

Is the University following any guidelines to ensure health and safety?

The University is following Federal, State, CDC, and OSHA guidelines among others.

What measures have been taken to-date?

The Office of Facilities Management (FM) has provided deep cleaning and disinfection of buildings and instituted additional cleaning protocols per CDC Guidelines, including switching to cleaning products approved by the EPA/CDC. FM has also installed over 500 hand sanitizing stations across campus and worked with the security to secure building access to essential personnel. In addition to this, FM has also:

- Evaluated HVAC systems and adjusted to improve indoor air quality
- Reviewed and adjusted elevator capacity
- De-densified all classrooms to allow for physical distancing
- Secured cleaning supplies
- Implemented plan to promote physical distancing
- Installed signage for entrances, corridors, bathrooms, and other areas

What has FM done to address the HVAC systems?

FM has assessed every HVAC system on campus to make sure they meet Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) guidelines. Our overall preference for the campus has been to provide a higher percentage level of outdoor air through our mechanical systems. In general, we have been able to accomplish this in most buildings and areas. In areas where we cannot provide mechanical outdoor air we have relied on the use of operable windows as a source. Spaces with HVAC systems that could not meet guidelines and where there are no available operable windows to provide outdoor air, have been secured from use. We are following recommended CDC and ASHRAE guidance which can be found at ashrae.org and CDC.gov.

In addition, our Building Management Systems monitors over 800K sensors located across the campus our buildings. Preventative Maintenance on building systems are tracked electronically and continuous commissioning/fault detection is used to prioritize HVAC deficiencies.

What about elevators?

The University is limiting elevator capacity to maintain physical distancing. Stairs are deemed acceptable for up to 5 stories or less of vertical travel. ADA access will remain unchanged.

What about restrooms?

The University has modified restrooms to promote physical distancing, including taking some fixtures off-line to promote physical distancing. FM replaced electric hand dryers with touchless paper towel dispensers and will provide additional cleaning and disinfection services.

How has FM verified this?

FM developed a checklist for teams to follow and trained their crews in new cleaning procedures. In the event of a positive COVID case on campus, FM is prepared to respond working with Environmental Health and Safety, with appropriate cleaning.

How is FM helping with maintaining social distancing?

Across campus, FM has de-densified space. This includes limiting access to breakrooms and lounges and removing chairs from conference rooms and classrooms. In addition, FM has:

- Limited access to campus facilities and reducing on campus population
- Implemented elevator capacity limits
- Installed campus-wide signage to promote physical distancing
- Installed sneeze guards and other personal safeguards as requested
- Removed select furniture across the campus
- Identified space capacities and configuration for proper distancing and circulation

Will University members have to clean any frequently touched surfaces and objects?

The University recommends that University members should clean frequently touched surfaces and objects within their work, living and study spaces using an [EPA-approved disinfectant for the virus that causes COVID-19](#). This includes personal desks, telephones, computers, and office chairs. Students and employees should disinfect individual work surfaces including desks and chairs before use.

Wipe dispensers containing the appropriate disinfectants will be located in all educational and learning spaces (classrooms, teaching labs, computer labs, etc.). Departments will make EPA-approved cleaning products available to their employees for use in their spaces on campus.

What about laboratories?

In accordance with current safety/research practices and procedures, there are a number of laboratories that will be cleaned and disinfected by the laboratory staff. Laboratories must be disinfected using chemicals specified by the University's [Environmental Health and Safety](#) office (EH&S). For delicate research, archival or teaching materials that cannot be cleaned using disinfectants, units should consult with EH&S to develop material-appropriate cleaning methods and procedures for undisturbed storage between uses.

Will FM be deep cleaning any spaces?

FM and Auxiliary Services will deep clean and sanitize University spaces following a stringent, thorough process approved by EH&S per all CDC and Allegheny County Health Department requirements. They will:

- Deep clean spaces prior to the re-opening of buildings, and over winter break.
- Perform deep cleaning of all learning spaces each night.
- Deep clean private bathrooms for residents over winter break.

What about On-Campus Housing?

Auxiliary Services personnel will clean on-campus housing common areas and communal restrooms daily. For students living in suite/apartment-style and hotel rooms, Auxiliary Services will provide disposable gloves, household cleaners and disinfectants and guides on how to properly clean restrooms, in accordance with CDC guidelines.

What if there's a positive COVID-19 case found on campus?

In the event that person has tested positive for COVID-19 and has been in a campus building during the time they may have been infectious, EH&S will advise the designated cleaning crew in Facilities Management or Auxiliary Services, based on the rooms/areas needing to be cleaned. EH&S will work with the cleaning crews to identify the spaces to be closed for a 24-hour period where possible, at the conclusion of which, the space will be cleaned. EH&S will notify occupants (via the automated Building Access System or the building manager) when the area is cleared to be reopened.