COVID-19 Operating Plan 2021 - 2022

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Overview

The mission of the University of Idaho McCall Field Campus (MFC) and Outdoor Science School is to transform individuals and communities through innovative research and educational experiences. We envision vibrant, diverse and inclusive communities, empowered to ask difficult questions and transform ways of thinking, to collaboratively and compassionately sustain the social and ecological systems that provide for all of us.

We believe in the power of in-person instruction and the MFC community experience. While we cannot completely eliminate the possibility of a student or staff member contracting COVID-19, we have taken steps to reduce the likelihood of it. We carefully analyzed the various components of life at MFC and created practices and policies based on what is happening in our school, community, and the country. We anticipate that the situation will continue to evolve, and the response level will change with the situation, potentially multiple times during the semester. We believe our plan is built on best recommendations and represents a solid path for operating, mitigating many risks, even if unable to absolutely eliminate all risk of exposure or illness. This plan relies on the cooperation of our entire community to implement fully. Our ability to respond and adapt plays to our strengths. We are a small, nimble organization that is well-versed in the concept of risk management. We are prepared to pivot quickly as new information is presented.

According to the CDC, "COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. It is thought that the virus may spread to hands from a contaminated surface and then to the nose or mouth, causing infection. Therefore, personal prevention practices (such as handwashing, staying home when sick) and environmental prevention practices (such as cleaning and disinfection) are important principles that are covered in this document. Fortunately, there are a number of actions IHE administrators can take to help lower the risk of COVID-19 exposure and spread"1

Context

This plan is based on the community of McCall experiencing “substantial” community transmission as of August 1, 2021. The current positivity rate is 5.26%.
https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view

University of Idaho Pandemic Operating FAQs:
https://www.uidaho.edu/vandal-health-clinic/coronavirus

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Executive Summary

- We strongly encourage all eligible individuals to get vaccinated for COVID-19. Vaccinations are scientifically proven to be safe and effective at preventing serious infection, hospitalization, and death.
- We strongly encourage all MOSS participants to get a COVID-19 test before arriving. Any positive test should not travel to McCall.
- We strongly encourage all MOSS participants to minimize social activities two weeks before their MOSS program begins. Avoid large gatherings and wear a mask in all public settings.
- In accordance with University of Idaho policy, face coverings are required in all University buildings, including at the McCall Field Campus. Exceptions to the masking policy include:
  - When working alone in an enclosed workspace
  - When eating in a dining facility, so long as the facility’s safety protocols are otherwise followed
  - When outside and distance of 3-6 feet is maintained
  - When bathing
  - When sleeping
- High filtration air filters are in all community spaces on the McCall Field Campus and should be used whenever more than one person is using inside space. This includes the sleeping bunks for K12 students. Windows should be kept open, weather permitting.
- The majority of MOSS programming will occur outside.
- Teachers and chaperones are expected to:
  - conduct participant health screenings each morning
  - encourage regular hand washing
  - enforce distancing guidelines
  - enforce masking guidelines
  - enforce McCall Field Campus best practices
- Anyone with *any* symptomatic illness should stay home and not participate in MOSS programming.
- Participants who become symptomatic while at MOSS will be asked to leave the program and will be isolated until they depart.
Considerations for Program Suspension / Closure:

External Factors

At the time of writing this plan (August 2, 2021), Valley County is in CDC category of “substantial” community transmission. At this time all schools in Valley County plan to remain open to in-person programming. If Central District Health recommends school closure or the McCall-Donnelly School District moves away from in-person instruction based on increased community caseload and spread, the McCall Field Campus will re-evaluate in-person programming for K12 students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CDC Category: Low</th>
<th>CDC Category: Moderate</th>
<th>CDC Category: Substantial</th>
<th>CDC Category: High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Follow all protocols as defined in this document.</td>
<td>Follow all protocols as defined in this document</td>
<td>In-person K12 programs will continue following all protocols in this document. The graduate program will continue face to face until the UI provides other guidance.</td>
<td>In-person K12 programs will continue when case counts and % test positivity show a 4-week downward trend. The graduate program will continue face to face until the UI provides other guidance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amended 9/8/2021

We are updating this plan based on emerging information from our local health district, as well as changes in statewide conditions. Specifically, Central District Health has clarified that they do not have the authority to make recommendations regarding school closures. We will continue to monitor MDSD decisions, but we have sought out alternative measures to guide our decisions.

