

## Policy on COVID-19 and Campus Health and Safety

<b>Policy Title</b>	<b>Policy on COVID-19 and Campus Health and Safety</b>
<b>Policy #</b>	01.108.1
<b>Policy Owner</b>	COVID-19 Task Force
<b>Contact Information</b>	Questions about this policy should be directed to Director, Emergency Management at (401) 874-4974
<b>Approved By</b>	Administrative Policy Committee
<b>Effective Date</b>	August 8, 2020
<b>Next Review Date</b>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<b>Who Needs to Know About this Policy</b>	All University students, employees, Affiliates, and visitors, as well as vendors, contractors, and suppliers on University Property.
<b>Definitions</b>	<p><b>COVID-19 Task Force.</b> 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, Risk Management, and Student Affairs.</p> <p><b>University Affiliate.</b> 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> <p><b>University Property.</b> Property belonging to the State of Rhode Island and held in trust by the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees; property held by the University of Rhode Island or any of its component units in its own name; and property owned by third parties but assigned to, occupied by, or managed by the University or any of its component units.</p>
<b>Statutes, Regulations, and Policies Governing or Necessitating This Policy</b>	<p>State of Rhode Island Governor's Executive Orders and Department of Health Guidelines and Regulations (see <a href="https://health.ri.gov/covid/">https://health.ri.gov/covid/</a>).</p> <p>University of Rhode Island Policy on Collection and Use of COVID-19 Related Health Screening and Safety Information.</p>

<p><b>Reason for Policy/Purpose</b></p>	<p>To provide guidelines and requirements for maintaining the health and safety of the University of Rhode Island community during the COVID-19 pandemic and to authorize the COVID-19 Task Force to develop these guidelines and requirements with the approval of the University President and the Senior Leadership Team. These guidelines and requirements include, but are not limited to, the reopening and use of campus facilities, the use of face coverings, health testing and quarantine, events and gatherings, and visitors on campus.</p>
<p><b>Forms Related to this Policy</b></p>	<p>None</p>

## Policy Statement

The University of Rhode Island is dedicated to the health and safety of the URI community during the current COVID-19 pandemic. This policy will outline the basic principles that will direct the development of guidelines and requirements relative to health and safety practiced at the University to reduce the spread of disease and maintain the health of the community.

To assure coordination of effort and outcomes and provide consistency across all University units and divisions, the COVID-19 Task Force will prepare all COVID-19 related requirements so as to implement the decisions and directives of the University's Senior Leadership Team.

The COVID-19 Task Force shall develop specific guidelines and requirements relative to the below areas of concern. All University requirements shall satisfy minimum requirements of the State of Rhode Island's COVID-related guidelines and executive orders (as well as guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC]) and may be updated when the State of Rhode Island (or CDC) guidelines or executive orders are revised. The University may, at its discretion, have COVID-19 related requirements that are more stringent than state guidelines. All guidelines and requirements developed under this policy shall conform to all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

The University's COVID-19 related guidelines and requirements issued by the COVID-19 Task Force are subject to review and approval by the University's Senior Leadership Team and all members of the University community are expected to comply with these requirements or may face sanctions for noncompliance.

## Policy Areas

The COVID-19 Task Force shall develop guidelines and requirements relative to the below matters associated with the maintenance of health and safety on University Property during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**CAMPUS BUILDINGS.** The COVID-19 Task Force shall develop guidelines and requirements relative to building preparation and reopening including guidelines and requirements associated with building traffic and access and shall purchase bulk supplies necessary for this purpose. All University divisions and campuses are expected to participate in and support this effort as necessary based on the guidelines and requirements developed by the COVID-19 Task Force.

**FACE COVERINGS.** Face coverings must be worn by all persons on University Property unless doing so would impair their health. Students may remove their face covering when in their residence hall room but must wear them elsewhere. Employees may remove their face covering while working alone in their assigned office or solo workspace but must wear them at all other times. The COVID-19 Task Force will issue guidelines and requirements to implement this directive and will provide for reasonable exemptions based on health conditions, pedagogical considerations, or other factors consistent with State of Rhode Island and CDC guidance.

**DAILY HEALTH SELF-SCREENING.** All persons coming to any University Property are required to complete a daily health self-assessment electronic questionnaire regarding COVID-19 and may not enter any University Property if they are symptomatic, have been potentially exposed to COVID-19, or have a travel history that requires quarantine. URI Health Services will oversee this self-assessment program and the COVID-19 Task Force will issue guidelines and requirements to implement it. Information about data collection and use can be found in the University of Rhode Island Policy on Collection and Use of COVID-19 Related Health Screening and Safety Information.

**CAMPUS VISITORS.** Campus visitors (i.e., individuals who are not current URI students, employees, contractors/vendors, or Affiliates) will be limited to only those with official business with the University or briefly accessing retail locations on University Property. The COVID-19 Task Force will issue guidelines and requirements to implement this directive, including procedures for approving and logging campus visitors.

**EVENTS AND GATHERINGS.** In-person gatherings of more than the current State-mandated maximum number of individuals on University Property outside of scheduled classes, laboratory/studio sessions, and student-athletes participating in approved team sports are limited to those that are reasonably necessary and cannot be held virtually. The COVID-19 Task Force will issue guidelines and requirements for this purpose that will address the safe planning and conduct of campus events and define a process for reviewing and approving such events. NOTE: Gatherings of more than the current State-mandated maximum number of individuals are not categorically prohibited, but rather such gatherings must conform to the University's requirements as developed by the COVID-19 Task Force in addition to State orders and guidelines.

**CAMPUS TRANSPORTATION.** The COVID-19 Task Force will issue guidelines and requirements for the safe operation and use of campus transportation resources including the RhoShuttle Service, Disability Services shuttle, and University vehicles in accordance with State orders and CDC guidelines.

**CLEANING/DISINFECTING.** In consultation with the custodial teams responsible for different areas of University Property and with URI Environmental Health & Safety well as other relevant stakeholders, the COVID-19 Task Force will issue requirements for cleaning and disinfecting University buildings based on current guidelines from the CDC, EPA, FDA, and other sources of expertise. The requirements will ensure a unified, consistent approach institution-wide to cleaning/disinfecting.

**TESTING.** The COVID-19 Task Force in collaboration with URI Health Services and other appropriate units of the University will develop and implement both a symptomatic and a surveillance/target testing program. Unless otherwise directed by Health Services, symptomatic community members being tested may not come to any University Property.

**ISOLATION/QUARANTINE.** The COVID-19 Task Force in collaboration with URI Health Services, the Office of Human Resource Administration, Housing and Residential Life, Academic Affairs, and other appropriate units of the University will develop and implement and administer a program to isolate and quarantine students as required by State orders and supplemental guidance from the Rhode Island Department of Health. All members of the campus community are required to comply with quarantine and isolation instructions issued by URI Health Services.

## Policy Statements and Communication

Statements of policy relating to COVID-19 and the associated guidelines and requirements may only be issued by the University President and the Senior Leadership Team, the COVID-19 Task Force, or the University Office of External Relations and Communications. COVID-19 policy and associated requirements may not be developed

locally that differ from those developed by the COVID-19 Task Force and subsequently issued by the above entities. All units of the University are, however, encouraged to share official communications and incorporate them into local announcements.

### **Policy Evolution**

This policy may be revised from time to time and the addition and later retirement of certain policy areas relative to the health and safety of the University community are at the judgment of the University's Senior Leadership Team as the COVID-19 health crisis evolves.

### **Exceptions**

Any exceptions will be noted in the guidelines and requirements developed by the COVID-19 Task for each area noted above.

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