

# Washington Nanofabrication Facility COVID-19 Prevention Plan

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## Section 1: Management and Oversight

### Site Supervisor:

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### Personnel Supervisor:

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### Worksite Location:

Fluke Hall, All WNF Controlled Spaces

### Plan Location:

Online – WNF Website – User Documents  
Physical – WNF Safety Board

### Training:

Document Review and Pre-Recorded Presentation  
Training enforced and logged via CORAL

### Change and Updates:

Situation and policies monitored by COVID-19 Site Supervisor  
Documents and Training updated as needed  
Updates communicated via email and CORAL  
Compliance/acknowledgement/certification required within 7 days.

### Phasing Guidance:

Effective June 30, 2021, All phased opening guidelines of the State of Washington were rescinded by Governor Jay Inslee.

University of Washington guidelines for removing many COVID-19 restrictions on campus were published July 7, 2021. ]

Vaccination requirements were released in early September, verification requirements in late September, and all verification deadlines set for October 18<sup>th</sup> or earlier.

State of Washington masking mandates were rescinded, excepting medical and certain other facilities, on March 11, 2022. University of Washington masking mandate was rescinded effective March 28, 2022. Additional adjustments in support of education are ongoing.

This document is created in accordance with and in support of these administrative decisions.

WNF reserves the right to reinstate COVID-19 precautions in order to preserve its ability to operate. These decisions may be made in advance of any made by public health officials as the circumstances warrant. Communication will be provided should changes become necessary and this documentation updated as soon as is feasible.

## Section 2: Vaccination

### Individual Requirement

In alignment with University policy, all personnel on-site at WNF are required to be fully vaccinated, and WNF is required to verify vaccination status. An individual is considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after completing the last required dose of the primary series of a vaccine approved by the FDA for emergency use.

### Verification Methods

#### Student Employees, Staff, Faculty, and those with Affiliate/Contingent Status

All persons working on-site and fitting these categories have access to UW's personnel management platform known as Workday and are required to verify their vaccination status by providing proof of vaccination to their HR representative.

#### External Users without Affiliate/Contingent Status and Access to Workday (Volunteers)

All persons working on-site and fitting this category must still be verified as fully vaccinated. No additional paperwork is required, but proof of vaccination must be verified in person or remotely by UW HR personnel with I9 verification authority. For WNF, this is usually Sharon Li. Verification will be conducted as part of orientation for new users. Contact the WNF COVID-19 Site Supervisor for further information.

#### Students

Students who are not employed by the university should submit a Student COVID-19 Vaccine Attestation Form to document their vaccination status. Verification of proof of vaccination will be handled by Academic Affairs personnel.

<https://sps.uw.edu/attestations/#/covid19>

Students employed by the University will need to complete both processes.

#### Contractors, Vendors, and Visitors

Per standing WNF policy, all contractors, vendors, and visitors to WNF must be approved by WNF's Site or Personnel supervisor. Users can submit requests using the established WNF Visitor Request form. WNF management will work with the requesting user to ensure proper communication of policies and requirements that apply to the person in question and approve or deny the request at their sole discretion. Requests must be submitted at least one full business day in advance, though it is strongly recommended that requests be submitted as early as possible to avoid delays. Requests will not be approved for visits outside of standard business hours.

All persons whose sole relationship with WNF is via a sales or service contract fall under the governance of UW's Office of Procurement who collects and verifies vaccination compliance

for such companies and individuals. Prior to being admitted to WNF, all vendors must be listed on the Office of Procurement's approved list. For more information visit:

<https://finance.uw.edu/ps/suppliers>

### Requesting an Exemption

University policy allows for exemptions to the COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement on the grounds of medical, religious, or deeply-held philosophical reasons. Decisions are made similar to the existing tri-campus requirements for student vaccinations. Declaration of exemption status and basis for such is required.

### Student Employees, Staff, Faculty, and those with Affiliate/Contingent Status

The University COVID-19 Vaccine Attestation Form includes a method for declaring an exemption, which will be reviewed by UW HR personnel.

### External Users without Affiliate/Contingent Status (Volunteers)

The University of Washington does not allow exemptions of any type for this category of user. All such users must be vaccinated and have shown proof of vaccination in order to be on-site.

### Students

The Student COVID-19 Vaccine Attestation Form includes a method for declaring an exemption, which will be reviewed by the appropriate UW personnel.