We have settled on hospital capacity and the use of Crisis Care Standards as our new metric
If our hospital district enters into a “Crisis Care” scenario (see page 8 on the linked document), we will suspend in person programming.

Internal Factors
If a positive case is identified at the MFC, we will work with UI main campus and CDH to determine the proper response. In the case of an outbreak, MFC will work with UI main campus and CDH to determine the need for short-term (1-2 days) or longer term program closure to conduct contact tracing and deep cleaning, and to allow for isolation or quarantine of residents, staff and faculty.

Health - Screening and Preventing COVID-19 Infection

Screening

**Faculty and staff** will self-screen daily before coming to the MFC. Screening protocols include:

- A temperature check to ensure body temperature is below 100.4 degrees.
- A self-assessment screening to evaluate if a person is experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
- If the temperature is 100.4 degrees or above, the person will stay home and notify their supervisor.
- If the answer to any screening question is yes, the person will stay home and notify their supervisor.
- Symptomatic individuals will arrange for a COVID-19 test. Free testing is available by appointment at Rite Aid in McCall. Testing is also available at St. Luke’s in McCall for those who are symptomatic.
- If an employee tests positive, they will self-isolate at home for at least 14 days.
- Positive employees must receive a negative COVID-19 test before returning to work at the MFC.
- Even if a person passes the health screening, if they feel ill in any way, they are instructed to notify their supervisor and stay home until symptoms subside.
- Symptomatic employees must follow the protocols outlined in Response and Management below.

**Graduate students** will self-screen daily before participating in campus activities. Screening protocols include:

- A temperature check to ensure body temperature is below 100.4 degrees.
- A self-assessment screening to evaluate if a person is experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19. The screening form will be initiated by the employee conducting the screening and kept on file for future reference.
- If the temperature is 100.4 degrees or above, the student will self-isolate in their residence.
● If the answer to any screening question is yes, the student will self-isolate in their residence.
● Symptomatic students will arrange for a COVID-19 test. Free testing is available by appointment at Rite Aid in McCall. Testing is also available at St. Luke’s Hospital in McCall.
● If a student tests positive, they will self-isolate in their residence for at least 14 days.
● Positive students must receive a negative COVID-19 test before returning to in-person class/activities at the MFC.
● **Even if a person passes the health screening, if they feel ill in any way, they are instructed to notify their advisor and stay isolated in their residence until symptoms subside.**
● Symptomatic students must follow the protocols outlined in Response and Management below.

**Messaging**

Clear and consistent messaging from across our program will be essential in promoting and enforcing the necessary behaviors that will mitigate spread of COVID. Some sample messaging suggested by a NY Times OpEd are, “Masks are essential and will be required in all public places”; “Social distancing is a civic responsibility”; “The virus is not going away anytime soon, but we can get it under control quickly if we work together.”

[“Healthy Vandal” signage will be posted throughout the facility, on all entrance doors, in common spaces, and in both indoor and outdoor classrooms. Faculty, staff and graduate students will be expected to model expected behaviors at all times.](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/08/opinion/sunday/coronavirus-response-testing-lockdown.html?action=click&module=Opinion&pgtype=Homepage)

It will be important to create behavioral expectations without introducing shame if individuals are found to be positive. In spite of the best efforts, it is entirely possible that members of our community will become infected. We must not introduce stigma and we must balance messaging about the behaviors that we wish to see with empathy for individuals. We are all dependent on each other for our collective physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing.

**Face Coverings and other PPE**

A face covering is an item that covers the nose and mouth, including multi-layer cloth masks, surgical masks, KN95 or N95 masks without valves. Single layer buffs or bandanas do not meet the masking requirement. The MFC has a supply of surgical face masks and N95 respirators. N95 respirators will be reserved for those in significant contact with symptomatic individuals. All
faculty, staff, students and visitors on the McCall Field Campus must use face coverings whenever in any U of I building, unless one of the following exceptions is met:

- When working alone in an enclosed workspace
- When eating in a dining facility, so long as the facility’s safety protocols are otherwise followed
- When outside and distance of 3-6 feet is maintained
- When bathing
- When sleeping

When to Wear What

PPE needs for staff will vary based on their job tasks, their ability to maintain appropriate physical distancing, and their potential for contact with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases.

