



Spring Semester 2021 COVID-19 Testing Program Pullman and Health Sciences Spokane Campuses

November 2020

Program Overview

Washington State University will implement a comprehensive COVID-19 testing program beginning in the Spring 2021 semester for WSU Pullman and WSU Health Sciences Spokane. This effort will identify and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 in the WSU Pullman community as the university's residential campus, the broader Pullman population, and students and faculty involved in clinical programs and patient subject research in Spokane.

Implementation of the WSU COVID-19 testing program involves a multi-pronged approach that will include four types of COVID-19 testing procedures, as well as daily attestations, isolation and quarantine measures, and contact tracing. WSU has also put in place other public health and safety measures, including mandatory facial coverings, physical distancing, biosecurity measures such as temperature checks, a public health communications plan to address the behavioral health component of disease spread, and an application and/or survey consisting of contact diaries to assess risk.

This plan remains flexible to ensure that exposure data can be identified quickly, given the dynamic nature of the pandemic and associated changes in public health recommendations and standards. Designed to protect the health and safety of WSU students and employees, this plan will be under continuous evaluation by the WSU Testing, Attestation, and Contact Tracing (TACT) Committee and Modeling and Testing Subcommittee.

Spring Semester 2021 WSU COVID-19 Testing Program Summary

Using data and information collected on the WSU Pullman campus during Fall 2020 semester, Spring 2021 semester testing will target the following populations:

- (1) WSU Pullman students residing in university-owned and operated housing;
- (2) WSU Pullman students living off-campus who regularly work at or use campus facilities;
- (3) WSU Health Sciences Spokane students and staff working in clinical programs or conducting patient subject research, as well as those using campus facilities; and
- (4) Faculty and staff who physically work at WSU Pullman and attest daily, and visitors on the WSU Pullman campus with an academic, research or administrative purpose and who attest daily

The types of testing procedures to be used will include:

Arrival Screening Testing for Students

WSU will require arrival screening testing for targeted student populations on the WSU Pullman and WSU Health Sciences Spokane campuses. WSU will recommend arrival screening testing for other student populations as well.

Required arrival screening testing

Students¹ required to take an arrival screening test include:

- All WSU Pullman students living in university-owned housing;
- WSU Pullman student employees working in prescribed university facilities;
- WSU Pullman students participating in Spring 2021 PAC-12 athletic programs, intramural sports, and/or sports clubs if permission is formally granted by the governing body for that sport and formally approved by the university;
- WSU Pullman students participating in in-person classes;
- Students choosing to use WSU facilities on the WSU Pullman or WSU Health Sciences Spokane campuses;
- WSU Pullman students in academic programs where strict six-foot minimum distancing proves incompatible with curriculum requirements;
- WSU Health Sciences Spokane students working in clinical programs or conducting patient subject research.

The TACT Committee may modify this list at any time based on public health recommendations or changing conditions.

Arrival testing is critical for WSU Pullman students who plan to reside on campus as it will help to isolate infectious students at the beginning of the semester. Students planning to live in university-owned residential facilities will be required to schedule an appointment for returning to campus or move-in during the January 2021 move-in process. Details for required arrival testing screening will be communicated to those impacted.

Students living in university-owned housing must self-quarantine while they wait for their required arrival screening testing results (expected within 48 hours). If a student tests positive, they will be moved to isolation housing provided by WSU. The isolation period will be in accordance with public health guidance in place at the time of infection. Currently, that guidance is a 10-day isolation for most individuals.

Student employees working in WSU Pullman facilities will participate in arrival testing prior to reporting for work for the first time during the Spring 2021 semester.

Required arrival testing for spring athletics and prescribed academic curriculum will coincide with activity-specific requirements.

Prior to entering any university facility on the Pullman campus (e.g., CUB, SRC, Chinook) for the first time in Spring 2021 semester, students living off-campus (including those in apartments and fraternity and sorority chapters) will be required to participate in arrival testing. Proof of having participated in arrival screening testing will be required for continued use of university facilities.

All asymptomatic students participating in a clinical program or conducting patient subject research on the WSU Health Sciences Spokane campus will be required to participate in arrival screening testing prior to the first day of Spring 2021 classes. Students using facilities on the WSU Health Sciences Spokane campus

¹ For purposes of this testing plan, the term “students” includes WSU-enrolled undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, as well as non-degree seeking students. The term also includes students enrolled at other institutions who are participating in academic, clinical, or other programs or activities located on a WSU campus, or otherwise meet the bulleted criteria.

will also need to participate. Details for testing will be provided directly to WSU Health Sciences Spokane students prior to the conclusion of the Fall 2020 semester.

