WSU Health Sciences (WSUHS) Spokane Spring Semester 2021 COVID-19 Testing Program
(SARS-CoV-2 Testing)

For purposes of maintaining public health in the communities we serve and to protect the health and safety of WSU students in clinical programs and who come to campus, WSU Spokane will be implementing a COVID-19 testing program for spring semester 2021. Students and employees from other colleges and universities using WSU Spokane facilities are also covered under the terms of this plan.

The objective of the WSUHS COVID-19 testing plan is to identify and minimize COVID-19 spread (1) in the WSU Spokane community including several higher education institutions and (2) in the broader communities we serve. The testing plan will be one element of a comprehensive plan that includes actions such as daily attestations, contact tracing, isolation and quarantine, temperature checks, and a broad public health communication plan to address the behavioral health component of disease spread.

WSU Spokane’s testing program is only available to asymptomatic students, faculty, and staff. All symptomatic and exposed (per CDC definition) students, faculty, and staff should see contact their healthcare provider.

This testing plan will be under continuous evaluation by the WSUHS Testing Team and may be subject to change based on changes in public health recommendations or conditions, and/or evaluative feedback.

WSU Spokane COVID-19 Required Testing Program

1. **WSU Spokane is requiring Spring 2021 arrival testing for**
   a. asymptomatic students, who plan to enter the campus for courses, clinical skills development, research, or studying. These students are required to be tested in the three (3) days prior to initial entry to campus.
      i. Depending on required testing volume, testing may be allowed four (4) days prior to initial entry. The Spokane Testing Group will approve this recommendation on a case-by-case basis.
   b. asymptomatic faculty and staff working in clinical environments who plan to enter the WSU Spokane campus are required to be tested in the three (3) days prior to initial entry to campus. Exceptions to the testing requirement must be approved in writing.
      i. Depending on required testing volume, testing may be allowed four (4) days prior to initial entry. The Spokane Testing Group will approve this recommendation on a case-by-case basis.
   c. asymptomatic faculty and staff conducting human subjects research in clinical environments must also follow the testing protocols at the clinical location they are working in.
      i. Research faculty and staff returning to campus on January 4th may get tested on the day of their return provided they do not engage in human subject research prior to receiving their negative test result.

2. **Required periodic testing for Spring 2021 after arrival testing for**
   a. asymptomatic students, who plan to enter the campus for courses, clinical skills development, research or studying are required to be tested at intervals of approximately one-month.
   b. asymptomatic faculty and staff working in clinical environments who enter the Spokane campus.
   c. asymptomatic faculty and staff working with human subjects research in clinical environments.

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1 For the purposes of this testing plan, asymptomatic means not having COVID-19 symptoms.
WSU Spokane COVID-19 Voluntary Screening Testing Program

The WSU Spokane Screening Testing Program for asymptomatic students, faculty and staff supports (a) identification of environments, behaviors, and activities with an increased likelihood of disease transmission and (b) planning for measures to prevent further disease transmission including contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine.

All students who are active in clinical environments (hospitals, clinics, long term care facilities, etc.) and who are asymptomatic are provided the opportunity to be tested so they are certified to work in their clinical environment when that is part of their educational program. Based on recommendations from the WSU Spokane Testing Team, screening testing participants may be asked to periodically participate in additional testing.

3. **WSU Spokane is offering voluntary screening testing program for**
   a. asymptomatic WSUHS students, faculty and staff working in clinical environments who need certification testing and don’t plan to come on the WSU Spokane campus.
   b. asymptomatic faculty and staff who enter the campus for academic, research, support or administrative activities.

**Allowable Required Testing Exemptions**

The only allowable exemptions for required testing populations will be

1. Documented proof of the receipt of two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine and attestation of ten (10) days without COVID symptoms following the second dose, OR
2. Documented proof of a negative result from SARS-CoV-2 PCR test from an authorized provider received in the 72 hours prior to arriving on campus.

Due to some instances of reinfection, a prior positive diagnosis of COVID-19 will not exempt anyone from required testing. Contact tracers will work with those testing positive due to a prior infection, and, if deemed no longer infectious, they will not be required to isolate or quarantine.

*All exceptions to required testing must be approved in writing.*

**WSU Spokane Attestation Process**

In addition to participating in the testing program, all students, faculty, staff and visiting scholars (external faculty experts on campus for a certain period of time) accessing any WSU facility must complete the [WSU Daily Attestation](#).

