



## Reopening of the U of I Boise Idaho Water Center Building

Fall 2020 presents a unique challenge in managing the limitations created by the COVID-19 pandemic considering University of Idaho's mission to deliver a high-quality education program. As President Green has [explained](#), we are committed to opening for in-person classes this fall. However, we recognize that the situation in Boise is different from our Moscow campus, in part because of a recent Central District Health [order](#) recommending that the Boise area return to a [modified phase 3](#) of the [Idaho Rebounds](#) reopening plan. Please check the [University's website](#) for the most up-to-date information about the university's COVID-19 planning and resources.

The information below summarizes the practices we have adopted in the Idaho Water Center to help provide a safe learning and working environment for our students, faculty and staff when our buildings reopen.

### Timing for Return to On-Site Work and Learning in Boise's Idaho Water Center (IWC)

Our current plan, *if conditions with the COVID-19 situation permit*, is to have all University of Idaho **staff and faculty** return to onsite work on Sept. 28 or when we return to Stage 4, whichever comes first, unless an [Human Resources-approved accommodation or flexplace agreement](#) is in place.

On Sept. 28 or once Ada County is back in Stage 4, classes will proceed as originally planned. Beginning the following Monday, students are expected to attend their scheduled in-person or Hyflex classes.

Please remember that decisions regarding work adjustments are not made at the college administration level when medical information is a factor; these must go through [HR](#) for processing. Employees with an accommodation or flexplace agreement should inform their direct supervisors of any schedule adjustments and develop a work plan. Supervisors may work with employees to develop alternate schedules to decrease in-person contact, but still accomplish unit responsibilities. Tactics may include rotating/alternating work schedules; staggered start/end times; or optimized office arrangement for distancing.

We expect all University of Idaho **students** to return to our building and access all student spaces beginning when we re-open our facilities. We will end in-person class delivery when Thanksgiving break begins on Friday, Nov. 20, 2020, and classes will resume on Monday, Nov. 30, using only online/remote delivery. We do not plan to close any U of I buildings to student or

employee access during that time. Again, we will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as things change.

If a student is concerned about returning to in-person classes in the fall due to personal health reasons, please fill out an accommodations request through [the Center for Disability Access and Resources](#) (CDAR). Students can speed up the process by having on hand the appropriate medical documents to support an accommodations request. See CDAR, [Preparing Disability Documentation](#).

The university will follow guidance from the [Central District Health](#), Idaho's [Governor](#), and our [University's President](#) when making decisions about building access and remote versus in-person learning.

### **Healthy Vandal Pledge, Symptom Monitoring, and Student Conduct**

As President Green [explained](#), each member of our U of I community has an obligation to make our university as safe as possible. That is why we are requiring all faculty, staff and students to acknowledge the [Healthy Vandal Pledge](#) when logging into VandalWeb. This pledge asks each of us to read, acknowledge and put into practice the university's safety protocols.

These protocols include having every student and employee conduct daily symptom monitoring before reporting to work or class. The Centers for Disease Control maintains an updated list of known [symptoms](#) that students and employees should be familiar with. Anyone experiencing any of these symptoms should stay home and call a medical provider or local [Idaho Public Health District](#) for assessment of symptoms and possible COVID-19 testing. Anyone with a positive COVID-19 test result, or who experienced prolonged exposure to someone with COVID-19, should stay home and follow quarantine and isolation guidance from local [CDH Guidelines](#). Employees should work with HR and their supervisor to determine benefits options and potential work-from-home options.

The university's [Student Code of Conduct](#) reminds us that all members of the university community have the right to a campus that is free from unreasonable disruption, obstruction, or interference. Art. I, A-5. "By enrolling at the University of Idaho, students voluntarily accept responsibility for compliance with all university policies, including but not limited to this Code." Art. I, B. Accordingly, students are required to comply with all policies and safety protocols established by the university, including [wearing a face covering](#). If a student has a medical condition or disability that prevents the student from wearing a face covering, please follow the procedures to seek an accommodation or academic adjustment set forth above. The adjustment approved for you may be one requiring you to participate in classes in an online format.