- N95 Respirators and eye protection or face shields should be worn when staff anticipate contact with or close proximity to confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases or when cleaning and disinfecting areas known or suspected to have been in contact with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases. Alternatively, the individual with the positive case can wear a mask.
- Cloth face masks, while not technically PPE, should be worn by:
  - Staff whenever interacting with others closer than six feet for extended periods, i.e., greater than 15 minutes, as well as other times to the extent possible.
  - Kitchen staff at all times.
  - Staff when cleaning and disinfecting.
  - Staff when interacting with outside vendors or outside community members when physical distancing can’t be maintained.
- Disposable gloves should be worn by:
  - Staff when anticipating contact with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases or when handling belongings known to have been in contact with confirmed or suspected cases.
  - Kitchen staff, in accordance with existing best practices for food preparation and storage. Coronavirus is not foodborne, but food service workers who are infected can transmit the virus to coworkers or diners.
  - Staff when cleaning and disinfecting.

How to Use PPE

Procedures on donning (putting on) and doffing (taking off) PPE may vary depending on what pieces of equipment are to be used, in which settings, and for what purpose.
Instructions for Donning

1. Gather the PPE to don and ensure each piece is the correct size.
2. Perform hand hygiene; wash hands using soap and water for at least 20 seconds or disinfect hands using alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
3. Don respirator or face mask (if applicable).
   a. Respirator: The top strap should be placed on the crown of the head and the bottom strap should be placed at the base of the neck. If the respirator has a nosepiece, fit it to the nose with both hands. Perform a user seal check.
   b. Face mask: Items vary; tie or place straps according to the manufacturer instructions.
4. Put on face shield or goggles.
5. Perform proper hand hygiene again.
6. Don gloves.
   a. Best practice:
      i. Check for punctures or tears before using
      ii. Do not re-wear same gloves after you take them off
      iii. Immediately replace damaged gloves

Instructions for Doffing

1. Remove gloves and ensure that doing so does not cause contamination of hands by using a safe removal technique (e.g. glove-in-glove, or bird beak).
   a. Perform hand hygiene.
2. Remove face shield or goggles by grasping the strap and pulling it up and away from the head. Do not touch the front of the face shield or goggles.
3. Remove respirator or face mask and dispose (if disposable) or launder while avoiding touching the front of it.
   a. Respirator: Remove the bottom strap by grasping only the strap and bringing it over the head. Remove the top strap by grasping only the top strap and bringing it over the head and pulling the respirator away from the face without touching the front.
   b. Face mask: Items vary; untie or unstrap it according to manufacturer instructions and by pulling the mask away from the face without touching the front.
4. Perform hand hygiene.

Physical Distancing

- **In general**: Stay at least 6 feet from other people at all times.
- **Communication**: Consider communicating using email, instant message, telephone or other technology rather than face-to-face interactions. The university has a range of available collaboration tools (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc.).
Meetings: Whenever possible, meetings should be held using the extensive range of available collaboration tools (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, telephone, etc.). If a meeting must take place in person to accomplish the purpose of the meeting, it should be in a large room with attendees six feet away from each other and wearing masks. Any in-person meeting should last only as long as necessary to accomplish the task. Classes will be held in person, per UI guidance, but physical distancing and masks will be required when indoors.

Hygiene

- 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 a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- MFC has rented four hand washing stations starting August 20 to be placed throughout campus. Two will be placed in the main parking lot for K12 student use. One will be placed outside of the Spirit Yurt for graduate student use and one will be placed in another centralized location TBD. These stations will be serviced weekly.

Facilities

Housing

The following buildings have been designated for housing of graduate students, AmeriCorps members, K12 students and teachers/chaperones, and other guests.
- Bunkhouse buildings 6-7 (renumbered in June 2021), grad cabin units Brundage A & B; Sargents A & B, Yurts - Hazard, Goose, Loon, Maki, and Snowslide are designated for graduate student housing. There will be a mix of single and double units.
- Bunkhouse buildings 1-5, Lake Yurt, and Rose Yurt are designated as K12 housing. There will be 10 students in each BH building and 20 in each yurt.
- We have arranged for at least one isolation space per week, with a few exceptions when the school group is too large to accommodate this.

All campus residents will be asked to clean and disinfect their residence regularly. Cleaning supplies will be provided. Residents are encouraged to use the provided air filters frequently, especially when multiple people are using the residence at the same time.

All graduate student residents are to sign a UI/MFC Housing Agreement and agree to the COVID19 Campus Protocols.

