

WASHINGTON STATE HIGHER EDUCATION REOPENING PLAN

On June 24, 2020, Gov. Jay Inslee outlined the required steps for Washington’s colleges and universities to resume in-person classes this fall. The governor’s higher education reopening plan consists of two documents:

- Health and safety requirements are listed in [Proclamation 20-12.1](#). These are the minimum protocols colleges and universities must follow to resume in-person instruction and services this fall.
- Additional guidance is provided in the [Campus Reopening Guide](#). The guide recommends safety measures for various campus functions: campus safety, campus support, food services, transportation and residences.

This document answers commonly asked questions about the reopening plan.

Which colleges and universities must comply with the reopening proclamation?

The proclamation applies to every public and private college and university, as well as technical schools and apprenticeship programs.

What’s the difference between the proclamation and the guidance document?

The proclamation spells out baseline safety protocols every college must follow. The guidance document is just that — a set of recommendations for the safe return to campus. The guidance document provides a flexible list of protocols colleges should consider as they bring students, faculty and staff back to campus safely. The words “considerations” and “recommendations” are woven throughout the guidance document.

So, the proclamation sets the mandatory foundation at every college; the guidance document allows each campus to build on that foundation in the way that suits their unique circumstances.

How does the reopening proclamation align with county phases?

Starting Aug. 1, 2020, all institutions will follow the new higher education reopening proclamation, regardless of the phase of the county in which they are located. However, colleges in phase 1 or modified phase 1 counties will need to have their reopening plans approved by the local health department. Colleges in other counties must simply have their plans available upon request.

When will the reopening proclamation take effect?

The higher education reopening proclamation takes effect Aug. 1, 2020. The following illustration describes which requirements to follow until then.

Before Aug. 1, 2020

Phase 1 Higher Education & Critical Infrastructure Workforce Training COVID-19 Requirements

Phase 1: Low-risk Higher Education and Critical Infrastructure Workforce Training work resumes. Higher education and critical infrastructure workforce training jobs and approved (see attached list) instructional programs complying with the points below may resume only those work and instructional activities that do not require workers and students to be closer than six-feet together. If a work or instructional activity requires workers or students to be closer than six-feet, it is not considered low-risk

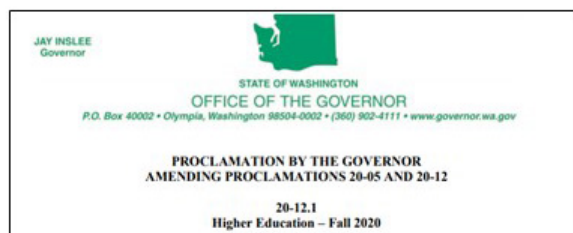
Phase 2 Higher Education & Workforce Training COVID-19 Requirements

Phase 2: All non-lecture based Higher Education and Workforce Training is now allowed. All non-lecture based higher education and workforce training, including those activities for which physical distancing may not be maintained, is authorized to resume. Adherence to the health and safety points below will be strictly enforced. Workforce training includes schools licensed by the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) and the Department of Licensing

- Colleges in phase 1 and modified phase 1 counties: comply with [phase 1 requirements](#).
- Colleges in phase 2 and phase 3 counties; comply with [phase 2 requirements](#).
- Gov. Inslee has put phase 4 on hold.

Note: Branch campuses must follow the requirements associated with the phase of the county in which the branch campus is located.

Beginning Aug 1, 2020



JAY INSLEE
Governor

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PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
AMENDING PROCLAMATIONS 20-05 AND 20-12

20-12.1
Higher Education – Fall 2020



Campus Reopening Guide

Higher Education Re-Opening Workgroup

Coordinated by:
State Board for Community and Technical Colleges
Council of Presidents
Independent Colleges of Washington

COMMUNITY and TECHNICAL COLLEGES Washington State Board
Council of Presidents
INDEPENDENT COLLEGES OF WASHINGTON

- The [proclamation](#) contains mandates. The [Campus Reopening Guide](#) contains recommendations. Together, they are generally referred to as the higher education reopening plan.
- Beginning Aug. 1, 2020, the reopening proclamation will apply to all colleges regardless of the phase of the county in which they are located.

My college is in a phase 3 county, but there are no phase 3 protocols. What should I do?

Follow the phase 2 requirements until Aug. 1, 2020. Starting Aug. 1, switch to the higher education reopening proclamation.

On July 16, 2020, Gov. Inslee limited gathering sizes in phase 3 counties. Do those limits apply to higher education institutions?

No, higher education institutions operate under separate safety rules established by the governor's office. As of July 16, 2020, there are no class-size limits in any of the higher education requirements (phase 1 requirements, phase 2 requirements, and the governor's reopening proclamation set to take effect Aug. 1, 2020). That said, the governor may limit class sizes in the future, in which case, we will publish a new version of this issue update.

What are some of the big differences between the phase 1 and phase 2 safety protocols and the reopening proclamation?

Phase 1 and phase 2 safety protocols require all instruction and student services to be online, with the exception of the hands-on portion of professional-technical classes — like welding, nursing and automotive — and essential services, like cashiering.

In contrast, the proclamation allows colleges to provide face-to-face contact for any type of instruction or student service, provided safety requirements are followed. This does not mean colleges will return to campus operations as they were in the days before COVID-19.

What will college look like in the fall?

