

COVID-19 Building Safety Plan

Energy and Water Services

6130 Agronomy, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z4

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Introduction

This COVID-19 Building Safety Plan will provide assistance for Energy & Water Services (EWS) Managers, Heads, Supervisors and occupants returning to work on-campus within the Campus Energy Centre (CEC). This plan will include a review of CEC operational activities and directives to ensure effective controls are in place to prevent the infection from COVID-19. This document will be updated when government and/or University mandated requirements are changed. <https://covid19.ubc.ca/>

Communications Plan

With regards to the workplace safety plan, Energy & Water Services will disseminate this plan through its communication channels including; EWS website, New Employee Orientation, crew talks/team meetings, safety meetings and emails. The use of business unit safety boards located in the various shops will also be used to ensure that employees that are working on campus are aware of expectations of the department when working on campus and in particular when working in CEC.

SRS Mandatory COVID-19 Training Module

All EWS staff at the CEC will be provided the Canvas link to the SRS mandatory COVID-19 training module via e-mail and the newsletter. Heads and Managers will also communicate that the training is mandatory and needs to be completed by all staff during weekly crew talks. Weekly reports for training completion will be pulled from Canvas/HRMS by the Clerical team and an e-mail will be sent to all Heads and Managers to follow up with any staff that have not yet completed the training.

Self-Monitoring

All staff must adapt their behavior to ensure a safe phased approach to the return of staff to campus. Always comply with the latest guidelines and the hygiene rules. The health and safety of all of our staff will continue to be our number one priority.

1. Before you come to work, monitor your healthstatus. If you feel ill please follow our standard procedure and contact your supervisor. Do not come into work if you are feeling ill or have COVID-19 related symptoms. According to the WHO, the common symptoms of COVID-19 are:
 - Fever
 - Dry Cough
 - Tiredness
 - Loss of sense of taste/smell
 - Sore throat

If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, complete the [BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool](#), and call 8-1-1. If you feel you have COVID-19 or have been diagnosed with COVID-19, you must not come to work and must self-isolate for 14 days. Employees that have confirmed they have COVID like symptoms will be marked as sick on their timecards using the appropriate designation and time code when applicable (see Employee FAQ for further details).

General Procedures

Methods and practices outlined in this plan are in accordance with guidelines set by BCCDC to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Your self-compliance with the guidelines set out in this document is of the utmost importance. Additionally, each division is responsible for adhering to policies put in place by UBC and their respective Faculties and Departments.

We also ask that each division do their best to be flexible as we all adapt to new ways of operating. Whilst we understand that some measures will be inconvenient, the health and safety of our community is priority number one.

All Safety and Risk Services COVID-19 safety documents are found here: <https://srs.ubc.ca/covid-19/health-safety-covid-19/>

1. GETTING TO WORK

Private methods of transportation are preferred – free parking permits are available thru end of August 2020, visit parking.ubc.ca. Where proximity allows, biking and walking may be good options. If you need to take transit, try your best to maintain social distancing at all times and follow hygiene recommendations (hand washing, use of hand sanitizer etc.).

2. CAMPUS ENERGY CENTRE WORKPLACE TRAFFIC FLOW

- Building Entrances – Building entrances will remain locked 24/7. Users with programmed card access can enter the building via entrances that are equipped with card scanners. Please be sure to not let anyone that is not a UBC employee enter the building behind you.
- Elevators – the elevator has been assigned a maximum occupancy rating of one (1). Corresponding signage has been posted at elevator doors on both levels. Whenever possible, usage of elevators should be prioritized for those with accessibility needs or transporting materials to prevent bottlenecks in the building. Occupants are not to exceed these temporary occupancy ratings.
- Stairwells – stairwells have been assigned for individual team usage as per the Floor Plan (Appendix A). Designations and corresponding signage has been posted. Occupants are only to travel in stairwells as designated. Stairwell usage information is presented on each floor's individual Floor Plan.
- Traffic flow in higher-occupancy areas – Hallways have been prepared with social distancing reminders as labelled on the floor. Corresponding entry and exits for each of the groups are identified on the Floor Plan.

Occupants are to enter and exit these spaces in accordance with plan.

3. CAMPUS ENERGY CENTRE SPACE OCCUPANCY RESTRICTIONS

- Offices and shared spaces

As per University directives, work that can be done remotely (i.e. from home) should continue to be done remotely. Please contact your Supervisor if this option is available to you. As result, the use of the offices and open concept or cubicle workstations will continue to be limited to the greatest extent possible.

Employees with personal office spaces are to practice physical distancing guidelines and be sure that they are able to accommodate 2 meters of distance prior to additional employees entering their space. Outside of offices, we have taken a conservative approach to seating and have reduced the number of employees gathering in specific areas (see Floor Plans in Appendix A).

- The number of persons allowed in each shared office space has been determined by SRS based on adherence to physical distancing requirements and must not be exceeded.
- The chart below outlines maximum occupancy limits for CEC shared offices and spaces:

Space	Maximum Occupancy
111	3
121 (East)	6
121 (West)	4
130	6
UNY Station	4
Trailer	3
Roof	5
211 (Lunchroom)	3
222	4

- Common kitchens

Occupants using shared kitchens must strictly adhere to social distancing requirements and stay more than 2 metres from one another. To reduce the risk of contamination, users of common (shared) kitchen appliances such as refrigerators, microwaves and water dispensers should wash their hands before and after usage of these items.