Cook’s Cabin
● recommended occupancy is 5
● No eating recommended
● Communal pots/pans, dishes, utensils are provided
● Residents are responsible for cleaning kitchen towels
● Residents are responsible for cleaning the space, including bathroom
● Do not leave personal items in the bathroom
● Dish soap (ask Betsy), cleaning products (in laundry room) and toilet paper (in laundry room) are provided
● Tell maintenance things to Jon
● Ask Betsy for kitchen supplies -- i.e., a new pot, a chef’s knife, etc.
● Be considerate of your community when inviting guests (i.e., partners) into this space
● Keep in mind this space will be a stop on the campus tour for prospective students

Guests

Overnight guests are permitted to the residents of the MCCall Field Campus. It is required that they understand and sign our Healthy MFC Pledge and limit their access to certain facilities while on campus.

Overnight and daytime guests are permitted to access only the residence assigned to you or that of your host, the shared shower and restroom facilities, and the seating area of the dining lodge. All other structures and facilities are off-limits.

The MFC risk officer needs to be notified of any guest in order to check that they have signed the Healthy MFC Pledge.

Bathrooms

Shared bathroom facility use is as follows:

● The new shower house will be used by K12 residents. Limit shower times to two bunkhouse buildings at a time (20 students).
● The old showerhouse will be used only by campus residents. Limit occupancy to 3 people at one time.
● Cook’s Cabin bathroom is for residents only.
● Office bathroom is for faculty and staff only.
● Ten porta potties will be set-up throughout campus once K12 programming begins.
● We will ask any sick or symptomatic resident to use a specific porta potty for restroom needs. Shower times will be arranged in one of the private bathrooms in the New BH at times that are conducive to the K12 program.

Classrooms

Classroom spaces are designated as follows. Occupancy numbers are in parenthesis.
- Spirit Yurt (13) is designated as the graduate classroom and study space.
- The Main Classroom is designated as a K12 classroom (20) and dining space (20+).
- The four wall tents (10 ea.) are designated as K12 classrooms.

Spacing in classrooms will be marked (with tape or other material as needed) to identify appropriate physical distancing.

Doors and windows shall remain open and fans shall be used to circulate air. Air purifiers should be running whenever students are in the building. Students will be expected to wear appropriate layers to accommodate additional air flow.

Entry and exit doors will be assigned.

**Main Office**

Graduate students will be asked to stay out of staff and faculty offices. Required face-to-face meetings should be held outdoors, via distance, or in another available indoor space where six feet of physical distance can be accomplished. As weather turns and becomes colder, consider walking meetings as an alternative to sit down meetings.

- Classroom (20) -- designated as a K12 classroom.
- Front office (2) - designated for Beth and Leslie
- Back office (3) - designated for Betsy and Gary (and Sacha).
- Shop (3) - designated for Jon.
- Middle Earth (3) - the meeting area will be designated as a possible face-to-face meeting space, if outdoor meeting is not possible and larger indoor space is not available.

Students will still have access to the copy machine area. Sanitizing wipes will be available to wipe down buttons before and after use of the copier.

**Dining Lodge Food Service Guidelines**

**GENERAL:**

- Masks worn at all times in buildings except while eating.
- Even more conscious of hand washing than usual.
- Continue to use more aggressive cleaning procedures/schedule as recommended by ID CDHD.
- No outside personnel in the kitchen unless given permission, 3 people max occupancy.
- Swinging doors to the kitchen will remain closed.
- Masks required in the dining lodge except when eating.
- Physical distancing to be employed by all in buildings.
- Max Occupancy Dining Lodge: 25 people (number does not include kitchen staff)

**PREPPING (Kitchen Staff)**

- Mask worn at all times in the building.
• Any items that will not be cooked (ready-to-eat): gloves worn as per usual
• Wrap food with plastic or foil, or cover with lids, as soon as possible after prep or plating.

COOKING (Kitchen Staff)
• Mask worn at all times in the building.
• Cover simmering/stovetop food with lids when possible.
• Use side towels instead of hot pads/oven mitts, wash daily.

SERVICE
• Kitchen staff: wear a mask and gloves when handling food that is done cooking or otherwise ready for service.
• All food will be plated from hot line onto trays for each guest and silverware will be provided on tray.
• No salad or breakfast bar. No cereal dispenser. No seconds.
• No salt/pepper/ketchup/hot sauce on tables.
• Grab-n-go: milk cartons, OJ cartons, salad dressings, ketchup and hot sauce packets.
• Bring water bottles, no water glasses. Have chaperones/teachers assist with bottle fills/sanitization.