In addition, WSU Pullman students participating in either (1) academic and research programs where physical distancing is not possible or (2) distinct university activities or business units with student employees routinely interacting with the university community, will participate in the WSU testing program. Students in those programs will be notified of any such requirements by their research or academic director or university employer.

Required arrival screening testing of up to 3,000 students arriving over the course of the move-in period may require testing a peak of 800 students a day. To meet this demand, WSU will partner with community organizations to assist with collecting, accessioning, and processing of specimens. Students who can provide adequate documentation that they already had COVID-19 and are no longer infected as defined by the then-current public health guidelines (e.g., 3 months prior to arrival on campus) may not be required to participate in arrival screening testing.

Voluntary arrival screening testing

WSU Pullman students living off campus, including those in apartments and fraternity and sorority chapters who are not otherwise subject to mandatory arrival screening testing, will be encouraged to participate in voluntary arrival testing. WSU Pullman will offer pop-up testing locations close to or near off-campus housing locations as students return for Spring 2021 semester. WSU will also encourage students participating in the Greek system to test upon arrival into Whitman County.

Additionally, any student living in Whitman County for Spring 2021 semester who is not otherwise subject to mandatory arrival screening testing will be strongly encouraged to participate in voluntary arrival screening testing when returning to the community.

There will be no charge for participating in the arrival testing program.

Ongoing Screening Testing for Students and Employees

An ongoing screening testing effort for students and employees not experiencing [COVID-19 symptoms](#) supports transmission mitigation. Such testing identifies environments, behaviors and activities linked to an increased risk of disease transmission and the effectiveness of measures intended to reduce disease transmission, specifically including contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine.

Ongoing screening testing will assess virus prevalence and help to prevent disease spread. In partnership with WSU One Health Diagnostics and Incyte, WSU Pullman will provide ongoing voluntary screening testing for students and employees. The recommended frequency for ongoing screening testing will depend on virus prevalence and recommendations from public health and infectious disease experts. Students should anticipate a request for participation in two additional screening tests during the spring semester, in addition to any targeted testing that may occur.

With the testing and diagnostic resources available to WSU in Pullman, COVID-19 positive individuals will receive results in 24 to 48 hours. That communication will be received from contact tracers. Students living in residence halls will be placed in isolation and their close contacts in quarantine. This timely effort will significantly reduce transmission risk among the student population and potential spread to the Pullman community.

Students, faculty, staff and WSU visiting scholars accessing any WSU facility in Whitman County must complete the WSU daily attestation and are strongly encouraged to participate in the screening program. Visitors on the WSU Pullman campus with an academic, research or administrative purpose and who attest daily may also participate. Screening testing participants are encouraged to periodically receive additional tests over the course of the semester based on recommendations from TACT and in collaboration with local public health officials.

In addition, antibody testing (requiring venipuncture, e.g., a blood draw) will also be offered with screening testing at different times throughout the semester, also on a voluntary basis and free of charge.

The ongoing screening testing plan will be in effect throughout Spring 2021 semester. All positive tests for COVID-19 associated with WSU will be contact traced by local health officials and/or their agents per guidelines established by federal and/or state public health authorities.

There is no charge for participating in the WSU Spring 2021 semester screening testing program. However, if there are changes in state guidance, participants may be asked to show an insurance card if they have one. It is WSU policy that insurance coverage will not be an impediment to any student being tested.

Targeted Screening Testing

A primary objective of WSU's COVID-19 testing program is to determine early and undetected disease spread in the WSU Pullman community. Targeted screening testing through wastewater (sewage) sampling is one way of achieving that objective. This sampling will be conducted by WSU's Allen School for Global Animal Health, in collaboration with the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine, WSU's Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) team, and Auxiliary Facilities Services. Wastewater sampling and analysis for SARS-CoV-2 will provide a predictive indicator for potential COVID-19 outbreaks in populations within the WSU Pullman campus community.

Students living in university-owned facilities where there is a positive indicator from wastewater sampling will be required to participate in additional testing to mitigate disease spread. Wastewater testing of other university-owned buildings may also be used as a basis for targeted, mandatory testing for students or employees. WSU may also choose to implement additional public health control measures based on recommendations from local, state and/or federal public health officials.

To maintain the public health and safety of Whitman County, WSU will also partner with local government and public health to sample the wastewater of off-campus residences as necessary to monitor disease spread.

Targeted screening testing may also occur based on circumstances other than wastewater testing that indicate a possible increase or risk of transmission within a specific group or population. This sampling may result in required screening testing of up to 3,000 students in residence halls over the course of spring semester.

