

# UC Merced COVID-19 Prevention Plan

UC Merced  
5200 N. Lake Rd  
Merced, CA

Responsible Party: Andrew Boyd, Chief Resilience Officer

## Recent Updates

None

## Introduction

The Merced County Department of Public Health is adhering to guidance from the California Department of Public Health, which recommends that counties with high levels of community transmission of COVID-19 limit the reopening of colleges and universities.

Colleges and universities in Merced County are limited to only courses that require physical instruction at this time. Institutions may continue to offer in person training and instruction for essential workforce for required activities that cannot be accomplished through virtual learning. All other academic instruction must continue to be performed via distance-learning.

Faculty and other staff access to campus is limited to designated activities only, primarily focused on instructional support, research activities that require utilization of campus infrastructure, and maintaining minimum basic operations. The institution must comply with all relevant portions of this protocol to maximize safety for all employees.

While in Tier 1 (purple), on-campus student residency may be provided to students who have no alternative housing option or this is their best place to live.

For student athletes who are participating in on campus sports, campus housing should be offered in the small training cohorts as recommended by the state guidance.

Collegiate sports may only proceed in compliance with all the California Department of Public Health [Specific Interim Guidance for Collegiate Athletics](#).

## COVID-19 Task Force

The UC Merced COVID Response Center (CRC) has been created to establish and enforce all COVID-19 safety protocols and ensure that staff and students receive education about COVID-19. The COVID Response Center is the central unit responsible for managing and mitigating the risks of COVID-19 exposure at UC Merced.

### Individual Control Measures and Screenings for Employees

- ✓ Employees whose work duties can be conducted remotely are doing so and will continue to do so until the Merced County risk level is defined as "Moderate" by the Department of Public Health.
- ✓ All employees have been provided with or have administered to themselves symptom and/or temperature screenings at the beginning of their shift and all other employees entering the worksite at all times. The individual conducting the temperature/symptom screening will avoid close contact with employees to the extent possible. Both screeners and employees wear face coverings during each screening. Screening follows [CDC Guidelines](#).
- ✓ Employees utilize a daily health check-in application to self-monitor for symptoms daily prior to visiting campus.
- ✓ Employees who are sick or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 are directed to stay home and Centers for Disease Control and Merced County Department of Public Health guidelines will be followed for when that employee can return to work.
- ✓ Employees are provided with face coverings and personal protective equipment, depending on their duties. The University has established, policy, procedures and trainings to ensure this equipment is worn properly at all times.
- ✓ Face coverings are required when employees are in the vicinity of others. Face coverings are not shared.
- ✓ Each employee is assigned their own tools, equipment and defined workspace consistent with health and safety standards. Sharing of workspaces and held items is minimized or eliminated, consistent with health and safety standards.
- ✓ In compliance with wage and hour regulations, alternate, staggered or shift schedules have been instituted to maximize physical distancing.
- ✓ Employees are provided information on employer or government-sponsored leave benefits the employee may be entitled to receive that would make it financially easier to stay at home.
- ✓ All individual workstations, or individuals working in the same areas as part of a team are separated by at least six feet.
- ✓ Employees take reasonable measures to communicate with the public that they should use face coverings.

## Individual Control Measures and Screenings for Students

- ✓ For the Fall Semester, only students who with no alternative residential option have been allowed to live on-campus, equating to approximately 8% dormitory usage, with only one student per bedroom and reduced bathroom sharing.
- ✓ Students who have other residential options are taking classes remotely and will continue to do so for the time being.
- ✓ All on-campus students have been provided with or have administered to themselves symptom and/or temperature screenings. The individual conducting the temperature/symptom screening will avoid close contact with students to the extent possible. Both screeners and students wear face coverings during each screening. Screening follows [CDC Guidelines](#).
- ✓ On-campus students utilize a daily health check-in application to self-monitor for symptoms daily.
- ✓ On-campus students who are sick or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 are directed to stay in their rooms, and quarantine/isolation procedures will follow, as pursuant to the "Quarantine & Isolation Program" subsection within the "COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies" section. All other Centers for Disease Control guidelines will be followed.
- ✓ On-campus students are provided with face coverings and personal protective equipment, depending on their duties. The University has established, policy, procedures and trainings to ensure this equipment is worn properly at all times.
- ✓ Face coverings are required when students are in the vicinity of others. Face coverings are not shared. Specific requirements are identified in the University's Interim Policy: [Interim Policy - Universal Requirements for COVID19](#)
- ✓ Dining Halls are open for grab and go services only.
- ✓ To the extent feasible, on-campus students have been advised to minimize travel to off-campus locations.
- ✓ Elevator capacity is limited to the number of people that can be accommodated while maintaining least 6 feet of physical distancing.
- ✓ Measures are instituted to assure access to online or specialized in-person educational services for vulnerable students. Measures are instituted to assure access to goods and services for students and visitors who have mobility limitations and/or are at high risk in public spaces.
- ✓ Students take reasonable measures to communicate with the public that they should use face coverings.

## Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols

- ✓ Thorough cleaning in high traffic areas is performed regularly. Commonly used surfaces are frequently disinfected.
- ✓ All shared equipment and touchable surfaces are cleaned and sanitized between each use.

<b>Housing</b>	<b>Daily Frequency</b>
Office Spaces	2X
Restrooms	1X
Lobby/Lounge	2X
Study Space	2X
Kitchen	2X
Elevators	2X
Stair Hand Rails	2X
Laundry Rooms	1X
<b>Dining</b>	<b>Daily Frequency</b>
Restrooms	4X
Front of House	Every 15 Minutes
Back of House	Every 15 Minutes
<b>State Funded</b>	<b>Daily Frequency</b>
Office Spaces	1-3X
Conference Rooms	1-3X
Laboratories	1-3X
Restrooms	1-3X
Lobbies	1-3X
Elevators	1-3X

- ✓ Entrances and exits, and points of sale are equipped with proper sanitation products, including hand sanitizer and/or sanitizing wipes.
- ✓ Hand washing facilities will be made available for building occupants. Hand sanitizer locations will be distributed to common entry points.
- ✓ Sanitizing supplies and services are provided to promote students' and employees' personal hygiene. This may include tissues, no-touch trash cans, hand soap, adequate time for hand-washing, alcohol-based hand sanitizers, disinfectants, gloves, and disposable towels.
- ✓ Cleaning products are used that meet the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s- approved for use against COVID-19 list.
- ✓ Regular cleaning has been scheduled throughout the day.
- ✓ Employees are provided adequate time to implement cleaning practices before and after shifts.
- ✓ Hands-free devices and other measures to reduce touching surfaces will be utilized to the extent possible.
- ✓ The HVAC system in all campus buildings is in good, working order; to the maximum extent feasible, ventilation has been increased in all buildings, consistent with the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) standards.

- ✓ To minimize the risk of Legionnaires' disease and other diseases associated with water, take steps to ensure that all water systems and features are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown.
- ✓ Use of drinking fountains is prohibited. Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to carry their own water and to use water refilling stations where available for personal water bottles. Water refilling stations should be cleaned and disinfected regularly. Post signs at refilling stations that encourage users to wash or sanitize their hands after refilling.
- ✓ Signage has been posted to provide clear guidance to the public about how to maintain safety within the facility (e.g., maintaining physical distance, wear face covering, etc.). Signage is posted at each primary public entrance of each campus building to inform all employees, students, and visitors that they should: Avoid entering the building if they have a cough or fever.
- ✓ Building infrastructure that supports bike commuting is open.