SEATING
• No masks removed until seated.
• Maximum of 25 people in Dining Lodge per seating.
• Maximum of 25 people in Classroom per seating.
• Above #s mean we have up to 50 seatings for each meal shift.
• Physical distancing employed as guests enter, wash hands, receive a tray of food, and seat themselves.
• Utilize outdoor seating space as seasonally feasible.
• Teachers and chaperones will make sure that students are spaced as much as possible.

DISHES/CLEANUP
• Guests will maintain 6’ distance and bring trays and silverware to bus station between swinging doors. Trays in a stack, silverware into bleach/quat water.
• Kitchen staff will wash all dishes, wearing PPE as deemed personally appropriate, and minimizing spray to reduce aerosolization of particles from trays and silverware.

PACKED LUNCH
• Tue-Thu: Will be packed by kitchen staff, following above procedures for ready-to-eat food: totes of food for each field group to take out.
• Friday: Field lunches will be prepared for the bus ride home.

COFFEE/TEA SERVICE
• Bottle of hand sanitizer present, along with sign requesting hand washing before coffee.
• Half-and-half and sugar packets provided.
Compostable cups will be made available.

Shop
The Shop is designated as Jon’s office and work space. Graduate students should not enter the Shop. Faculty and staff should only enter at Jon’s discretion and direction.

Vehicles
There are four vehicles available for program use:
- One (2) passenger Ford Escape.
- Two (5) passenger Ford vans.
- One (4) passenger Suburban.

Use the following guidelines for vehicle use:
- Limit the number of field trips and the length of time in a vehicle.
- Use all four vehicles to spread students out as much as feasible.
- Masks are required in vehicles.
- Open windows as much as is reasonable with weather conditions.
- Limit length of trips as much as possible.
- Allow participants to use their own vehicle if uncomfortable riding in a common vehicle.

Cleaning, Disinfecting and Ventilation

Cleaning Schedule:
- M/W/F = bathrooms full clean
- Tu/Th = bathroom high touch wipe down
- Office, Classroom, BHU’s, Rose, Spirit and Lake every Friday
- Additional cleaning will be schedules as needed, e.g. for weekend guests.

Portable handwashing stations will be positioned around campus to minimize need for entering bathroom facilities, and to encourage more frequent hand washing.

All participants (faculty, staff, graduate students) will be asked to assist in cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces regularly. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets and sinks. Workspaces and classroom spaces will not be cleaned between every use.

When feasible, open windows in indoor spaces to increase ventilation during face-to-face activities.

Disinfectant/Cleaning - Practices, Product and Equipment List based on CDC recommendations:
- [https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2](https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2)
Response and Management of Cases or Probable Cases

Steps if Individual exhibits Symptoms of Coronavirus or has Contact with Someone with COVID-19

University of Idaho Pandemic Operating FAQs:
https://www.uidaho.edu/vandal-health-clinic/coronavirus

If an individual exhibits Symptoms of Coronavirus, they should immediately separate from the larger community and may choose to contact Risk Manager, Gary Thompson. MFC Staff and Administrators should follow the steps listed below:

Step 1: Identify and quarantine the patient:

After exhibiting symptoms, the individual will immediately isolate themselves in their residence or a pre-arranged isolation space. Once an individual enters quarantine, it is imperative that they cease all interactions with the rest of the MFC community. Individuals should self-monitor for symptoms. If appropriate, staff may choose to provide opportunities, such as scheduled socially distanced walks, for students when there is a reasonable chance that the student will not encounter another community member.

Step 2: File CARES report with the University of Idaho

Follow this link to file a CARES report:
https://www.uidaho.edu/student-affairs/dean-of-students/vandalcare

Step 3: Schedule a COVID-19 Test

After the individual has been isolated, we strongly recommend the individual arrange for a COVID-19 test as soon as possible.
Step 4: Disinfect common spaces

Close common areas for 24 hours or as long as possible until disinfection can occur. The Risk Manager will contact Disaster Response (844) 315-3100 for immediate disinfection of common areas recently accessed by the individual.

Step 5: Assess student return to activities and continue patient care

For Anyone Who Has Been Around a Person with COVID-19


Anyone who has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 should stay home for 14 days after their last exposure to that person. However, anyone who has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 and who meets the following criteria does NOT need to stay home.

- Someone who has been fully vaccinated and shows no symptoms of COVID-19. However, fully vaccinated people should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they don’t have symptoms and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.

