



## Plans for COVID Health Screening of SMHS Employees, Faculty and Students

This document describes the health screening procedures being implemented for the faculty, staff and students as they plan to return to the School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS) in the coming weeks.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Health screening recommendations and guidelines are subject to change.

### *Guiding Principles*

Principle 1: The University's top priority is the emotional and physical health and safety of its faculty, staff, students, as well as the health and safety of the District of Columbia/Maryland/Virginia (DMV) region. GW COVID Task Forces on Testing, Building Use, and Safety and Hygiene have been established to provide guidance, updating and oversight for the procedures needed to protect the emotional and physical health and safety of SMHS students, faculty and staff.

Principle 2: SMHS will follow directives from the DC Department of Health as well as best practices from public health experts regarding risk mitigation policies and procedures recommended appropriate for our missions. SMHS will coordinate plans to reopen with those of other schools at GWU and in consideration of the clinical enterprise policies.

Principle 3: Individual faculty, staff or students who feel they may be at moderate or high risk if infected with the COVID-19 virus due to a personal medical condition (see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>), or if they prefer to not participate in the required elements of their work duties, research, academic or clinical program must discuss the potential for accommodation with their appropriate supervisor or academic advisor.

Principle 4: The return to work process will be transparent and phased.

- In the event that research labs need to ramp down again, please consult the [Laboratory Ramp-Down Checklist](#). In addition, the Office of Sponsored Projects continuously updates information on the impacts on research activities: <https://sponsoredprojects.gwu.edu/covid-19>.
- SMHS align with GW-wide policies on health screening. SMHS will align with GW-wide policy on testing prior to the start of the Fall Semester.

Timeline: When the DC Department of Health allows schools and businesses to open at the U.S. Government Phase 2 Level of Opening Up America (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/>), GW SMHS students, faculty, and staff entering any SMHS facility will meet the following requirements:

- **Before coming on campus**, any students, faculty, or staff who have been sick with COVID-19 symptoms, tested positive for COVID-19, or have been potentially exposed to someone with COVID-19 (either through community-related exposure or international travel) will be required to self-isolate or stay home as recommended by CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are->

[sick/quarantine-isolation.html](#)) and to notify their supervisor (for Faculty or staff) or academic advisor (for students).

- **At all times**, all students, faculty, and staff will be required to stay home when they have tested positive for or are showing symptoms of COVID-19. Also, students, faculty, and staff who have recently had a close contact with a person with COVID-19 should also stay home and monitor their health and to notify their supervisor (for Faculty or staff) or academic advisor (for students).
- **Upon arrival at any SMHS facility**, all students, faculty and staff will be required to be free of COVID-19 symptoms.
- **When in any SMHS facility** all students, faculty and staff will be required to practice physical distancing (of at least 6 feet separation and follow facility guidance concerning use of specific classrooms and space and traffic flow) and **also must** wear face coverings at all times when in the presence of other people, including when in transit, in classes and group work, and in common work areas.
  - **Note:** GW's live-answer Information Line, for COVID-19 related questions, is available Monday through Friday (9am – 5pm) and can be reached at 1-855-GWU-INFO (855-498-4636).

All students, faculty and staff must adhere to GWU Policies regarding COVID-19. We are confident that students, faculty and staff understand the importance of these policies and will operate accordingly.

- [Prevention Guidelines](#)
- [Travel Information](#)
- [Working From Home](#)
- [SMHS Health Updates](#)
- [Ways To Help](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [University Updates](#)
- [Office of Ethics, Compliance, and Privacy](#)

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This document has been prepared by the SMHS COVID Testing Committee at the GW School of Medicine & Health Sciences and Medical Faculty Associates