Office of the President

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY POLICY
COVID-19 Return to Campus Policy

THIS POLICY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT UCF RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS AT https://www.ucf.edu/coronavirus/

Effective Date: 11/19/2020
Policy Number: EP – 20-1.4

Supersedes: EP – 20-1.3
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Responsible Authorities:
President
Vice President for Compliance and Risk

APPLICABILITY/ACCOUNTABILITY

This policy applies to all members of the university community, as well as individuals and contractors that conduct business with the university, and campus visitors. This policy applies to all facilities on all campuses of the university, as well as to operations of the university within facilities controlled by the university (such as UCF leased facilities and UCF Connect Campuses), collectively referred to as “campus” in this policy.

BACKGROUND


This policy serves to set expectations for all members of the UCF community to follow while on campus or engaging in university related activities. This policy anticipates and relies on the cooperation of all members of the university community.
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) 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 the Spring 2021 semester.

The university provides general information on 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.

POLICY STATEMENT

The University of Central Florida is especially focused on the health and well-being of all members of the university community. 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.

General Precautionary Measures – Applicable to All Employees, Students, Visitors, Vendors, Volunteers and Contractors

The university cannot guarantee a risk-free environment or an environment free of COVID-19 or other disease. However, the following general precautionary measures will reduce the likelihood of contracting COVID-19 on campus and therefore are required of all members of the university community and those who come to the university (such as visitors, vendors, volunteers, and contractors):

- 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 they are physically distant; all enclosed spaces with other people present (e.g., campus vehicles, UCF shuttles, etc.); and outdoors (except when exercising while maintaining physical distancing). Exceptions to the face covering requirements are noted in Section F.3. below;

- All persons on campus are to practice six feet of physical distancing to the greatest extent possible;

- Increased cleaning of common touchpoints, bathrooms, and common areas will remain in place until further notice;

- Employees and students should notify the university if they receive a positive COVID-19 test result or diagnosis by calling the UCF COVID Line at 407-823-2509. This will ensure that robust tracing of cases at UCF has started and will help the university identify and contain potentially impacted populations.
• All persons on campus are to follow good hygiene guidance, such as regular hand washing, avoiding touching your face, and disinfecting touched items; and

• 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, until such time as you are cleared by a healthcare provider to return to normal activities.

PROCEDURES

The precautionary measures described above, and the procedures below are intended to minimize the spread of COVID-19 at UCF as faculty, staff, students, and visitors return to work, instruction, and other activities on campus. These procedures are consistent with the guidelines from the CDC and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). They must be followed by managers and supervisors, employees, students, volunteers, contractors, and visitors.

A. Before Reporting/ Returning to On-campus Work

As a condition of returning to campus, all employees instructed to return to campus must complete the mandatory online Returning to Campus Operations training.

B. Returning to On-campus Work

This policy and the following procedures assume that remote working will continue for some university employees for some duration. Decisions as to which employees will remain on remote work will require conversations between the employee and the supervisor/manager and/or UCF Human Resources/Academic Affairs. Academic Affairs worked closely with college deans to identify which faculty returned for Fall 2020, and will do so again to determine which faculty will return to campus for Spring 2021. Researchers who have already returned to their research labs will continue to follow plans developed and communicated by the Office of Research – this specifically includes capacity limitations for research laboratories, which are not superseded by this policy.

No person should come to campus if they have tested positive for COVID-19, even if they are asymptomatic, until such time as they are cleared by a healthcare provider to return to normal activities. No person should come to campus (or, if they live on campus, leave their residence hall room):

• if they are ill, or are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, 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 can be found here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html. For information on isolation and quarantine, see Section J, below. The “UCF COVID Return to Work Release” Form is available at https://hr.ucf.edu/files/COVID-MEDICAL-RELEASE-FORM.pdf for use of the individual to be cleared to return to work.

