

**University of Arizona Health Sciences
Office of the Senior Vice President
Re-Entry Plan**

PLAN OVERVIEW

As cases of COVID-19 in the State of Arizona continue to be monitored, the University of Arizona Health Sciences Office of the Senior Vice President has developed a re-entry plan for a staged return of staff and students to work and participate in educational, service and research activities. All UArizona Health Sciences Colleges as well as individual departmental and center units within these colleges have also completed independent plans specific to their faculty, staff and student populations, curricular and research requirements. Those plans as well as this one comply with the directives of the State of Arizona and the University of Arizona. In addition, all plans and guidelines are shaped by the CDC/White House “Guidelines for opening up America again” ([Guidelines-for-Opening-Up-America-Again](#)) and the CDC “Interim Guideline for Administrators of US <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-ihe-response.html>.

Guiding Principles

- All activities will comply with Federal, State, Local and University Guidelines. It should be noted that our activities located at the Phoenix Biomedical Campus (PBC) and Tucson Campus may be in different phases of their respective plans given the specific county activity and infection levels.
- Individuals with high-risk of complications from COVID-19 infection are encouraged to work from home. Those with household members at high-risk are also encouraged to work from home.
- Educational and service activities should be virtual unless personal interaction is essential.
- Laboratory and non-virtual research activities will require review and approval by Research Innovation and Impact (RII) prior to commencing/continuing.
- Face-to-face in person interactions should be minimized through the use of teleconferencing.
- Face coverings are required before entering and occupying any UArizona Health Sciences facility except single occupancy offices.
- Group size for conferences, meetings and classes will be limited to a number that allows six (6) foot separation.
- All employees required to be on site should conduct daily wellness checks to monitor for COVID-19 symptoms prior to arriving at the worksite using the UArizona Wildcat WellCheck. <https://www.wellcheck.arizona.edu>
- Wash hands frequently or use an alcohol-based sanitizer when unable to wash hands
- Maintenance of social distancing of at least six (6) feet
- Individuals with symptoms suggestive of illness should work from home.
- Frequent cleaning of spaces and shared and high-touch equipment.

CURRENT STATE

Administrative

The UArizona Health Sciences Office of the Senior Vice President includes the executive leadership team and the administrative support units of Communications, Research Administration, Planning and Facilities, Development, IT, Finance and Central Room Scheduling. All units have continued remote working arrangements since the initial stay at home order in March mandated by both the Governor of Arizona and the University of Arizona. Although the mandate has since been lifted at the State level, the University guidelines suggest continued remote working unless in person presence is absolutely necessary.

Education

All UArizona Health Science Colleges redirected their teaching activities to virtual formats in order to meet the initial stay at home order mandated in March by both the Governor of Arizona and the University of Arizona. Virtual activities continued through the end of the semester. Each College has submitted an independent reentry plan detailing how they will approach the upcoming fall semester. All plans promote the use of both virtual and in-person formats to meet the needs of their respective curriculum.

Research

All research activities that can be performed virtually should continue to do so. All UArizona Health Sciences research activities being conducted on campus with an in person presence has been coordinated through college research deans in collaboration with the Office of Research, Innovation and Impact (RII) and received approval with the distribution of research waivers. All research activities must follow the guidelines set forth at: <https://research.arizona.edu/covid19/announcements> All research activities being conducted on campus must be reviewed and approved prior to commencing or continuing at: <https://research.arizona.edu/covid19/research-restart>

RESUMPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The CDC/White House guidelines (Figure 1) describe three phases of progressive loosening of current restrictions, each triggered by “gating criteria” that emphasize 14 days of decreasing disease burden before progressing to the next phase (see Figure 1). In addition, UAHS College plans will use University guidance (<https://www.arizona.edu/coronavirus-covid-19-information>) and <https://hr.arizona.edu/content/retrun-campus-employees#COVIDWorkplace>) and Department of Health Services data (<https://azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/index.php#novel-coronavirus-home>) in decisions to resume activity on campus. As noted above, activities located at the Phoenix Biomedical Campus (PBC), Gilbert and Tucson Campus may be in different phases of their respective plans given the specific county activity and infection levels.

Coordination among non-UArizona Health Sciences entities (Eller College of Management and Law) as well as Northern Arizona University and Arizona State University is also a unique component of planning for those campuses.

Proposed State or Regional Gating Criteria

(Satisfy Before Proceeding to Phased Opening)

SYMPTOMS

Downward trajectory of influenza-like illnesses (ILI) reported within a 14-day period

AND

Downward trajectory of COVID-like syndromic cases reported within a 14-day period

CASES

Downward trajectory of documented cases within a 14-day period

OR

Downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests within a 14-day period (flat or increasing volume of tests)

HOSPITALS

Treat all patients without crisis care

AND

Robust testing program in place for at-risk healthcare workers, including emerging antibody testing

*State and local officials may need to tailor the application of these criteria to local circumstances (e.g., metropolitan areas that have suffered severe COVID outbreaks, rural and suburban areas where outbreaks have not occurred or have been mild). Additionally, where appropriate, Governors should work on a regional basis to satisfy these criteria and to progress through the phases outlined below.

