COVID-19 FAQ’s

How is COVID Spread?
Transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) primarily occurs through close person-to-person contact (within about 6 feet) through:

- Respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks
- Those respiratory droplets landing in the mouths, noses or eyes or being inhaled into the lungs

COVID-19 can also be spread by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching the mouth, nose, or eyes.

It is important to remember that an infected person who is not showing any symptoms and, therefore, does not know they have the virus may spread COVID-19.

Scientists and healthcare providers are still learning about COVID-19, including how the SARS-CoV-2 virus spreads. For more information, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website.

What do I need to know about entering, returning to, or visiting the Campus?
Please review information about campus requirements during COVID and visit https://coronavirus.med.wustl.edu/working-on-campus/

Also, remember as an employee to self-screen daily before coming to Campus: screening.wustl.edu

Now that I am returning to Campus, what do I need to know about parking?
Please visit https://coronavirus.med.wustl.edu/working-on-campus/parking/ for all of your parking needs.
Are there campus safety procedures in place?
Our Campus remains staffed with physical security 24/7, and we contain to be fully staffed to meet all campus safety, emergency planning, and safety needs on the Campus.

Please visit https://coronavirus.med.wustl.edu/working-on-campus/campus-safety-procedures/

Do I need to wear my badge while on Campus?
All faculty, staff, and students are required to wear their badge for entry to BJC HealthCare and Washington University Medical Campus facilities.

Screeners have been stationed at select entry points on the Medical Campus, and will check badges upon entry during screening. It is for the safety of our patients and fellow workers. Please wear your badge, so you are not denied admittance. Wipe your badge daily with disinfectant.

What precautions should I take when using shared office equipment?
The likelihood of contracting a coronavirus from touching a surface is unlikely, and the risk of contracting it from shared office machines are no greater than any other surface you encounter outside of your home.

Washing your hands after using shared office equipment, or any other surface outside of your private office is a good practice, in general, to further reduce any risk. Additionally, machines should be turned off and wiped down daily following the manufacturer’s guidance.

For additional information can be found in the COVID-19 Updates “Office Cleaning Protocols.”

What precautions should I take when handling my mail?
The likelihood of contracting a coronavirus from touching a surface is unlikely, and the risk of contracting it from a letter or package is no greater than any other surface you encounter outside of your home. There is no need to quarantine or disinfect packages.
Can you tell us more about the Campus Medical center Custodial Planning during this time?

Daily cleaning
Custodial Services staff have increased disinfection protocols to include more frequent disinfection of touchpoints such as elevator buttons, door handles (interior/exterior), handrails, light switches, etc. throughout the medical Campus. Custodial has also increased its focus on replenishing OFMD supplied hand sanitizer dispensers located in most elevator lobbies and entry of facilities. Our current service levels can be found on the OFMD website.

Emergency Cleaning
All COVID-19 area disinfections are being contracted through Woodard Cleaning & Restoration. Woodard will assign a project manager to assess the area to determine the resources needed for cleaning and disinfection. Woodard will use their nVIRO Shield electrostatic machines to disinfect up to 5,000sqft per hour with a coronavirus kill time of 4 minutes. From the time of notification to complete disinfection of the area is currently 12 hours. Turnaround time may vary based on demand and the size of the area that needs to be sanitized. Please view the Custodial Services COVID-positive cleaning process.

Request and Communication
Any customer to facilities management positive COVID-19 disinfection request is immediately communicated to Emergency Management, the Assistant VC of Facilities, Senior Director of Facilities, and OFMD leadership. Emergency Management will confirm the case with Occupational Health and disseminate communication to relevant parties.

In instances, that Occupational Health receives a positive COVID-19 test result of a WUSM faculty or staff member, Occupational Health will notify Emergency Management who will then communicate to relevant parties and contact custodial leadership to initiate disinfection procedures.
For more information, please contact Mario Turner, Director of Custodial Services, at turnerlc@wustl.edu.

