pledge](#), which includes personal commitments to do such things as:

#### **PROTECT MYSELF BY**

- Monitoring myself to determine if I am developing symptoms of COVID-19
- Contacting a medical professional if I show symptoms, such as fever, chills, or others listed by the CDC
- Completing the UCF COVID Self-Checker every day
- Being vigilant about washing my hands often with soap and water and using hand sanitizer when available
- Continuously monitoring my health, promoting self-care, and, if possible, getting vaccinated for the flu

## PROTECT FELLOW KNIGHTS & OTHERS BY

Following all health and safety guidelines given by UCF to help limit the spread of COVID-19

Taking part in any COVID-19 testing and/or contact tracing that I am asked to do

Encouraging my peers to adhere to the UCF guidelines for their safety and the safety of others

Being responsible for maintaining a clean environment in all personal and common spaces I use

## PROTECT THE COMMUNITY BY

Following the UCF guidelines for social distancing and wearing face coverings

Staying home to prevent the possible spread of the virus if I feel ill or have been exposed to another person who has tested positive for COVID-19

Doing my best to support others during this difficult time we're all experiencing

While taking the Pledge is voluntary, many of the behaviors articulated as part of the pledge are not.

## FORMS

UCF COVID Return to Work/School Release Form:

<https://hr.ucf.edu/files/COVID-MEDICAL-RELEASE-FORM.pdf>

## RELATED INFORMATION

UCF Coronavirus Information page (regularly updated):

<https://www.ucf.edu/coronavirus/>

UCF Coronavirus FAQ page (periodically updated):

<https://www.ucf.edu/coronavirus/faq/>

UCF Returning to Campus page (regularly updated):

<https://www.ucf.edu/coronavirus/returning-to-ucf/>

UCF Guidelines for Receiving COVID Tests, Reporting Results (periodically updated)

[https://www.ucf.edu/coronavirus/guidelines-for-receiving-covid-tests-reporting-results/?utm\\_source=facilities\\_email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=coronavirus](https://www.ucf.edu/coronavirus/guidelines-for-receiving-covid-tests-reporting-results/?utm_source=facilities_email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=coronavirus)

Ways to Help Uphold UCF's COVID-19 Policy:

<https://www.ucf.edu/news/ways-to-help-uphold-ucfs-covid-19-safety-policy/>

CDC Guidance on How to Protect Yourself and Others:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html> (page last updated July 31, 2020; page last visited August 18, 2020)

CDC Interim Guidance on Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Disposition of Patients with COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings (updated July 20, 2020):  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html#:~:text=CDC%20recommends%2014%20days%20of,are%20shedding%20at%20all.>

CDC Guidance on How to Wear Cloth Face Coverings:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wear-cloth-face-coverings.html> (updated August 7, 2020)

**INITIATING AUTHORITY** Vice-President, Student Development and Enrollment Services

<b>POLICY APPROVAL</b> <b>(For use by the Office of the President)</b>	
Policy Number: EP-20-5	
President: <u>Alexander Cartwright</u>	 Digitally signed by Alexander Cartwright Date: 2020.09.01 14:50:55 -04'00'
	Date: <u>9/1/2020</u>