Or

- Someone who has COVID-19 illness within the previous 3 months and
- Has recovered and
- Remains without COVID-19 symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath)

If someone has a positive test for COVID-19, or has symptoms

You can be around others after:

- 10 days since symptoms first appeared and
- 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
- Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving*

*Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation

If someone tests positive for COVID-19 but has no symptoms

- If you continue to have no symptoms, you can be with others after 10 days have passed since you had a positive viral test for COVID-19.
- If you develop symptoms after testing positive, follow the guidance above for “If someone has a positive test for COVID-19, or has symptoms”
COVID Exposure Decision Tree for Schools

COVID Illness Decision Tree for Schools

Step 6: Campus COVID-response coordinator (Gary Thompson) will check in with individual

- The Risk Manager will check in with individual daily to monitor progress of symptoms and assist in determining the need for additional care.
- The Risk Manager will work with Kitchen staff to ensure food is provided for individuals who are in isolation.
- The Risk Manager will support individuals as needed in any other way.

Providing Food for Sick Campus Residents

- Food can be arranged by kitchen staff and the COVID-response coordinator will ensure that it is delivered to the individual. Individuals are responsible for the cost of their food. Individuals may take advantage of the Albertson's online ordering system and staff will simply pick up their order.

Coordination with University and Local Health Officials

The University of Idaho and local health officials will assist in response to confirmed or suspected cases, and will be the main entity responsible for contact tracing:
https://www.uidaho.edu/vandal-health-clinic/coronavirus/faculty-staff
https://www.uidaho.edu/vandal-health-clinic/coronavirus/students

Greg Fizzell, UI MFC Risk Management Officer, will be the main point of contact. Communication with program participants will be coordinated through UI communications, the COVID response team, and CNR and MFC administration.
When to Seek Emergency Medical Attention

Look for emergency warning signs* for COVID-19. If someone is showing any of these signs, seek emergency medical care immediately

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

*This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

Call 911 or call ahead to your local emergency facility: Notify the operator that you are seeking care for someone who has or may have COVID-19.

Communication Protocols for Informing Participants

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Scenario:</th>
<th>Objective of Communication</th>
<th>Templates and Audience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First exposure in the school regardless of risk level</td>
<td>Notify students and families of confirmed case</td>
<td>CDHD Letter/Email for Positive Case (All)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reassure that local public health is collaborating with the school to identify any students or staff that were in close contact</td>
<td>CDHD Letter/Email for Positive Case (All)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reassure that individuals who were at risk of exposure will be contacted with 1-2 days</td>
<td>CDHD Letter/Email for Positive Case with No Close Contacts Identified (All)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure – no close contacts</td>
<td>Notify students and families of confirmed case</td>
<td>CDHD Letter/Email for Positive Case (All)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reassure that local public health is collaborating with the school to identify any students or staff that were in close contact</td>
<td>CDHD Letter/Email for Positive Case with No Close Contacts Identified (All)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Ongoing exposure – close contacts identifiable

Notify students and families of confirmed case

Reassure that local public health is collaborating with the school to identify any students or staff that were in close contact

Reassure that individuals who were at risk of exposure will be contacted with 1-2 days

| CDHD Letter/Email for Positive Case (All) |

### Exposure – close contacts not identifiable and risk of spread is unknown or high

Notify students and families of confirmed case

| CDHD Letter/Email for Positive Case (All) |
| CDHD Letter/Email for Short-Term Dismissal (All) |

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## Academic Program Protocols

### Graduate Program

The graduate program will follow UI Policies and Guidelines for COVID. See the rest of this document for operational considerations related to food, housing, hygiene and transportation. The following guidance is specific to instructional activities that take place during graduate coursework.

### Teaching Spaces

Graduate courses will take place outdoors utilizing outdoor teaching spaces whenever possible. When indoor classes must take place, students and instructors will be expected to practice physical distancing and to wear masks at all times. Occupancy density has been designated for each indoor space (see [Classrooms](#)). Appropriate seating density will be marked off on tables. Consider assigning seats (many grad cohorts do this anyway in practice, if not officially).

Furniture will be arranged to accommodate necessary distancing and it is expected that it will remain as arranged unless administration determines a different arrangement. Windows and doors will be opened periodically, at least every hour, to encourage airflow through the yurt space. The ceiling fan will be utilized to encourage airflow as well. Entry and exit doors will be
assigned and hand sanitizer will be provided at each. Use air purifiers whenever a building is occupied.