**I am concerned about touching surfaces in bathrooms on Campus, how is this being addressed?**
Restrooms and high touch points like doorknobs, and elevator buttons are cleaned regularly throughout the day. It is recommended to use a paper towel to open doors and to maintain good hand washing protocols throughout the day, washing your hands for at least 20 seconds. Signage has been added for all restrooms on Campus reminding people to wash hands for proper hygiene.

**What about doorknobs and handles in buildings and the safety of using elevators?**
The custodial teams have increased disinfection protocols to include more frequent disinfection of touchpoints such as elevator buttons, interior/exterior door handles, handrails, light switches, etc. throughout the medical Campus. OFMD Custodial services have increased replenishment of OFMD supplied hand sanitizer dispensers located in most elevator lobbies and facility entries.

Signage is on building doors, building lobbies, and elevator lobbies and cabs reminding people to keep distance, wear masks, and wash hands. Capacity signs for elevator cabs have been hung throughout Campus.

**I have a class/meeting to attend, how are those Shared Spaces being sanitized?**
All Shared Space classrooms/meeting rooms at the School of Medicine have disinfectant spray bottles and paper towels located in each room to clean your space before you sit down. The University is highly encouraging personal responsibility to maintain clean protocols between classes and meetings. Rooms will be serviced once per day, typically during the evening shift. Visit the [ECSS website](#) for more information about Shared Spaces.
I have noticed that grocery stores have plexiglass barriers. Will the University being installing those on Campus?
These have been installed in key service areas with customer service desks or check-in stations, but they are not anticipated in individual office areas.

Handwashing, masking, and physical distancing are the best means to reduce the risk of transmitting COVID-19. University units with significant public interaction may also want to consider adding the use of physical barriers, such as plexiglass or other similar materials.

As a reminder, adhering to handwashing strategies and the universal masking policy are the best means to reduce the risk of transmitting.

If we need additional COVID campus signs, how do we obtain these for our work areas?
As the School of Medicine slowly begins to re-activate, signage has been developed for common areas and department spaces throughout Campus. All the printable signs for departmental, research, and non-clinic spaces can be found on the OFMD website. For clinical areas, the signage for FPP/Clinics can be found on their website. If you have any questions about signage, please contact Kelsy Haddock or Hannah Jefferies.

How should we clean our spaces?
For Campus Cleaning information, please visit the following two sites for the most current information


What Food Service and Vendor Operations is Open on Campus?
For the most up to date information, please visit

https://coronavirus.med.wustl.edu/working-on-campus/hours-and-closures/
I have read that people with COVID-19 spread droplets through the air. What maintenance on the HVAC systems has been done to address this issue?

Operations and Facilities Management has been maintaining all building HVAC systems since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and these systems continue to operate on a 24 hour a day, seven days a week basis.

We are following the best practices as outlined by public health and regulatory agencies, as well as the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioned Engineers (ASHRAE). We are also staying connected to these organizations and will adjust our efforts as new information becomes available to ensure the safest possible environment for our customers.

In addition, the Campus has recently converted the majority of the air filters on Campus to a new high efficient filtration system. Technicians examine all air handlers weekly and replace air filters as necessary. Technicians will continue to evaluate all HVAC systems to make sure all associated equipment is functioning properly and operating as designed. To avoid any microbial incursion in the Campus distributed domestic hot water system, the water is kept at a minimum temperature of 120°F and constantly circulated 24 hours a day.

Are the drinking fountains out of service in my building?

All drinking fountains throughout the School of Medicine buildings have been taken out of service as an additional safety precaution.

Can I have an event or meeting on Campus?

Please visit the following link to stay current on-call campus information.

https://meet.wustl.edu/post-pandemic-planning/

Where can I get more information on COVID planning on Campus?

Please visit the following link to stay current on-call campus information

https://coronavirus.med.wustl.edu/working-on-campus/returning-to-campus/