The college experience will be very different than it was last fall. Students can expect to be separated by six feet, to wear masks, and, in most cases, to have most of their instruction online or in a hybrid format.

The hybrid approach allows colleges to minimize the number of students who come in contact with each other and also to pivot quickly to an all-online format if COVID-19 cases spike again. With these safety precautions in place, colleges and universities can continue to provide an excellent education while keeping students, faculty and staff safe.

What are colleges required to do under the higher education reopening proclamation?

Below is a summary of key mandates colleges and universities must follow under [Proclamation 20-12.1](#).

- Develop a safety plan and modify the plan as needed to keep up-to-date with COVID-19 safety requirements. Communicate the most recent version of the plan to students, faculty and staff and provide contact information for people to report complaints or violations.
- Post signs at entry points that let people know of their shared responsibilities to protect the campus community. Signs should address proper hygiene and sanitation, physical distancing, use of personal protective equipment, and staying home if feeling sick. The signs should include contact information for people who have concerns or questions.
- Require students, faculty and staff to self-certify that they have not experienced COVID-19 symptoms since their last visit to campus.
- Keep a log of people who come to campus, following state guidelines.
- Educate students, faculty and staff on how to detect symptoms and avoid high-risk situations.
- Limit or prohibit visitors.
- Whenever possible, maintain six feet of physical distancing in busy areas like classrooms, dining halls and common areas.
- If 6-foot distancing is not possible:
 - Implement engineering or administrative controls to minimize exposure.
 - As appropriate or required, provide students, faculty and staff with personal protective equipment such as masks gloves, goggles or face shields. (Note: Gov. Inslee issued [a separate proclamation requiring all Washington residents to wear masks](#), including students.)
- Sanitize high-touch surfaces, and, where safe and applicable, use disposable gloves or other personal protective equipment to prevent transmission of the virus.
- Provide equipment and supplies for hand washing and cleaning, and develop policies around those needs.
- Avoid non-essential travel by faculty and staff. School personnel must self-isolate if they undertake any
- Identify alternative arrangements for students and personnel upon request, including employees who refuse to come to work due to concerns related to campus safety. Educate faculty and staff about COVID-19 and how to prevent transmission, and about leave benefits and policies.
- Require the quarantining of students, faculty and staff who have the virus, have been exposed to the virus, or who are showing symptoms of the virus. Those with symptoms must self-isolate until a diagnosis and next steps are clear.

- For colleges that have dorms and student housing, designate a specific area where a resident can self-isolate.
- Develop response protocols for confirmed on campus cases of COVID-19.
- Treat campus food services like restaurants: enforce 6-foot distancing, use a clicker to limit capacity, place floor markings to promote physical distancing, and post signs reminding visitors of safety protocols (such as maintaining a 6-foot distance, using a mask, and using hand sanitizer). Require customers to wear cloth face coverings when they're not eating. Routinely sanitize high-touch surfaces and common areas (door handles, points of sale). Accept only credit cards, debit cards or other types of payments that don't require physical contact.

What are the rules for resuming sports?

Please talk to your athletic director about the [NWAC's \(Northwest Athletic Conference\) return-to-play guidelines](#).

Are colleges still required to have a COVID-19 safety supervisor with designees in each learning space?

Yes, but only until Aug. 1, when the higher education reopening proclamation takes effect. Unlike phase 1 and phase 2 safety protocols, the reopening proclamation does not require COVID-19 safety supervisors. The guidance document does, however, recommend identifying people in charge of COVID-19 safety.

Are temperature checks still required before people come to campus?

Yes, but only until Aug. 1, when the higher education reopening proclamation takes effect. The proclamation does, however, require colleges to have their students, faculty and staff self-certify that they have not experienced COVID-19 symptoms since their last campus visit.

Must students, faculty and staff still self-quarantine for 14 days if they're visiting, or returning to, Washington after visiting a state other than Oregon or Idaho?

Yes, but only until Aug 1, when the higher education reopening proclamation takes effect. Unlike phase 1 and phase 2 safety requirements, the reopening protocol does not include a requirement for 14-day quarantine for domestic travelers coming from states other than Oregon or Idaho.

Where can I find more information?

Visit the following websites for more COVID-19 safety information.

Phase 1 and phase 2 Higher Education Requirements: <https://bit.ly/3h1k6ps>

Higher Education Reopening Plan, starting Aug. 1, 2020: <https://bit.ly/2A42Wro> (links to reopening proclamation and reopening guide)

Gov. Inslee's face mask requirement: <https://bit.ly/2YxGRuS>

COVID-19 – risk assessment dashboard: <https://bit.ly/2BgiokK>

CDC guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting: <https://bit.ly/31k5JYX>

As an employer:

Labor & Industries General Requirements and Prevention Ideas for Workplaces:
<https://bit.ly/2VnWPFM>

Department of Health Workplace and Employer Resources and Recommendations:
<https://bit.ly/2VhEg6c>

Labor & Industries guidance for employee masks, “Which Mask for Which Task?”:
<https://bit.ly/31nTn1N>

Labor & Industries risk-assessment guide for employers: <https://bit.ly/3dBlyLZ>

- Example used by UW: <https://bit.ly/2VIO3kO>

Safe Start Guide for Washington state agencies: <https://bit.ly/32pYOsP>

Also feel free to reach out to Carli Schiffner, SBCTC's deputy executive director of education, at cschiffner@sbctc.edu.