University of Pittsburgh
COVID-19 Standards and Guidelines: Shared Spaces

I. Purpose

This document details the University of Pittsburgh’s (University) Standards and Guidelines on COVID-19 shared spaces, and addresses physical distancing, gatherings, enhanced cleaning, and interior ventilation adjustments. These Standards and Guidelines are applied to each of the University’s COVID-19 Operational Postures (High Risk, Elevated Risk, and Guarded Risk). More information on these Operational Postures and their Gating Criteria can be accessed at the following website: www.coronavirus.pitt.edu/operational-postures.

The Standards and Guidelines outlined below are subject to change as deemed necessary by the Health Care Advisory Group’s (HCAG) recommendation to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and approval of the Chancellor. Communication about the University’s current Standards and Guidelines will be announced and posted on the following website: https://www.coronavirus.pitt.edu/.

The University will always operate in compliance with federal, state, and local health standards and restrictions, including Pennsylvania Department of Health guidance. The University reserves the right to implement additional health standards and restrictions that reflect the needs of the University and the health, safety, and well-being of its community.

As conditions and circumstances change, this set of standards and guidelines may need to be revised.

II. Scope

The Standards and Guidelines below apply to the entire University, including all University members, campuses, and properties owned by the University or other properties when occupied by the University (e.g., leases).

III. Definition

A. Gathering: A group of individuals in a Shared Space at a given time for a shared purpose.

B. Shared Space: Any area or location, indoors or outdoors, that is commonly used and populated by multiple individuals at the same time.
C. **University member:** Refers to all full- and part-time faculty, staff, students, visitors, volunteers, fellows, trainees, and interns on all campuses.

IV. **Physical Distancing**

Physical distancing, also commonly referred to as “social distancing,” is the amount of physical space between two or more individuals. Physical distancing is a pertinent measure to prevent asymptomatic and symptomatic individuals from spreading viruses, such as COVID-19. Physical distancing, coupled with appropriate face coverings (see Standards and Guidelines on Face Coverings), reduces the potential transmission of COVID-19 during common social interactions and human functions such as talking, breathing, coughing, sneezing, and laughing.

The physical distancing requirements outlined below apply in each of the University’s Operational Postures. These Standards and Guidelines presume continued adherence to all Standards and Guidelines on face coverings, personal protective equipment (PPE), and personal hygiene.

- **Indoor Shared Space:** University members are only required to maintain six (6) feet of physical distance between themselves and others while indoors if face coverings are not being worn and the individuals are not within their residential cohort (e.g., “pod”, roommates in a residence hall or apartment).

- **Outdoor Shared Space:** Vaccinated individuals are not required to maintain 6 feet of physical distance. Unvaccinated individuals must wear a face covering unless they can maintain six (6) feet of physical distance from other individuals who are not a member of their residential cohort.

V. **Enhanced Cleaning**

As a community effort to mitigate and stop the spread of COVID-19, University members should continue to practice good personal hygiene as well as enhanced cleaning of University facilities, including housing, classrooms, and offices by University facilities management and custodial staff.

The conditions outlined below are the University’s requirements for enhanced cleaning measures. These Standards and Guidelines presume continued adherence to all Standards and Guidelines on face coverings, personal protective equipment (PPE), and personal hygiene.

- High-touch surfaces (e.g., desks, doorknobs, keyboards, elevator buttons, railings) and common areas must be disinfected and sanitized multiple times per day.

- Cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting products designated by the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for use against SARS-CoV-2](https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus) must be used.

- University members are responsible for cleaning/disinfecting high-touch surfaces in their assigned work areas and Shared Spaces, such as break rooms and lunch areas, before and after use. Additionally, University members should wipe down their own desk, chair, and/or
podium for instruction as they enter the classroom. Appropriate cleaning materials will be provided within the classroom to do so.

For additional cleaning and disinfection requirements in a laboratory setting, please refer to Pitt Research COVID-19 Updates and Resources.

- Additional details on cleaning and disinfection products and protocols can be found on the University’s Department of Environmental Health and Safety COVID-19 Resources webpage.

VI. Interior Ventilation

Proper airflow through enclosed spaces, such as classrooms and offices, adds an additional layer of mitigation to help stop the spread of COVID-19 among individuals in a Shared Space.

The conditions outlined below are the University’s requirements for enhanced interior ventilation measures. These Standards and Guidelines presume continued adherence to all Standards and Guidelines on face coverings, personal protective equipment (PPE), and personal hygiene.

- All shared rooms must have good air flow, where practicable. All ventilation and exhaust systems will be thoroughly cleaned and tested to ensure operation as designed and must be operating properly; circulation of outdoor air should be increased as much as possible.

- The potential to modify existing ventilation systems to increase ventilation rates or the percentage of outdoor air that circulates into the system should be considered, where feasible.

VII. Related Authorities

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidance: Symptoms of Coronavirus
Pennsylvania Department of Health COVID-19 guidance
Pitt Research COVID-19 Updates and Resources
Process to Reopen Pennsylvania
University’s COVID-19 Operational Postures and Gating Criteria
University’s COVID-19 Standards and Guidelines: Face Coverings, PPE, and Personal Hygiene
University’s Department of Environmental Health and Safety Guidance and Use Case Scenarios for Face Coverings and PPE
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) disinfectants for use against SARS-CoV-2

VIII. Contact Information and Public Accessibility

This document is posted on the Office of Policy Development and Management’s website and can be found at: https://www.policy.pitt.edu/university-policies-and-procedures/covid-19-standards-and-guidelines. For questions related to this document, please contact: Resilience Steering Committee at ResilienceSteeringCommittee@pitt.edu.