

Policy on COVID-19 and Campus Health and Safety

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| Policy Title | Policy on COVID-19 and Campus Health and Safety |
| Policy # | 01.108.3 |
| Policy Owner | COVID-19 Task Force |
| Contact Information | Questions about this policy should be directed to Director, Emergency Management at (401) 874-4974 |
| Approved By | Administrative Policy Committee |
| Effective Date | December 6, 2022 |
| Next Review Date | No later than December 31, 2027 |
| Who Needs to Know About this Policy | All University students, employees, and Affiliates |
| Definitions | <p>COVID-19 Task Force. A temporary University task force charged with reviewing state and federal guidance and engaging campus partners to assess campus health and safety relative to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The team includes, but is not limited to, individuals from Academic Affairs, Athletics, Enrollment Management, Facilities, Health Services, Housing and Residential Life, Human Resources, Marketing and Communications, ITS, Public Safety, Research and Economic Development, Risk Management, Student Affairs, and a representative of the Faculty Senate. The Task Force may be disbanded and reconstituted as needed by order of the President of the University of Rhode Island.</p> <p>University Affiliate. Any individual who is not a faculty member, staff, or student who otherwise has a formal relationship with the University, including but not limited to visiting scholars, visiting students, research fellows, professional program participants, club sports coaches, and volunteers as well as employees and associates of the URI Foundation and Alumni Engagement, URI Research Foundation, and members of the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees. Vendors and contractors are not considered University Affiliates, except for those with an ongoing presence on the University campus as regular operations support staff.</p> |
| Statutes, Regulations, and Policies Governing or Necessitating This Policy | State of Rhode Island Governor’s Executive Orders and Department of Health Guidelines and Regulations (see https://health.ri.gov/covid/) |

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| <p>Reason for Policy/Purpose</p> | <p>This policy describes the authorities and duties of University leaders and groups responsible for the establishment and implementation of University policies, procedures, requirements, and guidance relating to the University's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This policy also makes clear that all members of the University community (employees, students, and University Affiliates where applicable) must comply at all times with the policies, requirements guidelines, and procedures, developed hereunder.</p> |
| <p>Forms Related to this Policy</p> | <p>None</p> |

Policy Statement

The University of Rhode Island is dedicated to protecting the health and safety of the URI community at all times, including during a pandemic or other public health emergency. The University President, in consultation with the President's Leadership Council, shall, from time to time, establish policies and requirements relative to campus health and safety related to the COVID-19 pandemic. To assure coordination of effort and outcomes and to provide consistency across all University units and divisions, the COVID-19 Task Force shall be responsible for coordinating and overseeing the implementation of those policies and requirements, for communicating information about them to the URI community, and for issuing and communicating additional guidelines and procedures that are consistent with those policies and requirements and that will assist in their implementation.

As directed by the University President and the President's Leadership Council, the COVID-19 Task Force shall issue and disseminate guidelines and procedures to implement those policies and requirements established by the President in areas such as campus operations, building access, face coverings/masking, community self-screening, campus access/visitors, events and gatherings, URI transportation, building cleaning, community testing, isolation/quarantine, and other related protocols and activities. In addition, the COVID-19 Task Force shall review and approve any other operational plans related to campus activities (again consistent with the policies and requirements established by the President) for specific units of the University (e.g., laboratory use protocols, transportation standards, etc.).

All University policies and requirements, as established by President in consultation with the President's Leadership Council, and all additional guidelines, procedures, and operational plans issued by the COVID-19 Task Force shall satisfy and be consistent with the minimum requirements of the State of Rhode Island's COVID-related guidelines and executive orders as well as any applicable federal laws, regulations, and guidelines (including guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC]) and may be updated when those state or federal standards are revised or when new ones are promulgated. The University may, at its discretion, and consistent with all applicable laws, have COVID-19 related requirements that are more stringent than state and federal requirements or guidelines. All policies, requirements, guidelines, and procedures developed under this policy shall conform to all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

The University's COVID-19 related guidelines, procedures, and operational plans issued hereunder by the COVID-19 Task Force are subject to review and approval by the President's Leadership Council. All members of the University community (students, employees, and University Affiliates as applicable) are expected to comply with these requirements or may face sanctions for noncompliance up to and including termination of employment (for employees), expulsion (for students), or loss of campus access or other privileges (for University Affiliates, visitors, and others).

Individual departments, offices, and units of the University may not develop or implement their own COVID-19 policies, requirements, guidelines, or procedures and must adhere to those established by the University President and the COVID-19 Task Force under this policy.

Policy Statements and Communication

Public statements describing or responding to questions concerning University policies and requirements (or guidelines, procedures, and operational plans) relating to the University's COVID-19 response may only be issued by the University President and the President's Leadership Council, the COVID-19 Task Force, or the University Office of External Relations and Communications. All units of the University are, however, encouraged to share official communications and incorporate them into local, internal announcements.

Exceptions

None

Policy Review and Revisions

(Versions earlier than the first policy number may be paper only)

| Policy # | Effective Date | Reason for Change | Changes to Policy |
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| 01.108.1 | July 2, 2020 | n/a | n/a |
| 01.108.2 | January 11, 2021 | Ongoing review | Updates to reflect operational changes |
| 01.108.3 | December 6, 2022 | Scheduled Review | Task Force may be disbanded |