



Return to Campus FAQs

Town Hall Feb. 2, 2021

1. Who are the members of the college’s COVID-19 Taskforce?

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2. What is the difference between Gov. Inslee’s higher education proclamation and the Healthy Washington Plan?

- [Proclamation 20-12.2](#) sets minimum protocols higher education institutions must follow to bring students safely back to campus.
- [The Healthy Washington plan](#) is a region-by-region phased plan for resuming social gatherings and reopening businesses and industries in Washington.

3. Does the college have to follow both the higher education proclamation and the Healthy Washington plan?

Yes, colleges have to follow both the higher education proclamation and the Healthy Washington plan. Generally speaking:

- Instructional activities (classrooms/labs) are governed by the [higher education proclamation](#).
- Social gatherings and non-instruction activities that have parallel activities out in the community fall under the [Healthy Washington plan](#) and the [business guidance attached to that plan](#).

Some activities are addressed in both plans.

Activity	Proclamation 20-12.2	Healthy Washington and business guidance
Instructional activities (classrooms/labs)	X	
Computer labs	X	
Dining halls	X	X
Social gathering size limits		X



Libraries		X
Fitness centers		X
Venues (convention centers)		X
Student residence halls	X	Indoor gatherings are banned under phase 1 of the Healthy Washington plan

4. What’s the difference between the former Safe Start Washington plan and the new Healthy Washington plan?

The [Healthy Washington Plan](#) replaced the Safe Start Washington Plan on Jan. 11. The key differences are:

- Phases are no longer determined on a county-by-county level. Instead, they are based on eight regions. Those regions are drawn largely around the emergency medical services regions used for evaluating healthcare services:
 - Puget Sound: King, Pierce, Snohomish
 - East: Adams, Asotin, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Whitman
 - North: Island, San Juan, Skagit, Whatcom
 - North Central: Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Okanogan
 - Northwest: Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason
 - South Central: Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Kittitas, Walla Walla, Yakima
 - Southwest: Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Skamania, Wahkiakum
 - West: Grays Harbor, Lewis, Pacific, Thurston
- There are only two phases instead of four. At the time this publication was written (Jan. 20), all eight regions were in phase 1 under the new plan. For the most part, phase 1 restrictions align with the restrictions under the previous plan (the Nov. 15, 2020 restrictions). However, some restrictions were eased in areas like indoor fitness centers and outdoor social gatherings.
- Regions can advance to phase 2, or slide back to phase 1, based on certain metrics around case rates, hospital admission rates, positivity rates and ICU capacity.
- There’s no application process to move through the phases. The state will look at the metrics every Friday and determine whether regions will move backward or forward the following Monday. Regions can check their status on the state’s [COVID-19 risk assessment dashboard](#).



This fact sheet focuses on phase 1 guidance since our entire state is now in phase 1. The document will be updated when regions start moving to phase 2.

5. Is the campus open to the public during Healthy Washington Plan?

- No, the public is not allowed on-campus during Healthy Washington Plan.

6. What are the events requiring Self-Quarantine?

- Travel outside of Washington State.
- Participation in a “Gathering” that is currently considered “prohibited” under the Governor’s emergency orders.
- Exposure to a known positive case of COVID-19.
- Testing positive for COVID-19.

You may return to campus only after you SELF-QUARANTINE FOR 10 DAYS, SYMPTOM-FREE. If symptoms occur during the 10 days, you must extend the quarantine period to 14 days and get tested. Please keep your supervisor/instructor informed throughout the quarantine period.

7. What about travel?

On Jan. 12, the CDC issued an order requiring all air passengers arriving to the US from a foreign country to get tested no more than three days before their flight departs and to provide proof of the negative result or documentation of having recovered from COVID-19 to the airline before boarding the flight. The order will take effect on Jan. 26. Until then, Gov. Inslee’s advisory and restrictions still stand:

- Gov. Inslee on Nov. 13 issued a public travel advisory recommending a 14-day quarantine for interstate and international travel.
- On Dec. 21, the governor made the quarantine a requirement for anyone entering Washington state after visiting the United Kingdom, South Africa, or other countries experiencing a new COVID strain, which was first detected in the United Kingdom.

8. How long will the college maintain Phase 2 of the return to campus plan?

- Unknown currently. The college will continue to follow the Governor’s direction on the Phased approach for the state and Higher Education & Workforce Training COVID-19 Requirements.



9. When are students, faculty and staff eligible for vaccines?

The Department of Health has created two new tools to help the general public find out which vaccination phase they're in:

- [Washington's COVID-19 vaccine phases illustration](#)
- [Phase Finder](#)

Many colleges have asked whether our health care faculty and students qualify under the A1 and A2 vaccination schedule, and whether our entire faculty will qualify under phase B2 like K-12 teachers and staff.

The Department of Health has advised SBCTC that our faculty and staff are prioritized with people in the community doing similar high-risk, in-person activities where it is difficult to maintain six feet of physical distancing. Examples include nursing faculty and students engaged with direct patient care, and campus child care workers engaged with providing child care.

In general, though, higher education faculty and staff will not be treated the same way as K-12 schools because people in schools are more likely to have closer, physical contact with students.

The Department of Health has also advised SBCTC that the goal is to vaccinate 70% of adults by June.

On Jan. 19, Gov. Inslee [announced that Washington state would immediately enter phase B1](#) and include people who are 65 and older (previously it was 70 or older). This decision follows [guidance released by the CDC on Jan. 12](#).

10. Where can I find more information?

COVID-19 safety rules

Visit the following websites for more COVID-19 safety information:

Gov. Inslee's Healthy Washington Plan: <https://bit.ly/3i4Koc2>

Higher education proclamation 20-12.2: <https://bit.ly/2HaJ7T2>



Reopening guidance for businesses under Gov. Inslee's Healthy Washington plan: <https://bit.ly/33dP2Pp>
Gov. Inslee's face mask requirement: <https://bit.ly/2YxGRuS>
CDC guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting: <https://bit.ly/31k5JYX>
COVID-19 – risk assessment dashboard (shows phases and metrics by region): <https://bit.ly/2BgiokK>