### Privacy Protection

Any information regarding vaccination verification should be communicated via Workday or directly to WNF's Site and Personnel supervisors only. UW HR personnel may involve themselves during the review process of any submitted information. Per UW policy, WNF management will not use, share, or disclose this information for any purpose other than upholding compliance with state regulations and University policy. Further, WNF users should not ask their colleagues about their vaccination status. If you have concerns, bring them to the Site or Personnel supervisor.

### Deadline to Declare

All deadlines have passed. All new users must provide verification immediately on enrollment at WNF. Facility access will not be granted until this is completed.

### Questions or Issues

Any questions or concerns with this policy should be addressed to UW HR or WNF's Site and Personnel Supervisors as appropriate.

## Section 3: Dealing with Illness and Infection Spread

### Symptom Self-Monitoring

Regardless of vaccination status, daily health attestation is no longer required. However, all personnel are still required to monitor their own health for [symptoms of COVID-19](#) as determined by the CDC.

As the situation continues to develop, information and procedures can change quickly. For the latest symptom guidance and reporting requirements, see:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

<https://www.ehs.washington.edu/system/files/resources/COVID-19-public-health-flowchart.pdf>

### Symptomatic Individuals

Anyone experiencing symptoms of an illness, whether the symptoms are related to COVID-19 or not, must stay home, regardless of their vaccination status.

Individuals who develop symptoms while already on-site must leave and go home, regardless of vaccination status.

In either case, get tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible.

### Suspected or Confirmed Cases

Anyone whose healthcare provider suspects or confirms they have COVID-19, or who receives a positive COVID-19 test must self-isolate, including from members of the same household, for at least 5 days. If the test was conducted outside of the Husky Coronavirus voluntary research study, complete the COVID Notification Form:

<https://webapps.ehs.washington.edu/redcaps/covid19form.php>

If after 5 days symptoms improve and you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, you may be able to end isolation. You will receive a health survey from UW COVID-19 Response and Prevention Team at the end of your isolation period and may receive additional guidance following it. If symptoms have not improved or fever persist, continue isolation. Contact UW's COVID-19 Response and Prevention Team for guidance if needed ([covidehc@uw.edu](mailto:covidehc@uw.edu) or 206.616.3344).

After isolation, you should continue to wear a well-fitting surgical or KF94/KN95/N95 mask around others at home and in public for an additional 5 days and follow CDC restrictions for travel, eating, and other activities: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>

For a helpful flowchart and links to all resources, visit:

<https://www.ehs.washington.edu/system/files/resources/COVID-19-public-health-flowchart.pdf>

## Close Contact

Close contact is defined as spending 10 minutes or more at a distance of less than 6 feet away from a person who later tests positive for COVID-19 while they are in the contagious period, generally 48 hours before symptoms present or 48 hours before a positive test result for asymptomatic presentations.

Anyone notified, regardless of source, that they may have had close contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19 should refer to the linked flowchart or contact the UW COVID-19 Response and Prevention Team for guidance ([covidehc@uw.edu](mailto:covidehc@uw.edu) or 206.616.3344)  
<https://www.ehs.washington.edu/system/files/resources/COVID-19-public-health-flowchart.pdf>

If your exposure was potentially related to UW workplace or campus activities and you have not already been notified by the university, notify the COVID-19 Response and Prevention Team immediately.

## Response

In the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case that presents an exposure risk to WNF, EH&S's COVID-19 Response and Prevention Team work to determine individuals who need to be notified and proceed accordingly as well as advise on any closures or sanitization that may be needed. Following EH&S investigation and determinations, a general advisory will be sent to all facility users explaining the incident, the determination, and reminding users to be mindful of and report any developing symptoms.

For more information on reporting and response, see:

<https://www.ehs.washington.edu/covid-19-prevention-and-response/covid-19-case-response>

## Section 4: Hygiene Practices

### Hand Washing

Regardless of vaccination status, all WNF users are required to wash their hands prior to entry to the controlled space, before eating, after using the restroom, and before entering the cleanroom following other activities. Running water and soap are available throughout Fluke Hall, other than inside the WNF cleanroom. Frequent handwashing is a critical defense against spreading any infectious agent, chemical hazard, and other contamination. Handwashing is strongly encouraged throughout the day, in-between tasks.