At different times during this period of phased return, the university will permit certain capacity levels in campus offices and other workspaces. It will be the responsibility of managers and supervisors to ensure schedules are developed for the manager’s or supervisor’s group that do not exceed the then-current capacity limit; and to coordinate the workspace to create physical distance among employees, including use of flexible worksites (e.g., telecommuting/remote work) and flexible work hours (e.g., staggered shifts) when appropriate. Requests for exceptions from the requirement for physical distancing measures in the workplace or educational space (such as for research labs with a hands-on training environment and/or equipment operation where more than one person is required) must be submitted to Environmental Health and Safety for review and approval.

For those employees who will continue or return to work on campus, the following apply:

a. All employees coming to campus to perform work must complete the required online Returning to Campus Operations training course that provides a general overview of COVID-19 prevention and control measures and campus-specific policies prior to returning to campus. If this training course is substantially revised or if there is an identified need for it, some or all employees may be asked to retake the training.

b. Employees coming to campus for work or other purposes 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) or via the online version available at https://ucf.service-now.com/self_checker. If an employee answers YES to any of the screening questions, the employee should not report or come to campus. Complete the symptom-checker even if just coming to campus for a short duration, for example to pick up something from the worksite, and even if not intending to stay on campus the entire workday.

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.); all enclosed spaces with other people present (e.g., campus vehicles, UCF shuttles, etc.); and outdoors. Exceptions to the face covering requirements are noted in Section F.3. below.
d. It is an employee’s responsibility to have a facial covering when on campus. If an employee comes to campus without a facial covering, the employee 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. Also, some departments may have disposable masks available for their employees and office visitors.

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

f. Departments and employees are encouraged to use virtual platforms (e.g., Skype, Teams, Zoom, etc.) for meetings as much as possible. If an in-person meeting is necessary, the meeting organizer must plan the meeting to conform to space capacity limits, physical distancing, and other health measures.

g. Managers and supervisors should coordinate workplace furnishings and activities to allow at least six feet between workers, or between workers and other persons, for example, contractors or visitors. This also applies to shared offices without partitions, break rooms, conference rooms, etc. Cubicles with wall partitions of less than six feet height will also require six feet between workers. Employees are expected to adhere to physical distancing expectations and requirements while in the workplace.

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

i. Employees should avoid using other workers’ phones or sharing desks, offices, or other work tools and equipment, as much as possible.

j. Employees should frequently sanitize shared office equipment like photocopy machines, fax, and scanners, among other things.

k. Clean touchpoints within office suites or departments frequently, including breakrooms, copiers, and shared spaces.

l. Avoid office gatherings, break rooms, and unnecessary visitors in the workplace.

m. Employees may be required to return to remote work at any time and are required to cooperate if directed to do so.

C. Students – Returning to/Being on Campus

Students must abide by the general health and hygiene rules outlined in this policy. Additionally, UCF adopted Emergency Policy 20-5 “Student Behavioral Expectations in Response to COVID-19” to provide student-specific guidance. The university refers students to that policy for specific required precautionary measures and additional information.

D. Campus Visitors, Volunteers, Vendors, and Contractors

Campus visitors, volunteers, vendors, and contractors must abide by the general health and hygiene rules outlined in this policy. In addition to the requirements listed below, the university has created an information page for campus visitors, volunteers, vendors, and contractors at https://www.ucf.edu/coronavirus/resources-for-visitors-vendors-contractors/. The university expects all such persons to abide by the following:

a. Individuals should not come to campus if they have tested positive for COVID-19, even if they are asymptomatic, until such time as they are cleared to return to normal activities. Additionally, no individual should come to campus:
• if they are ill, or are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, 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 can be found here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html. Contractors are required to ensure that their employees are not reporting to a campus worksite if the employee is ill (including has tested positive for COVID-19, even if asymptomatic) or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, awaiting COVID-19 test results, or if any person living in the same residence is sick with COVID-19 symptoms.

b. Individuals coming to campus for contracted work, volunteer service, or other purposes must complete a symptom-checker each day that they come to campus. The symptom-checker is available online at https://ucf.service-now.com/self_checker?id=public. If the individual answers YES to any of the screening questions, the individual should not report or come to campus.