### **Physical Distancing Guidelines to Keep People at Least Six Feet Apart**

- ✓ Employees and students have been instructed to maintain at least six feet distance from each other and anyone else encountered on campus in course of conducting permitted activities; employees may momentarily come closer when necessary to accept deliveries, to accept payments, or as otherwise necessary.
- ✓ The number of people in any indoor room on campus is limited at any given time, such that all people in the room can easily maintain at least a six-foot distance from one another at all practicable times.
- ✓ Break rooms are limited to only food preparation. Any food consumption is required to be in a private office or outdoors where individuals are to remain 6 feet apart.
- ✓ Pedestrian traffic signs and other markings have been placed to minimize congestion. Where lines or queuing occurs, markings have been established to ensure individuals remain at least six feet apart.
- ✓ Campus common areas (in student housing, administrative buildings, etc) have been closed.
- ✓ No social events or activities are permitted as per current local and state health officer orders.
- ✓ Elevator capacity is limited to the number of people that can be accommodated while maintaining a 6- foot physical distance between riders. Floor marks will be provided to indicate appropriate distance.
- ✓ Furniture in areas that may need to be open for public use (e.g., building lobbies, reception areas, or waiting areas) has been eliminated or greatly reduced to support physical distancing.
- ✓ Customer service windows or counters have been closed to the extent feasible. When open, users are required to maintain a distance of 6 feet from service personnel.
- ✓ Use of on-campus transport vehicles (e.g., buses, shuttle vans, etc.) is limited such that all riders are able to maintain a physical distance of at least 6 feet from one another if feasible. Where possible, additional transport vehicles are available to support excess capacity on busy routes. A passenger entry and exit plan has been developed to minimize physical contact and crowding with other passengers during entry and exit of the transport vehicle. All riders are required to wear cloth face coverings. Vehicle windows are opened, when practicable, to increase outdoor air flow.
- ✓ Film production may be allowed on-campus for the purposes of sharing academic, instructional or cultural content that is not otherwise accessible to students or the community. Film productions should be limited

to 10 or fewer people, including cast and crew members. Cast and crew members must be screened before they may participate in the film production. All productions should take place outdoors as much as possible. All cast and crew must wear face coverings and maintain a physical distance of at least 6 feet as much as feasible. Appearances on camera without face coverings must be limited to one person and productions should not include singing or playing of wind or brass instruments. If more than one person is to be on camera at a time, all must be wearing face coverings. No audiences are permitted at any time.

## Campus Visitors

- ✓ Visitors to campus are limited to only those who are invited by the University to campus for purposes that are aligned to the essential activities of the University.
- ✓ Invited visitors will be required to follow all mitigation measures (symptom screening, face coverings, etc.) consistent with University policies and procedures.

## COVID-19 Testing

- ✓ Merced County Department of Public Health is notified for all positive COVID-19 cases.
- ✓ The COVID Response Center contacts any individuals identified as being exposed to an individual with COVID-19 as defined by CDC guidelines.
- ✓ Instructions in regards to isolation or quarantine protocols are provided by the COVID Response Center.
- ✓ Quarantine and Isolation procedures for campus residents are managed by the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Residence Life teams.
- ✓ Campus stakeholders can find instructions on how to be tested for COVID-19 at:  
<https://doyourpart.ucmerced.edu/covid-19-testing>

## Training

All students, faculty and staff have been trained on the following topics:

- ✓ Information from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) on COVID-19, how to prevent it from spreading, and which underlying health conditions may make individuals more susceptible to contracting the virus.
- ✓ Self-screening at home, including temperature and/or symptom checks using CDC guidelines.
- ✓ The importance of not coming to work if employees have a frequent cough, fever, difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, recent loss of taste or smell, or if they or someone they live with have been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- ✓ The importance of seeking medical attention if an employees' symptoms become severe, including persistent pain or pressure in the chest, confusion, or bluish lips or face. Updates and further details are available on CDC's webpage.

- ✓ The importance of frequent handwashing with soap and water, including scrubbing with soap for 20 seconds (or using hand sanitizer with at least 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol when employees cannot get to a sink or handwashing station, per CDC guidelines).
- ✓ Manufacturer's directions and Cal/OSHA requirements for safe use of personal hygiene and cleaning products.
- ✓ The importance of physical distancing, both at work and off work time (see Physical Distancing section above).
- ✓ Proper use of face coverings, including:
  - ✓ Face coverings do not protect the wearer and are not personal protective equipment (PPE).
  - ✓ Face coverings can help protect people near the wearer, but do not replace the need for physical distancing and frequent handwashing.
  - ✓ The importance of washing and/or sanitizing hands before and after using or adjusting face coverings.
  - ✓ Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth.
  - ✓ Face coverings to be washed after each shift.

## **Compliance and Documentation**

- ✓ The COVID Response Center regularly inspects the facilities and campus operations for compliance with the COVID Prevention Plan. Any deficiencies are documented and corrected as appropriate.
- ✓ Notification of this protocol will be posted at building entrances referring individuals to the electronic version posted on the University's website.