### Hand Sanitizer

Hand sanitizer is not considered as effective as soap and water, but is provided in commercial pump bottle form at the front desk and other locations for those situations when hand washing might not be achievable in a short time frame.

### Avoid Touching Face and Others

Most infectious agents spread more rapidly via direct contact, and many chemical hazards affect sensitive skin and the eyes quickly and aggressively. To help contain contamination, avoid touching others (such as handshaking) inside the cleanroom.

### Reminders

Hand washing posters are posted at each sink, and other posters commenting on hygiene are posted throughout the facility. Consider how long it has been since you last washed your hands. If you are taking a short break outside the cleanroom between tasks, this is a great time to wash up before heading back in. Again, pay particular attention before eating and after using the restroom.

## Section 5: Facial Coverings

As of March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the University of Washington has, in response to rollbacks in state policies, reduced the scope of its masking mandate to cover only clinical and other health-care settings. Indoor masking is optional in all other locations. For continued protection in the face of ongoing infection, and especially as operations ramp up for academic quarters, the University strongly encourages continuing to wear a face covering.

Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 or have been in close contact with someone who tested positive are required to wear a well-fitted, high quality mask such as a KF94, KN95, N95 or surgical mask until 10 days after start of symptoms, 10 days after positive test (with no symptoms), or 10 days after their last contact with the COVID-19 positive individual as indicated on the COVID-19 Public Health Requirements and Guidance Flowchart:

<https://www.ehs.washington.edu/system/files/resources/COVID-19-public-health-flowchart.pdf>

For more information on facial covering policy at large across the University of Washington, see: <https://www.ehs.washington.edu/covid-19-prevention-and-response/face-covering-requirements>

As of January 5, 2021, UW EH&S as well as public health officials strongly advise upgrading masks to improve protection level and fit. See the following links for guidance improving mask performance.

<https://www.ehs.washington.edu/about/latest-news/level-your-facemask>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/effective-masks.html>

Facial coverings that are part of the mandatory cleanroom attire are not affected by this policy change and remain mandatory. Staff with private or shared offices may require masks before agreeing to share their space with others. Remote meetings remain an option in the event anyone is uncomfortable sharing physical spaces, regardless of masking preferences and requirements.



## Section 6: Social and Physical Distancing

### Vaccinated Persons

Those who are fully vaccinated and have properly declared their vaccination status as in Section 2 are not required to maintain social distancing.

### Exempt and Unvaccinated Persons

Those who have an approved exemption, have not yet been vaccinated, or have not yet declared their vaccination status are asked to maintain 6 feet of separation from other individuals at all times in all WNF spaces.

### Occupancy Limits

Occupancy limits on individual bays have been removed. Exempt and unvaccinated individuals are still responsible for maintaining appropriate distancing as above.

A global occupancy limit (currently 35 persons inside the cleanroom) remains in effect in order to reduce crowding and potential community spread. Reservations prior to use of the cleanroom are no longer required.

### Telework:

Continuing telework arrangements for all staff are possible at the discretion of WNF's Director and with appropriate paperwork files. Staff and Student Staff who have declared their vaccination status as in Section 2 may return to work on-site at any time.

### Operating Hours:

WNF is open to all authorized users 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, when staff support allows for compliance with current cleaning and sanitization guidelines, excepting announced closures.

### Onboarding and Equipment Training

Many aspects of WNF's changes to its training programs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have proven very effective. Remote training is expected to continue as a part of normal business going forward. WNF staff may elect to modify current training processes to incorporate more in-person activity and may do so without social distancing as long as all involved are fully vaccinated and properly verified as in Section 2 and compliant with current facial covering policies.

### Meetings and Collaboration

Meetings may be held in person again at WNF with no social distancing requirements as long as all involved are fully vaccinated and properly verified as in Section 2, and compliant with facial covering policies.

## Eating and Drinking

Fluke Hall, and particularly WNF controlled spaces, like most spaces on campus, were not designed with a public health crisis or pandemic in mind. Most spaces at Fluke Hall do not allow for proper distancing from thoroughways and corridors, and some spaces have limited ventilation. As eating generates a larger than normal particle load that serves as a viral vector, WNF and the university recommends the following options for taking meal breaks for better protection:

- Outdoors whenever possible
- At a food establishment or designated eating space
- In an open building space where you can distance at least 6 feet from others.