Some academic programs or certain student-employee groups may be required to participate in targeted screening testing as well. For example, the Office of Research may require some research programs routinely interacting with the public and/or interacting with human subjects to participate in targeted screening testing. Student-employee groups with a heightened risk of exposure to COVID-19 also may be subject to targeted screening testing.

Voluntary Screening Testing for Students and Employees not Showing Symptoms of COVID-19

Voluntary screening testing is important for identifying members of the WSU community who have COVID-19 prior to showing symptoms. It also serves to ease student, faculty and staff concerns regarding exposure. Based on data from screening testing conducted by the Army National Guard during the Fall 2020 semester, voluntary screening testing for employees and visiting scholars will be offered twice per week at various locations throughout campus.

WSU Pullman and WSU Health Sciences Spokane will make voluntary screening testing available to students, faculty and staff regularly, locating the testing sites to enhance access to unique campus populations and gather potential exposure data from these populations.

Ongoing Diagnostic Testing for those with symptoms and exposure

Diagnostic testing has the most beneficial effect on both an individual's health and public health, particularly when combined with attestation requirements. Per [CDC guidelines](#), those with symptoms or those with known or suspected exposure to someone with COVID-19 must be tested to determine their health status and prevent additional spread. For WSU Pullman students located in Whitman County, diagnostic testing for COVID-19 will be conducted through Cougar Health Services or community providers (e.g., Pullman Regional Hospital). This testing will be available throughout the Spring 2021 semester.

Any student who cannot successfully attest or has concerns surrounding exposure must have ready access to diagnostic testing. Generally, diagnostic testing should be covered through an individual's health plan or health insurance. See [WA Office of Insurance Commissioner \(OIC\) FAQ: COVID-19 Testing](#) or [OIC Health Insurance and COVID-19](#). Uninsured individuals may have diagnostic testing covered through federal programs. Visit [HHS, Health Resources & Services Administration, COVID-19 Claims Reimbursement](#) for more information.

WSU employees with symptoms and those with known or suspected exposure to someone with COVID-19 should seek medical advice from their healthcare provider. Evaluations and treatments requiring or likely requiring diagnostic testing should be performed and ordered by qualified licensed health care providers.

Attestation

All WSU students, employees, and visitors must complete a self-attestation form every day they plan to appear at any physical WSU location statewide.

Isolation, Quarantine, and Contact Tracing

WSU Pullman has protocols in place for isolation, quarantine, and contact tracing.

WSU follows the guidelines outlined by [the Washington State Department of Health](#) regarding isolation and quarantine. Isolation applies to people testing positive for COVID-19 or symptomatic people awaiting testing and/or testing results. Isolation durations typically last 10 days, provided the person has no fever for the last 24 hours of the 10-day period and symptoms are improving. The COVID-19 positive or symptomatic individual's healthcare provider or the local public health officer may extend the isolation duration.

Quarantine applies to close contacts, which include those within six feet for 15 cumulative minutes over a 24-hour period with a COVID-19 positive person (or symptomatic person prior to testing to refute a COVID-19 diagnosis). It also applies to people residing together in a living unit (e.g., family, roommates, and other specific groups identified by Department of Health guidance, such as participants within a daycare cohort).

The quarantine duration lasts 14 days from time of last contact with a positive individual. A negative test result does not decrease the quarantine duration.

WSU Pullman students living in university-owned residence halls and who test positive or are a close contact of a COVID-19 positive individual will isolate in residence halls designated as isolation and/or quarantine facilities. With coordination between WSU EHS, contact tracers and Student Affairs, sequestered residence hall students will receive support for temporary relocation, dining services delivery, disinfection for shared residence hall locations vacated and other sequester resources.

Students living off campus will be assessed by Whitman County Public Health (WCPH) or WSU EHS to determine whether they can quarantine or self-isolate in their off-campus residence. If a student cannot quarantine or self-isolate where they are, WCPH will work with WSU to arrange appropriate quarantine and isolation housing in accordance with [Governor Inslee's Proclamation 20-12.2](#).

All students in isolation and quarantine will receive health monitoring. This generally consists of a student receiving a text message each day through Everbridge (aka WSU Alert) from WSU contact tracers, who are contracted by WCPH to perform this activity. The daily message will request information about the individual's health status and will provide a number to call for additional resources. Health monitoring will not consist of treatment, health care services or medical management. Students are responsible for arranging for their health care needs, including emergency care while in isolation/quarantine. Students that do not respond to the daily text message will receive follow-up communication to determine whether they require assistance.

Positive tests are provided to public health officials pursuant to state and federal law. WCPH will oversee contact tracing in accordance with public health guidelines. WSU EHS are contracted workforce members of WCPH to perform contact tracing for WSU students, faculty, and staff.