### **Testing and Notification**

The university's Moscow location will require all students to be tested for COVID-19 when they return to campus. Because of testing availability in the Treasure Valley, U of I Boise is not

requiring testing as of right now, but instead is encouraging all students and employees to get tested if they have been exposed to COVID-19 and/or are experiencing symptoms. The Boise area Central District Health website has a list of COVID-19 related resources and [Testing Sites](#) in the Treasure Valley , including [St. Alphonsus](#) and [St Luke's](#) sites. Please note that St. Alphonsus has agreed to test U of I students for free, and you'll need your Vandal Card at the time of the appointment.

If a student faculty or staff member tests positive, please follow your health care provider's advice and the [CDH Guidelines](#) explaining what to do if you have confirmed COVID-19. In addition, employees and students should file a [VandalCARE Report](#) *with known and suspected cases of COVID-19*. The VandalCARE team will route the concern or inquiry to the appropriate department to ensure students, faculty and staff are able to get the resources and support they need.

If we are informed of a known COVID-19 case in the building, the contact tracing process will determine who is informed of any potential exposure as defined by Central District Health. We will ask our cleaning crews to clean and sanitize areas accessed by the employee or student who tested positive for COVID-19, but will continue normal operations in our buildings. If there is a large outbreak of positive cases in a facility, we will work with the university's administrative entities to determine whether to suspend normal operations and develop an alternative plan.

### **Health and Safety Measures & Requirements**

When allowed to return to the building, students, staff, faculty and visitors are required to wear a face covering that completely covers their nose and mouth when in a public place, others are present, or physical distancing of six feet cannot be maintained, as required by the Central District Health's [Quarantine and Restriction Order](#) of July 28, 2020. The university has similar requirements and specifies the following exceptions --- a face covering is not required when working alone in an enclosed workspace or in an office or other area where six feet of social distancing can be constantly maintained.

All building classrooms, study areas, conference rooms and other spaces have been adjusted for 50% maximum occupancy. Those occupancy limits will be posted on the doors to each room or study space.

You are expected to comply with the following social distancing and other practices listed here:

- Hand sanitizer is available in the buildings at several locations. We ask that building occupants wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after being in a public place, or after blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer.
- The elevators have a two-person occupancy limit.

- All doors into the IWC University of Idaho classrooms and study spaces will be locked and available to open by card swipe only to those students who have dedicated study space.
- Students should not enter classrooms until all occupants from the previous class have exited. Crowding to enter classrooms is not permitted. Faculty must end classes and students must exit rooms promptly. Faculty will dismiss students from class one row at a time to control traffic flow.
- Specific seats will be identified for occupancy in each classroom. These assigned seats will be the only seats people may sit in as part of the calculation to maintain appropriate distance and comply with our 50% room occupancy limits. Please do not move seating around, as it will be set up to allow specifically for social distancing.
- The student and employee lounges (break rooms) are open, but also at a 50% capacity. No more than one individual shall be at the refrigerator or kitchen counter at one time. The tables and chairs in the lounges have been arranged to allow for 6 feet of distance between individuals in that space.
- Furniture in common areas is arranged to meet our social distancing and occupancy restrictions. Students and employees should not move any furniture without permission.
- Study rooms may not be occupied by more than two individuals at one time. A 6-foot distance must be maintained. Classrooms will be locked and not available for studying and other uses outside of official room reservations. Each classroom will be cleaned and sanitized for the next day, which can't happen with after-hours studying and drop in usage.
- Our cleaning crews will clean and sanitize all classroom tables at least once a day. There will be sanitizing materials in the classrooms, lounges, common areas and study areas for students and employees to wipe down the area before and after using the space.
- Committees, student organizations and other administrative, co- and extra-curricular groups should continue meeting remotely unless the Dean or an Associate Dean of Students provides expressed permission to do so in person. There will be no "tableing" for student or other organizations this fall semester.