Equipment
Instructors will minimize sharing of instructional equipment between participants. Individual participants will be responsible for providing their own writing tools and notebooks. Where equipment must be shared, instructors will ensure that tools are disinfected between use. Sanitizing wipes will be provided in each instructor kit and classroom space. When possible, assign equipment to the individual for long term use.

Advising
Advising meetings will take place outside, in a classroom, or over Zoom or the phone. Graduate students shall not enter faculty offices.

Covering Absence / Making up Work
It is expected that there will be graduate student absences this semester as we go through waves of response to suspected and confirmed cases of COVID in our community. As with all other health issues, the student, staff and faculty have access to UI services to assist with students who are experiencing issues that prevent full participation in academic programs and we will employ these services to assist in dealing with issues that arise.

The following guidelines are suggested in response to graduate student absence:

If a graduate student is in a teaching practicum week, and their field group is still coming to campus (i.e. K12 students were not in contact with the positive individual and we have no reason to ask that they quarantine), instructional responsibilities will be covered by other graduate students, AmeriCorps or staff members.

If the graduate student is in a class week, they will be given the opportunity to participate in class at a distance, when feasible, or arrangements will be made to keep up on course work through other means.

K12 Program
Talking Points for Schools: COVID-19 - Idaho Central District Health

COVID-19 in Children
- Multiple studies have been conducted throughout the pandemic to compare rates of infections in children to those of adults. Initially, it appeared as if children had a lower rate of infections, however this was during the time when exposures were low (due to
school, daycares, and other activities being closed) and children had a lower probability of being tested. More recent studies have found that children have rates of infection comparable, and in some settings higher, than in adults. For example, children 5-17 had higher rates than in adults 50 and older.

- Children can transmit the COVID-19 virus to others. There have been outbreaks among camps, sporting events, and schools that demonstrate that children can and do transmit the virus to others, which is why mitigation measures are essential in schools.
- Although many children tend to have mild infections, it is essential to protect them as some infections in children do result in serious illness or death. It is also important to offer protection to children as it remains unknown what long-term consequences may be associated with COVID-19.
- Keep in mind that COVID-19 is an evolving situation and as new evidence becomes available, guidelines may adapt.

Schools and COVID-19 Transmission

- Outbreaks in schools have occurred and have led to closures of the facilities, however this has happened mainly in school settings where prevention strategies are not implemented or are not followed. Mitigation measures help keep children safe and allow in-person learning to continue.
- When prevention strategies are in place and utilized, transmission within school settings is typically lower than or similar to the community levels of transmission.

Prevention Strategies and In-Person Learning

- Use of multiple prevention strategies provides greater protection in breaking transmission chains than a single strategy alone. This is referred to as layering mitigation strategies.
- Prevention strategies to promote in schools include vaccination, consistent and correct use of masks, physical distancing, screening tests in schools, staying home when sick, and improved ventilation. These measures have shown in multiple studies to be effective. Below are some of the highlights of these studies:
  - A study of 11 school districts in North Carolina had minimal school-related transmission even though the community transmission was high. These schools implemented and strictly adhered to multiple prevention strategies, including universal mask use and physical distancing.
  - One study looking at K-12 schools in St. Louis found that, with multiple prevention strategies in place, only 2% of close contacts of COVID-19 cases in schools tested positive, even though the community transmission was high at the time.
● Masks
  ○ CDC and CDH recommend universal masking in schools, because not all students are eligible for the vaccine, yet and cases of COVID-19 are increasing again. Masks are a crucial way to protect those who are vulnerable from the virus.

● Physical Distancing
  ○ The most recent recommendation of physical distancing in classroom settings is 3-6 feet of distance. Multiple studies have shown, that with other mitigation strategies in place, transmission is still low if students are closer than 6 feet. Masking is essential to limiting transmission when having students less than 6 feet apart in a classroom. When masks cannot be worn (such as when eating) physical distancing between those who are not fully vaccinated should be prioritized to reduce transmission risk.

● Screening Testing in K-12 Schools
  ○ CDC currently recommends screening unvaccinated students once per week in areas with moderate (yellow), substantial (orange), and high (red) transmission. Many students may have mild or asymptomatic infections, which makes screening an important tool to prevent spread of the COVID-19 virus. Screening tests are especially useful when masks and physical distancing are utilized less frequently.

It is anticipated that we will not begin K12 programming until schools have been back in session for two weeks.

Enrollment
All students participating in the MOSS K12 residential program will be required to enroll using the MOSS online enrollment system. All participants must have a signed waiver of liability before participating in programs. All contact information must be complete and up to date.