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; in all enclosed spaces with other people present (e.g., campus vehicles, UCF shuttles, etc.); and outdoors. Individuals engaged in labor outdoors may remove a facial covering as long as the work site is separated from other people by an appropriate distance or is shielded. Other exceptions to the facial covering requirement found in Section F.3 may also apply to vendors/contractors and vendor/contractor employees. The university expects vendors/contractors to provide facial coverings for their employees or otherwise require their employees to provide their own. Campus visitors are expected to provide their own facial covering; however, a limited supply of disposable masks is available for visitors at the Visitor and Parking Information Center.

d. All persons on campus should engage in and encourage frequent and thorough hand washing.

e. All persons on campus should abide by physical distancing expectations – specifically, by maintaining six feet of distance between individuals as much as possible.

f. Campus visitors should expect that most university services are being offered remotely and should not expect to have in-person meetings. Vendors/contractors and vendor/contractor employees should expect that, where an in-person meeting is not necessary, meetings with university employees will occur virtually. Any in-person meeting should keep health measures in mind, including the wearing of facial coverings, maintaining physical distancing, abiding by capacity limits for the space, and encouraging hand washing or use of hand sanitizer.

g. All persons on campus should engage in respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes.
h. Campus visitors, volunteers, vendors/contractors, and vendor/contractor employees should avoid using university workers’ phones, desks, offices, or other work tools and equipment, when possible.

i. Vendors/contractors and vendor/contractor employees must frequently sanitize shared tools and equipment, among other things, and should clean touchpoints as they exit a worksite.

j. All persons on campus should avoid gatherings except if a particular gathering is approved by the university.

k. Campus visitors, volunteers, vendors/contractors, and vendor/contractor employees may be asked to leave if they are not abiding by the university’s health rules as outlined in this policy.

E. Individuals at Increased Risk of Severe Illness due to COVID-19

The CDC has identified certain categories of individuals who are or may be at increased risk for developing serious COVID-19 illness. This CDC guidance is regularly reviewed and updated as more is learned about COVID-19 and the virus that causes it. Therefore, the university refers readers to CDC information at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-increased-risk.html?

If you are a person who is at increased risk of developing severe COVID-19 illness, please consult with your healthcare provider concerning the particular risk associated with your return to campus. You may request an exemption from on-campus work assignment by completing the appropriate Requesting Exception from On-Campus Work Due to Increased Risk of Severe Illness form and submitting it with documentation to UCF Human Resources. See information at https://hr.ucf.edu/covid19-hr-info/.

If a higher risk student is asked to return to on-campus learning (such as for a clinical training course) or is planning to return to on-campus learning as courses become available, the student may make their higher risk status known to their academic advisor or program of study. The university strongly encourages students at higher risk to consider their personal health status when selecting coursework.

F. Face Coverings, Masks, and Gloves

Please note that wearing a face covering or mask does not replace the need to comply with other precautionary measures listed above.

In addition to the university’s face covering requirement, many local authorities have adopted mask orders. For example, Orange County Executive Order 20-25 requires all individuals to wear a face covering except as outlined in the order. Where an applicable state or local executive order prohibits something permitted by this policy, the terms of the applicable executive order will apply. Where the university’s policy contains additional provisions or requirements not prohibited by an applicable state or local executive order, then the university’s policy will apply as to that provision.
1. **Face Coverings – Reusable cloth face masks and disposable masks**

   Face coverings help protect others by containing respiratory droplets when the wearer coughs, sneezes, or speaks. Cloth masks should be at least two layers and must fit snugly to the face (i.e., not be open at or under the chin – bandannas or other loosely tied scarves are not appropriate face coverings); be secured with ties or ear loops; include multiple layers of fabric; allow for breathing without restriction; and be able to be laundered. At this time, based on guidance from health authorities, single-ply neck gaiters, open-chin triangle bandanas, and face coverings containing valves, mesh material or holes of any kind are not acceptable face coverings. Neck gaiters with multiple layers (preferably three or more) are allowed. Masks with one-way valves make it easier for the wearer to breathe freely, but because the valve releases unfiltered air when the wearer breathes out, this type of mask does not prevent the wearer from spreading the virus. Cloth face masks may be purchased from many sources or made at home from common materials.

