
UW-River Falls Administrative Policy

Policy ID: AP-01-128

Effective: 9/25/2020

Title: Interim COVID-19 Related Health & Safety Rules

Administrative University Officer: VCFA

Policy Owner/Responsible Officer: VCFA

Approved by: Chancellor

Revision: 2/5/2021

5/20/2021

8/19/2021 – updated to address Fall 2021 planning and mitigation practices

8/30/2021 – updates to Authority and Duration sections and date of review

9/23/2021 – updates to required testing frequency

11/19/2021 – policy extension

1/21/2022 – updates to face coverings, testing and recommended practices

2/17/2022 – policy extension

3/11/2022 – policy extension

3/31/2022 – updates to face coverings

5/2/2022 – policy extension

9/19/2022 – updates to entire policy

9/21/2023 – updates to entire policy

6/14/2024 – updates to entire policy

Review: As needed

Next Review Date: TBD

Policy:

UW-River Falls is committed to providing a safe environment in which to learn, teach, perform research, work, study, and visit. The coronavirus that causes COVID-19 can spread quickly and can result in severe illness and death, particularly for vulnerable individuals such as those with underlying health conditions. UW-River Falls is committed to mitigating, to the extent possible, the risks associated with COVID-19 and will act to implement measures and adopt practices that it deems necessary to protect students, employees, contractors, volunteers, visitors, and the greater community from potential exposure by reducing the likelihood of spread of COVID-19 on campus property or at any UWRF sponsored activity. These measures will be determined following recommendations and guidance on disease mitigation published by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), and our local public health agencies.

Wisconsin State Statutes including, but not limited to, Wis. Stat. ch. 36, and Wis. Admin. Code secs. UWS 17-18 provide authority to the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents and its Chancellors to protect the health and safety of those on University of Wisconsin System campuses. See Authority section below for more information.

Duration:

This policy is in place for all university students, employees, and visitors to campus until December 20, 2024, unless extended, terminated, or otherwise modified based on changing conditions related to COVID-19, including but not limited to changes in CDC guidance, state and local public health conditions, and campus safety.

Definitions

Face covering: a piece of cloth or other material that is worn to cover the nose and mouth completely, also referred to as a “face mask.” A “face covering” or “face mask” includes but is not limited to a cloth

face mask, a disposable or paper mask, a neck gaiter, or a religious face mask. A “face covering” or “face mask” does not include face shields, mesh masks, masks with holes or openings, or masks with vents.

Physical distancing: maintaining at least six (6) feet of distance from other individuals who are not members of your household or living unit.

Up to date on vaccinations: a person has received all doses in the primary series and all boosters recommended, when eligible.

Campus Property: any property (land or buildings) subject to UWRF’s control.

1. Access to Campus Property and Activities

- a. Information for individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 or have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 can be found here at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html>.
- b. Residence hall students who test positive will not be required to leave their room. It is recommended that the student avoids others as much as possible, wears a high-quality mask around others, does not attend in-person classes, and notifies instructors. Failure to notify and make course-related arrangements with instructors may have a negative impact on academic performance in courses. Off-campus students should also follow these recommendations as it respects on-campus and educational activities.

2. Face coverings

Employees may choose to require masks in their private unshared offices. In that case, the employee should proactively communicate the need for visitors entering their office to wear a face covering. With respect to scheduled in-person meetings in the office of any employee requiring face masks therein, the employee must provide meeting attendee(s) a virtual meeting option, as an alternative to the in-person in-office meeting, with as much notice as reasonably possible.

3. COVID-19 testing

UWRF plans to offer free at-home antigen test kits as long as supplies last. These kits are located in Student Health & Counseling Services, 254 Rodli Hall. Individuals may also seek COVID-19 testing at local clinics, pharmacies or through their healthcare provider.

The federal government no longer provides free at-home tests. Additional information can be found online at <https://www.covidtests.gov/>.

4. Other recommended health and safety practices

- a. Get the COVID-19 vaccine if possible. UWRF is not mandating that any student or employee receive the vaccine; however, achieving a high campus vaccination rate appears to be the best possible hope of mitigating the risks associated with COVID-19, therefore vaccines are strongly encouraged. Vaccines remain effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalizations, and death.

- i. Vaccination status is confidential and should not be discussed or disclosed outside of a conversation with any employee or student who might self-disclose this information.
 - ii. Regarding the federal Executive Order (EO) 14042 (federal contractor vaccine mandate), UWRF has determined it does not have any federal contracts at the present time, and therefore is not a “covered contractor” or a “covered contractor workplace” for purposes of the EO. Therefore, subject to further consultation with UW System, UW-River Falls employees are currently not subject to the terms of the EO.
- b. Frequent handwashing with soap and water, or the use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol when soap and water are not readily available, is strongly encouraged.
- c. While the university has adopted sanitation protocols to reduce the spread of the virus, individual units are expected to be responsible for their office spaces and to appropriately sanitize items and surfaces on a regular basis.
- d. UWRF cannot guarantee that individuals will not be exposed to or develop COVID-19. All students and employees are encouraged to adopt a sense of personal responsibility and use their own best judgement and follow the advice of their healthcare provider regarding their risks.
- e. We expect that all students, employees, and visitors act in a manner that demonstrates respect and safety for all.

Compliance

Students and employees who choose not to comply with requirements stated in this policy may be subject to disciplinary action. Reports about concerns may be made electronically via the Report It website at <https://www.uwrf.edu/ReportIt/>.

No Discrimination

Consistent with the university’s policies against discrimination, UW-River Falls does not tolerate discrimination, profiling, bias, or any form of harassment, based on race, disability, or other protected class, in conjunction with this policy or any other policies. Any incidents of discrimination should be reported on the Report It website at <https://www.uwrf.edu/ReportIt/>.

Authority

In addition to the generalized authority cited above, this policy is being issued pursuant to authority in the laws of the State of Wisconsin and applicable University of Wisconsin System policies, including but not limited to: Wis. Stats. ss. 36.11(1)(a) and (c), 36.09(1)(a), (f) and (L), 36.35(2) and 101.11; Wis. Admin. Code ss. UWS 18.11(6)(a) and (7)(e), UWS 18.08(9)(b), UWS 18.13, UWS 17.09(1), (14) and (15); and Regent Policy 23-2.

The UW-River Falls chancellor approves this policy in accordance with the Administrative Policy process. The vice chancellor for business and finance is responsible for the substance of and compliance with all administrative policies. The Policy Owner (Responsible Office) is responsible for the administration and

maintenance of this policy. Request an exception to this policy by writing to administrative-policy@uwrf.edu.

Related Documents

- Wisconsin State Statutes
 - <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/36/09/1>
 - <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/36/11>
- UW System Board of Regents Policy Document
 - <https://www.wisconsin.edu/regents/policies/health-safety-and-security-at-uw-system-institutions/>
- UW-River Falls Website, Falcons Forward, <https://www.uwrf.edu/Falcons-Forward/Index.cfm>
- CDC Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>
- Pierce County Public Health Coronavirus Response
 - https://www.co.pierce.wi.us/departments/public_health/covid-19.php#:~:text=Pierce%20County%20Public%20Health%20%2D%20COVID,anyone%20age%20%20and%20older

Contact

Please direct questions about this policy to administrative-policy@uwrf.edu.