Re-entry Phases

Phase 1

- Telework and virtual education are advised in Phase 1, which should minimize changes to current activity status across UArizona Health Sciences.
- Anyone on campus is required to wear a mask while in any UArizona Health Sciences building unless in a private office.
- Individuals with positive screens, close contact with someone who has tested positive or those feeling ill will be sent home or advised to stay home. Steps for testing, contact tracing and notification of possible close contact will follow University approved protocol at the following links <http://hr.arizona.edu/content/covid-19-positive-case-notification-protocol> and <https://www.arizona.edu/test-trace-treat>
- Social distancing of six (6) feet or more and group size limited to (≤ 10).
- Hand sanitizer is provided at all building entrances and classrooms.
- Plexiglass guards have been placed at all public facing reception areas.
- Social distancing and limited group size must be maintained throughout the building, including elevators, stairwells, conference rooms, hallways and common areas.
- Common areas have been provided with disinfectant, paper towels, hand sanitizer and signage requesting wipe down of surfaces and shared equipment (i.e. copiers) before and after use.
- Only essential business travel will be permitted.

Phase 2

- Telework and virtual education will continue in Phase 2, but consideration can be given to phasing in on-site activities. Vulnerable populations will be advised to continue to work/learn virtually.
- Reduction of overall presence of employees in the workplace is still advised to ensure physical distance is maintained. Supervisors are encouraged to explore staggered work shift/hours, limited hours and other flexible approaches for employees.
- All employees returning will be required to complete the Return to Work Learning Module available through UAccess Learning.

- Simulation activities and standardized patient interactions may resume, while maintaining precautions as outlined in their respective re-entry/operations plans.
- All visitors to campus are expected to follow the same screening, mask requirement, and physical distancing (6 feet) practices and it is the responsibility of the hosting unit/individual to communicate these requirements.
- Group size limits may increase consistent with guidance from the CDC, State and University.
- Workplace precautions including personal sanitizing supplies and sneeze guards will continue.
- Cleaning protocols for common areas and shared spaces and equipment will continue as described in Phase 1.
- Non-essential business travel may resume.

Phase 3

- Phase 3 will be entered only when permitted by State, University and local guidelines.
- On-campus activities can return to pre-COVID levels without group size limitations or physical distancing.
- Masks will no longer be required.
- Sanitizing supplies will remain easily available.
- Vulnerable populations can resume public activities but should maintain social distancing.
- Cleaning protocols for common areas and shared spaces and equipment will continue.
- Business travel will be unrestricted.

It should be noted that research reentry is following a six (6) phase plan that can be found at the following link <https://research.arizona.edu/covid19/research-restart>

As units plan for the return of employees and activities, it is advised to regularly reference the UArizona official website <https://www.arizona.edu/coronavirus-covid-19-information> that houses information for students, parents, faculty, staff and other campus constituents. The UArizona website is updated around the clock and includes resources from the CDC, county and state; we encourage you to refer to it as often as possible as the situation is quickly evolving.

CURRENT PLANNING AND PREPARATION ACTIVITIES

The UArizona Health Sciences Office of the Senior Vice President and all administrative units will follow the University of Arizona guidelines for re-entry into campus. The UArizona Health Sciences Planning and Facilities team has taken on a leadership role in coordinating with UArizona Facilities Management, UArizona Risk Management and individual College representatives to ensure all necessary safety measures have been addressed in our facilities prior to the re-entry to campus including but not limited to:

- Installing CDC signage and hand sanitizer at all building entries and classrooms
- Installing social distancing signage at all elevators
- Distribution of Oxivir disinfectant to all classrooms and laboratories for individuals to utilize between classes and in their laboratories throughout the day
- Distribution of hand sanitizer bottles/pumps to all common shared spaces
- Determining new classroom and conference room capacities in order to maintain social distancing per CDC and University guidelines,
- Installation of plexiglass barriers at all public reception areas

To ensure a safe teaching environment for students and faculty using health science classrooms, we have rearranged layouts to follow University and CDC social distancing guidelines. The new occupancy data is available on our central scheduling system(s) to make planning and reassignment easier for our colleges.

All UArizona Health Sciences research activities will follow the set UArizona Research, Innovation and Impact guidelines. All research that can be performed virtually should continue to do so. All research activities being conducted on campus have been reviewed and approved with the distribution of research waivers. Human subject research will follow University guidelines. Researchers will follow University guidance as to the use of PPE equipment for their research project.

Protocol outlining the process for employees with positive COVID test or exposure to someone that has received a positive COVID test are in the final stages of development and will be available soon.

<http://hr.arizona.edu/content/covid-19-positive-case-notification-protocol> and <https://www.arizona.edu/test-trace-treat>

UArizona Health Sciences leadership is committed to frequently reviewing and assessing the educational, research, and employee workforce goals to ensure a safe work and learning environment for our faculty, staff and students. These goals may change over time depending on how the COVID-19 pandemic evolves. We will continue to follow CDC and University of Arizona guidelines, as we enter the various re-entry phases of our plan.