2. **Medical-grade Surgical Masks/Respirators Protection**

   Medical personnel, law enforcement and other similar workers, and students pursuing health related careers may need to wear respiratory protection (FDA-cleared surgical masks, N-95 respirators, or better). The rest of the work force and university community will wear face coverings as recommended by CDC guidance and described above.

3. **Exceptions.** Wearing a face covering is not required or may not be appropriate:

   - When a person is in a personal office (a single room with a closable door) with the door closed and others are not present in the enclosed space.
   - When communication is necessary between a deaf or hard of hearing person and another individual(s), for which the mouth needs to be visible and where clear face coverings are not readily available for either person.
   - When exercising in one’s private quarters or outdoors as long as physical distance can be maintained. (UCF Recreation and Wellness Center will require facility guests to use a face covering or disposable mask.)
   - Individuals who have been advised by a medical professional not to wear a face covering due to a medical condition or trouble breathing, being incapacitated, or otherwise being unable to remove a face covering without assistance, the university recommends that such individuals work or learn remotely for the time being. If this applies to you, please contact: if you are an employee, your supervisor and/or Human Resources/Academic Affairs; if you are a student, Student Accessibility Services; or, whether you are an employee or student, Office of Institutional Equity.
   - Where wearing a face covering creates a safety hazard at work under established health and safety guidelines. For example, performing procedures where a surgical mask is required as PPE to protect the individual from exposure to potentially harmful materials, a cloth face covering should not be worn; instead, use a disposable FDA-cleared surgical mask. Similarly, consideration should be given to the appropriateness of cloth face coverings in environments where flame resistant materials are employed for safety.
   - While actively eating or drinking, but you should be stationary and maintain appropriate physical distancing.
   - For children under the age of two, for children unable to comply with mask wearing, or for persons of any age who are developmentally unable to wear a mask.
4. Gloves
According to the CDC, wearing gloves for most tasks, including general office work, is not necessary. For those job tasks that require glove use, gloves should be worn as required by standard operating procedures for performing those job tasks. Upon completion of the task, gloves must be removed, and hands must be washed. Gloves must not be worn in between tasks or when traveling from one building to another. The university will provide gloves only for those job tasks which require gloves; gloves will not be made generally available to employees and students. Remember that frequent hand washing is an essential element of effective infection control.

G. Testing and Tracing

The university has developed and implemented procedures in coordination with the County Health Department for employee and student testing and contact tracing following a positive COVID-19 test or relevant interaction with someone who tested positive. Contact tracing is used by health departments to prevent the spread of infectious disease. In general, contact tracing involves identifying people who have an infectious disease (cases) and people who they came in contact with (contacts) and working with them to interrupt disease spread. This includes asking people with COVID-19 to isolate and their contacts to quarantine at home voluntarily.

If a department or unit learns that an employee, student, contractor or contractor employee, or campus visitor has tested positive for COVID-19, the department or unit should notify the UCF COVID Line at 407-823-2509. The purpose of this notification is to allow contact tracing to begin. See also Section I below.

Employees and students should notify the university if they receive a positive COVID-19 test result or diagnosis by calling the UCF COVID Line at 407-823-2509. This will ensure that robust tracing of cases at UCF has started and will help the university identify and contain potentially impacted populations.

H. Enforcement

All employees, students, visitors, vendors, volunteers, contractors and contractor employees must comply with the instructions of this policy. 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 will 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 for faculty, staff, and students, up to and including separation from the university; and removal from campus, including trespass orders as necessary, for visitors who refuse to comply with the university’s policy. Contractors and contractor employees who fail or refuse to comply with the university’s policy may be asked to leave the university, may be in breach of contract, or may be trespassed from the university if non-compliance continues.
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 is an egregious policy violation that directly endangers others and 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 egregious policy violations like this. This response may include substantial disciplinary action (up to and including dismissal/termination) and/or removal of the individual from the campus (up to and including with the issuance of a trespass order).

