

SMHS SAFETY AND HYGIENE GUIDELINES

Our knowledge and understanding of the COVID-19 virus continues to evolve, and our policies and plans will be updated as appropriate as more information becomes available,

As the health and safety of our staff, faculty and students is of the utmost importance, the School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS) has made several changes to prevent or slow down the spread of COVID-19. All students, faculty, staff and visitors are expected to fully comply with the information outlined in this document as part of School of Medicine and Health Sciences building policy.

Face Masks

The university requires masks be worn at all times in public spaces, in our buildings, and when walking around campus. Please see our [Mandatory Mask Policy](#).

- Clinical faculty and students who have been working in the hospital should not come in and out of Ross Hall wearing masks and clothing that have been exposed in the clinical setting.

Social Distancing Protocols in Ross Hall

*Please reference the **SMHS Building Use Policy** for detailed guidance on the items below within Ross Hall.*

Physical Distancing: Please remain 6 feet apart from others at all times while in the building.

Traffic Flow: Signage on the walls and floors of Ross Hall will indicate the direction of traffic flow, social distance, and maximum number of people in waiting areas.

Entry/Egress: There are two entrances to Ross Hall, the main entrance on I Street and Himmelfarb library entrance is now open. The exit is on the 24th St. side of the building.

Elevators: Elevators will be limited to 2 people per elevator to maintain social distancing. Floor decals will show where to stand to maintain distance. If possible, use of stairs is encouraged when going between the 1st and 2nd floors.

Stairs: Stairs are designated as either up or down usage to maintain social distancing.

Restrooms: Large restrooms on 1st and 2nd floors will limit occupancy to maintain social distancing. See signage for maximum occupancy. Two-person restrooms on floors 3-7 have been converted to one-person restrooms with locks installed to maintain social distance.

Food Deliveries: Ross Hall occupants should meet delivery personnel outside of Ross Hall to maintain social distancing.

Cleaning & Decontamination

Hand sanitizer: Hand sanitizer stations are on each floor of Ross Hall.

Hand washing: Hands should be washed often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

All frequently touched surfaces in the workplace, such as workstations, keyboards, telephones, printer/copiers, shared refrigerators doors, and doorknobs should be cleaned routinely. SMHS will follow all GW University guidance regarding cleaning and decontamination.

Training

- **CITI 'Return to Work' Training** – Coming soon
- [Office of Lab Safety COVID Planning Info](#)
- [Mask Safety Guidelines](#)
- [Mask Safety Video](#)

Symptoms Self-Monitoring

It is our shared duty as a community to act responsibly. Symptoms self-monitoring should be done every day before engaging with or coming to campus. Faculty, staff and students must be free of ANY symptoms related to COVID-19 to be on campus. If individuals have any concerns regarding their health status, they should notify their supervisor/department chair that they are reviewing their health status prior to the start of any scheduled work period or time on campus.

Reporting Illness or Suspected Exposure to COVID-19

Any individual with [symptoms](#) of COVID-19 or a known exposure should stay home and follow the appropriate notification protocol.

- **Students:** Students in clinical settings should follow the ***SMHS Clinical Student Occupational Health Guidance***
- **Faculty:** Faculty members should contact their department chair. The chair will inform Faculty Affairs (ncureton@gwu.edu) and Hellen Olumilua (holumilu@gwu.edu).
- **Researchers:** Researchers should contact their Principal Investigator, who will inform the relevant department chair. The chair will inform Hellen Olumilua (holumilu@gwu.edu).
- **Staff:** Staff members should contact their supervisor, who will then notify Human Resources (HR_SMHSSON@email.gwu.edu)

Isolation and Contact Tracing

- Individuals who are sick should follow current [CDC-recommended steps](#).
- Individuals must participate in contact tracing activities. Relevant information collected from contacts for the purposes of COVID-19 disease reporting will be shared as required by local jurisdictional laws and regulations.

Return to Campus

- Employees should not return to work until the criteria to [discontinue home isolation](#) are met, in consultation with their healthcare provider.
- All employees must follow the most current GW return-to-work guidance

Compliance with Guidance

All members of the SMHS community are expected to adhere to and act in accordance with this guidance. Chairs and supervisors are asked to regulate the expectations set forth in this document within the campus spaces for which they are responsible. Violations of SMHS or GW policies may result in the revocation of building access privileges, as well as disciplinary action up to and including termination or dismissal.

- Report Concerns to the [Office of Ethics, Compliance, and Privacy](#)
- SMHS Student Code of Conduct:
[https://smhs.gwu.edu/sites/default/files/files/Code%20of%20Conduct%20in%20the%20Learning%20Environment\(1\).pdf](https://smhs.gwu.edu/sites/default/files/files/Code%20of%20Conduct%20in%20the%20Learning%20Environment(1).pdf) Or <https://smhs.gwu.edu/academics/md-program/current-students/policies>