Eating is permitted at tables and seating areas in the corridors outside of lab spaces at WNF, and at other publicly accessible locations within Fluke Hall. Please respect the wishes of your fellow building occupants who may desire more space in these areas while eating. Spaces are first come, first served. For staff, eating is also available in private offices, in shared cubicle spaces when the other occupant is not present or when they give consent, and in the WNF conference room. Consider opening a window to improve airflow, but please close it when you are done to maintain building pressure and temperature needs.

Eating is permitted as part of meetings, classroom sessions, and other functions within shared spaces.

Eating is NOT permitted in the shared user office room due to limited ventilation.

For a list of University operated locations where eating and food service is available, please visit Housing and Food Services website at <https://hfs.uw.edu/Eat/dining-hours/>

Remaining hydrated is of course particularly important, and drinking is allowed in all non-laboratory spaces of Fluke Hall.

## Personal Choice

Please understand that some people may choose, for any number of personal reasons, to continue wearing masks and distancing from others despite being vaccinated. Users are asked to work together and endeavor to respect any requests for distancing whenever possible. If conflicts arise, please contact the Site or Personnel supervisors.

## Section 7: Cleaning and Disinfecting

### Cleaning Schedule

WNF personnel, in addition to the work performed by UW Custodial Services, disinfects all high-touch surfaces, outside and inside the cleanroom, once a day, Monday through Friday, excepting university holidays and announced closures. A sign-off sheet is posted near the entrance for tracking these cleaning cycles. Surfaces include communal surfaces, break room/kitchenette surfaces and handles, restroom fixtures, tables, faucets, door knobs and breaker bars, sliding panels, and more. Inside the cleanroom, standard gowning protocols should minimize the spread of any bacteria or viruses, so other high touch surfaces are wiped down on a rotating schedule with lower frequency as staff time allows.

### Cleaning Supplies

Outside of the cleanroom, commercially available cleaning solutions are available for removing visible dirt and debris from surfaces. Surfaces should be visibly clean prior to attempting to sanitize.

Inside and outside of the cleanroom, a mixture of 70% isopropyl alcohol and water is available along with wipes or paper towel for anyone to perform spot cleaning at any time. Users are encouraged to wipe down surfaces in between activities. SDS for this chemical is available electronically in CORAL and as a paper copy in the binders in the gowning room.

### High-touch Surfaces

In addition to scheduled and spot cleaning, certain high-touch surfaces or surfaces that may come into close contact with the face should be disinfected between uses. These include safety glasses, face shields, microscope eyepieces, and more.

Outside of the cleanroom, personnel should disinfect common touch surfaces after each use. These include door, refrigerator, and microwave handles and items such as faucets, tables, workstations, etc.

### Protocols

UW maintains a protocol guide for enhanced cleaning here: <https://www.ehs.washington.edu/system/files/resources/cleaning-disinfection-protocols-covid-19.pdf>

### Safety when Using Disinfectants

All WNF personnel are trained extensively on the appropriate ways to handle chemicals and isopropyl alcohol is one of the most common chemicals throughout the facility. There should be no unexpected hazards involved in using the diluted form as a disinfectant. Users must review the SDS (safety data sheet) for any chemical they work with, but in general IPA (isopropyl alcohol or isopropanol) is safe to handle. Care should be taken to avoid any contact with the eyes, and skin exposure may cause dryness or irritation. You may use disposable gloves when disinfecting if desired. Areas of skin that come into contact with IPA should be rinsed with water. If contact with the eyes occurs, follow WNF standard policy for using eyewash stations or

refer to the SDS. In the event of a spill, follow standard WNF policy per the Laboratory User Manual. Avoid any heat and flame sources as IPA is highly flammable.

In addition to reviewing the SDS, personnel must review EH&S's recommendations for using different types of disinfectants:

<https://www.ehs.washington.edu/system/files/resources/chemical-disinfectant-safety.pdf>

Follow all manufacturer instructions for product use.

## Section 8: Communication

### Posters, Signage, and Floor Markings

UW EH&S approved posters regarding hygiene and other preventative measures have been posted at the main entrance to the WNF secured zone and entry has been restricted to this one path. The WNF Laboratory Manual states that users must read and follow all posted signage, a provision agreed to in the course of becoming a user. Signs on entry are no exception. In addition, the most recent version of our internal policies is posted near the entrance. Hygiene reminders such as equipment sanitizing, mask requirements, and more are posted throughout the laboratory spaces where relevant. Additional information is also maintained on the WNF Safety Board located just outside of the main entrance to the cleanroom. WNF has not currently implemented floor markings, preferring clear policies and reliance on our dedicated community to do what is needed to ensure the facility can remain open. This has been successful thus far, but is consistently monitored and will be adjusted if it becomes necessary.