I. Department Response to a Known Exposure Event at Worksire

It is possible that departments around campus may experience a known exposure event in their worksite. A known exposure event means that someone in (or very recently in) the worksite (1) has tested positive for COVID-19 or (2) has a close contact who has tested positive for COVID-19 or (3) has been deemed presumptively positive for COVID-19 by a healthcare provider or (4) has been ordered to self-isolate or quarantine by a public health official or healthcare provider due to some other exposure.

If a known exposure event occurs at the worksite, the department should notify Environmental Health & Safety at 407-823-5223. The department should be prepared to identify to the best of its ability: when the known exposure event occurred, who was present in the worksite at or near the time of the known exposure, who was the catalyst of the known exposure, and what steps the department has taken at that point. The department should not attempt to clean the worksite space on its own – Environmental Health & Safety will take the lead in assessing the cleaning and disinfecting needs for that worksite and in arranging for services as needed. Not all known exposure events in a worksite will require disinfecting or sanitizing, because many known exposure events can be addressed by closing off the area for a period of time, increasing ventilation, and doing a cleaning service.

If you are a supervisor and someone in your office (whether an employee, a volunteer, or a vendor/contractor) tests positive for COVID-19:

- Require that individual to stay home and not return to work until cleared to return.
- Require that individuals who had close contact with the employee (more than 15 minutes within six feet over the past 14 days) not return to work until they receive further guidance from their healthcare provider.
- Contact the UCF COVID Line at 407-823-2509 to coordinate contact tracing and the assessment of disinfecting needs in collaboration with Environmental Health & Safety.
- Take other steps as appropriate based on the situation to minimize potential exposure to others (examples could include having more staff work remotely, posting additional signage, etc.). Supervisors will need to make assessments on a case-by-case basis and can contact Human Resources for additional guidance.
J. CDC Guidance on Quarantine and Isolation

Quarantine is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. Quarantine helps prevent spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they are infected or if they are infected with the virus without having symptoms. People in quarantine should stay home, separate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their healthcare provider (or, if applicable, a public health official/office that advised the person to quarantine).

Quarantine Following Close Contact
A person should quarantine when they have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19. This includes people who previously had COVID-19 and people who have taken a serologic (antibody) test and have antibodies to the virus. Close contact means any of the following applies: you were within six feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period; you provided care at home or elsewhere to someone who is sick with COVID-19; you had direct physical contact with the infected person (touched, hugged, or kissed them); you shared eating or drinking utensils with the infected person; or the infected person sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you. The CDC recommends that a person quarantine for 14 days after close contact as defined above and monitor their symptoms. See https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html (updated October 27, 2020) for more information.

Isolate if Sick or Infected with the Virus
Isolation separates people who are infected with the virus away from people who are not infected. Isolation is for people who have symptoms of COVID-19 and are able to recover at home; and for people who have no symptoms of COVID-19 but who have tested positive for the infection. People who are in isolation should stay home until it’s safe for them to be around others, except to seek medical care. In the home, anyone sick or infected should separate themselves from others by staying in a specific “sick room” or area and using a separate bathroom (if available). For more information about isolation and when a person can end their isolation, see CDC guidance at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/isolation.html. (updated August 12, 2020).

FORMS

UCF COVID Return to Work Release Form: https://hr.ucf.edu/files/COVID-MEDICAL-RELEASE-FORM.pdf

RELATED INFORMATION


UCF Returning to Campus page (regularly updated):
https://www.ucf.edu/coronavirus/returning-to-ucf/

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

UCF Principles for Restarting Labs:
https://corona.research.ucf.edu/principles-for-reopening-labs/

UCF Policy 2-700.1 Reporting Misconduct and Protection from Retaliation

CDC Guidance on How to Protect Yourself and Others:

CDC Considerations for Institutions of Higher Education:

CDC Guidance on Isolation in the event of COVID-19 infection:

CDC Guidance on When to Quarantine:

CDC Guidance on How to Wear Cloth Face Coverings:

INITIATING AUTHORITY President

Policy Number: EP-20-1.4

President

Date: 11/19/2020