Screening
The MOSS program will follow the procedures below for daily student screening. We will rely on teachers and chaperones to screen their cabin group each day.

Student/Chaperone/Teacher Self-Screening Procedures:
First, take temperature each morning.
Second, ask the following questions before attending program activities:
Do you have any symptoms that are not attributable to another condition?
  • Fever or Chills
  • Cough
  • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Congestion or Runny Nose
- Nausea, Vomiting or Diarrhea
- Muscle or Body Aches
- Headache
- Sore Throat
- New Loss of Taste or Smell

Are you ill, or caring for someone who is ill?

- Students who are well, but who have a family member at home with COVID-19 should stay home.
- In the two weeks before you felt ill, did you:
  - Have contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19?
  - Live in or visit a place where the CDC COVID-19 transmission category is substantial or high?
- If the answer is YES to either of these questions:
  - Do not attend MOSS programming.

Field, Dining and Bathing Group Assignment

Students will be assigned to a field group “pod”. The same instructor will work with the same group each time. Group size will range from 6 – 10 students. Field groups will also be dining groups and bathing groups. Several pods will be combined for dining and bathing. Combined pods will be the same throughout the week.

Physical Distancing, Hygiene and PPE

Physical distancing protocols will be maintained outside. MOSS instructors will be expected to wear masks and maintain physical distancing of a minimum of 6 feet. Students will be expected to wear masks and maintain physical distancing of 6 feet. Groups will stay outside for as much of the day as is physically possible. Porta-potties and handwashing stations will be set up throughout campus and in the Park. Students will be trained in physical distancing, hygiene and PPE protocols with an emphasis on keeping ourselves, each other, and our place healthy and happy. MOSS instructors and staff will not reprimand students for minor lapses in physical distancing, hygiene, or PPE. Rather, students will be reminded that through these practices we are keeping each other and our community safe.

Teaching Spaces

Outdoor classroom spaces will be constructed around the perimeter of the MFC parking lot and will be used extensively. Indoor spaces will be used sparingly. Tarps, whiteboards and sit pads will be available in each space. Participants will use outdoor classroom spaces at MFC or in Ponderosa State Park as much as is physically possible.
Student Field Gear
Students will be assigned sets of equipment that will be shared minimally. If sharing is to occur, equipment will be wiped down between uses. Students will be responsible for providing their own writing utensils and field journal that will be stored on site. Students will be assigned a sit pad that will be theirs for the duration of the program.

Field Lunches
Hand washing and sanitizing will be required before every snack or meal. Participants will not share water bottles, cups, or eating utensils. MOSS will not provide lunches or snacks for K12 participants, and K12 participants will not be allowed to share their food with other students.

Student Code of Conduct
Language referencing these protocols will be included in the Student Code of Conduct during enrollment, based on the “Healthy Vandals Pledge” that UI students sign. If students are unwilling or unable to follow these guidelines, parent / guardian assistance will be engaged and a warning will be given. If the behavior persists, students may be removed from the program.

All plans and guidance are subject to change, based upon updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Central District Health (CDH) and local healthcare providers.

Covering faculty / staff responsibilities in the event of illness, need to quarantine, or otherwise unable to perform job duties.

Faculty / Teaching Staff
In the event of illness or the need to quarantine, faculty will work with their supervisor on a plan to cover their class. This may include preparing, where possible, alternative plans for graduate students to engage in learning activities. These may include teaching via Zoom, having graduate students follow prepared lessons, or modifying the syllabus to address course learning objectives at a later date.

Staff
In the event of illness or the need to quarantine, staff will work with their supervisor on a plan to cover their responsibilities. These may include suspending work, as possible, having another staff member cover responsibilities, or hiring temporary help to cover needs.

Accommodations for those unable to fulfill job requirements
For faculty, staff or graduate students who are unable to fulfill requirements of their job or academic expectations (e.g. participation in practicum), the individual must initiate a
conversation with their supervisor to explore reasonable accommodations. Human Resources or Student Services will be engaged as needed to assist in this process.
Additional Resources

CDC: COVID Data Tracker
CDC: A Student is Showing Signs of COVID-19 and Needs to be Isolated: What Do I Do?
CDC: Guidance for Operating Youth Camps
CDC: Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools

Central District Health: COVID-19 Landing Page

UI: COVID-19 Landing Page
UI: Healthy Vandal Toolkit

Brown School of Public Health: Map showing rates of COVID transmission by county