**Data Management**

Testing results will be maintained in the Incyte portal which is HIPAA compliant and will have restricted access to only those WSU employees designated to respond to the testing results. Information tracking of which students were tested will be maintained in a database but will not contain any medical information of the students.

**Notification**
Students who test positive will be contacted by the provider who ordered the test and/or an authorized designee and be informed of next steps. Students who test negative will receive an electronic message from the designated WSU Health Sciences staff member informing them of their results as currently done by the WSU College of Nursing.

Email notification to be sent to students:

Your test for COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) INSERT DATE at WSU Health Sciences was negative. These test results are not automatically put into your medical record, so you are responsible for sharing these results with your healthcare provider and/or employer if needed.

If you test negative as a clinical requirement you are cleared for clinical experience.

If you were exposed to a person who tested positive for COVID-19, you should continue to self-quarantine from other people for 14 days after your last exposure with that person. Even with a negative test result, you could still develop the disease and infect others up to 7 days after your exposure.

Thank you for taking care of your health and for your concern for our community.

For more information https://spokane.wsu.edu/covid/ and srhd.org/covid19.

Faculty and staff who test positive will be contacted by contact tracers from WSU Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S). Faculty and staff who test negative will be contacted by WSU Disability Resources.

Details for testing will be provided directly to students by WSU Health Sciences in cooperation with affiliated student colleges (Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Education) and to employees by Human Resource Services and posted online (https://spokane.wsu.edu/covid/). Eastern Washington University students and employees will be contacted by their college leadership and will participate in the WSU Health Sciences testing program.

The University of Washington School of Medicine students will participate in a testing program administered by the UW/Gonzaga Health Partnership. Instructions for participation in this program will be provided by the UWSOM. All students and employees of UWSOM who enter the WSU Health Sciences are required to adhere to a testing program as described above.

Contact tracing

Positive tests are provided to the appropriate Health District where the individual is located as required by Washington Administrative Code and Revised Code of Washington. Cases associated with WSU students, faculty, and staff are passed on to WSU EH&S to complete case investigation per a Memorandum of Understanding between the Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) and WSU Spokane. EH&S will complete case investigations, contacting positive individuals, identify close contacts, and establish quarantine and isolation timelines.

Isolation and quarantine information

Isolation: Isolation applies to people testing positive for COVID-19 or symptomatic people awaiting testing. Isolation durations typically last 10 days providing no fever for the last 24 hours and symptoms are improving. The COVID-19 positive or symptomatic individual’s health care practitioner may extend the isolation duration. The Spokane Regional Health District has stated: “SRHD does not recommend getting tested again to see if you still have COVID-19 after you have met the isolation requirements.”

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Quarantine: Quarantine applies to close contacts, people within 6 feet for 15 cumulative minutes or more with a COVID-19 positive person. It also applies to people residing together in a living unit e.g. family, roommates, and specific other groups identified by department of health guidance e.g. participants within a daycare cohort. The quarantine duration lasts 14 days from time of last contact with positive individual, and a negative test result does not decrease the quarantine duration.

Isolation and Quarantine Assistance: Governor Inslee’s Proclamation 20.12.2 Higher Education states, “For institutions that do not operate residential facilities, develop a plan with the relevant local health jurisdiction to address the isolation and quarantine needs of any personnel and students who have confirmed or suspected COVID-19 or exposure to an individual confirmed to have COVID-19 and are unable to isolate or quarantine in their usual place of residence.”

Students and employees are expected to isolate or quarantine in their homes or other location if they test positive for COVID-19, experience symptoms, or have been exposed to someone who has tested positive. However, if they are unable to find a place where they can safely do this, WSU Spokane will work with individuals to find an alternative placement.

All students and employees in isolation and quarantine receive a text each day from WSU contact tracers using Everbridge aka WSU Alert. The daily message provides a number to call for additional resources.

Budget

While WSU will assume primary responsibility for testing costs, we anticipate changes to be integrated into the Testing Program as needed. Partner Higher Education organizations (e.g., Eastern Washington University and the University of Washington) are expected to accept responsibility for costs of testing for their students and employees. The University of Washington in partnership with Gonzaga University (and InCyte) will pay for testing of their students and employees.

Partners

For this plan to be successful, WSUHS is partnering with Incyte, the Spokane Regional Health District, and students and employees of the University of Washington and Eastern Washington University.