### Meetings

The WNF maintains its weekly staff and user meetings, held remotely via Zoom. Current practices and policy updates are communicated during these meetings among other developing news. The meetings also serve as a forum for questions and clarifications. Staff are expected to attend the weekly staff meetings. Attendance of the weekly user meeting is voluntary for all personnel, but we strongly encourage users to make use of the opportunity to stay informed.

### Electronic Communications

WNF's implementation of the CORAL management system allows for the easy administration of various mailing lists and records of individual email addresses for lab-appropriate uses. Lab management leverages these email and messaging functions extensively, providing immediate notice of emerging situations both at-large and tool-specific, depending on the situation. Further, the WNF website and social media presences are kept up-to-date with emerging developments.

### Policies and Procedures

WNF staff has carefully constructed clear policy documents to communicate our expectations to all users within the facility. All policies related to COVID-19 response are posted online and throughout the facility, as well as distributed by email when updated or upon request. The WNF also maintains various site-specific documents, notably the WNF Laboratory User Manual, detailing our expected safe operating procedures.

### Notice to Vendors and Contractors

All access to WNF requires explicit approval of laboratory management, including service vendors, contractors, non-WNF UW personnel, etc. As part of the approval process, all policy documents and statements are provided electronically before occupancy is authorized. Vendors and contractors must also have approval from UW's Office of Procurement.

## Training

All WNF personnel are required to take the UW COVID-19 Safety Training located at <https://www.ehs.washington.edu/training/covid-19-safety-training-back-workplace>. Training records will be noted in CORAL. Please list the CORAL Safety Robot as your supervisor, or forward the certificate you receive to [WNF-safety@coral.washington.edu](mailto:WNF-safety@coral.washington.edu).

Training on this WNF Site-Specific COVID-19 Prevention plan will be provided via pre-recorded presentation and backed up by CORAL quiz. At any point during the process, contact the COVID-19 Site Supervisor with any questions, concerns, trouble with the training, or for additional consultation.

Information regarding these new training requirements will be distributed by CORAL mailing lists.

## Notification

Notification of these requirements will be sent via CORAL mailing lists and discussed in weekly staff and user meetings. This and all supporting documents are available online as well as posted on the WNF Safety Board.

<https://www.wnf.washington.edu/lab-user-portal/edocs/>

## Updates and Modifications

Any modifications to the plan or the UW plan will be communicated promptly via CORAL mailing lists to all users.

The COVID-19 Site Supervisor will also monitor UW resources such as the UW facts and resources page and communicate relevant information via CORAL mailing lists. Any necessary changes will be incorporated into this and other documents as needed and updated provided. Users can monitor current UW guidelines and policies themselves at the following resources, but note that WNF may maintain more stringent requirements.

Facts and Resources: <https://www.washington.edu/coronavirus/>

COVID-19 FAQ: <https://www.washington.edu/coronavirus/faq/>

EH&S Health and Safety: <https://www.ehs.washington.edu/covid-19-health-and-safety-resources>

## Section 9: Hazards and Safeguards

### Working with Disinfectants

While WNF's standard chemical training is sufficient to cover the use of IPA as a disinfectant throughout the facility, users should review UW EH&S's guide on safe usage of these chemicals.

<https://www.ehs.washington.edu/system/files/resources/chemical-disinfectant-safety.pdf>

### General Hazards

All personnel are encouraged to use this opportunity to review both UW's and WNF's safety guidance documents.

UW Laboratory Safety Manual: <https://www.ehs.washington.edu/resource/laboratory-safety-manual-510>

WNF Laboratory User Manual: <https://www.wnf.washington.edu/wnf-user-manual/>

UW Accident Prevention Plan:

<https://www.ehs.washington.edu/system/files/resources/UniversityofWashingtonAPP.pdf>

WNF Health and Safety Plan: [https://www.wnf.washington.edu/docs/WNF\\_hsplan.pdf](https://www.wnf.washington.edu/docs/WNF_hsplan.pdf)