Water fountains will be closed for use.

If utilizing kitchen spaces, minimize socializing in the kitchens and eat your lunch at a safe distance to others. Lunchrooms have been designated maximum occupancy limits (signage posted) and where employees are to sit has been marked off with green X's

- Washrooms
Washrooms located on the second floor and the main entrance to the CEC are restricted to a maximum of one (1) occupant at one time. Protocol for washrooms is as follows:
 - Only enter the washroom if the door is propped open
 - Keep the door closed while you are occupying the washroom
 - Remember to prop the door open for the next user when leaving the washroom
 - All washrooms have been equipped with a doorstop to use to prop the door open. Please only prop the door open slightly, otherwise, signage cannot be read by the next user

4. MEETINGS and MEETING ROOMS

According to University directives, face-to-face meetings should be avoided whenever possible during this time. Virtual meetings and digital communications should be arranged whenever possible.

Meetings or training sessions deemed essential may need to occur. In such cases, social distancing requirements and occupancy restrictions are to be strictly adhered-to.

For all SRS meeting and training guidelines, please refer to:

<https://riskmanagement.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2020/04/Guidelines-for-Meetings-Trainings-FINAL.pdf>

5. VEHICLES

Vehicle Usage

- Employees are encouraged to walk whenever possible
- If possible, assign the same vehicle to the same person on consecutive days

Vehicle Occupancy

- When a vehicle must be used, there should only be ONE person in the vehicle at a time unless the vehicle is large enough (e.g. a van) to maintain physical distancing requirements (a minimum of 2 metres) between all passengers throughout the trip. If it is necessary to have more than one person in a vehicle then a face shield must be worn during the duration of the trip or a physical protective plexiglass barrier must be in place. This provision does not apply to Smart Cars.

Personal Hygiene

- Wash hands with soap and warm water for 30 seconds before and after vehicle use
- Avoid touching the face before, during, and after vehicle use
- Cough or sneeze into your arm

Equipment and Supplies

- Disinfecting wipes (with WHMIS or workplace labels) should be provided for users of shared UBC Vehicles
- Provide waste container or bag for disposal of used disinfecting wipes for each user

Vehicle Cleaning

- Users of shared UBC vehicles are responsible for wiping down high touch surfaces, both upon entry and exit, to ensure everyone's safety
- High touch spots include the exterior and interior door handles, steering wheel, gear shifter, turn signals, and any other surfaces touched while driving

6. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

The University has produced official, university-wide guidance documents on the procurement and use of PPE during the COVID-19 pandemic. PPE is considered “the last line of defense”. Other methods of protection, such as social distancing, good hygiene practices, and administrative steps (like work shift rotations), etc. are preferred.

These resources are attached in Appendix 3.

All occupants of the CEC are to reference, and adhere to, these policies, standards and practices.

Use of Non-medical Masks

UBC staff are required to wear non-medical masks, in common indoor spaces on our campuses. The requirement for the use of non-medical masks applies to common indoor spaces, such as hallways, stairways, building entryways, washrooms, common areas in residences and other high-traffic areas. Details on the UBC indoor mask policy and its exceptions are provided in the [COVID-19 Campus Rules](#). Additional exceptions to the indoor mask policy specific to this Safety Plan include:

- Staff working at work stations in shared office spaces or shops that are not accessible by the general public and where work stations are spaced such that physical distancing requirements can be maintained. If a staff member gets up to walk around or if someone enters their workspace they must wear their mask.
- Energy & Water Services staff working in areas of campus buildings not accessible by the general public provided that physical distancing requirements are maintained.
- Staff working in an enclosed office or room by themselves.
- Staff using dedicated lunch spaces may remove their masks to eat when properly seated and maintaining required physical distance from other staff members. When using items such as fridge, microwave and sink masks must be worn.
- Staff wearing PPE offering more protection than a mask, or working in a situation where safety rules preclude wearing a non-medical mask provided they meet physical distancing requirements. Wearing a non-medical mask is not considered PPE and proper PPE should always take precedent over wearing a non-medical mask when PPE is required.

The requirement to wear non-medical masks indoors recognizes that transmission is reduced when face masks are worn in conjunction with physical distancing and other safety practices. While wearing a non-medical mask supports reduced transmission of COVID-19, staff must be aware of the limitations and risks associated with wearing non-medical masks.

7. ACCOMODATIONS TO MAINTAIN 2M DISTANCE

Standard operating procedures have been reviewed and adjusted to meet the physical distance recommendations required by COVID-19. When work must be performed that require 2 or more employees working in close proximity to each other, SOPs have been adjusted in consultation with Safety & Risk Services and their recommendations have been implemented. Safety & Risk Services will continue to be involved in assessing the risk to employees in the performance of their work as more activities are identified.

8. CLEANING & HYGIENE

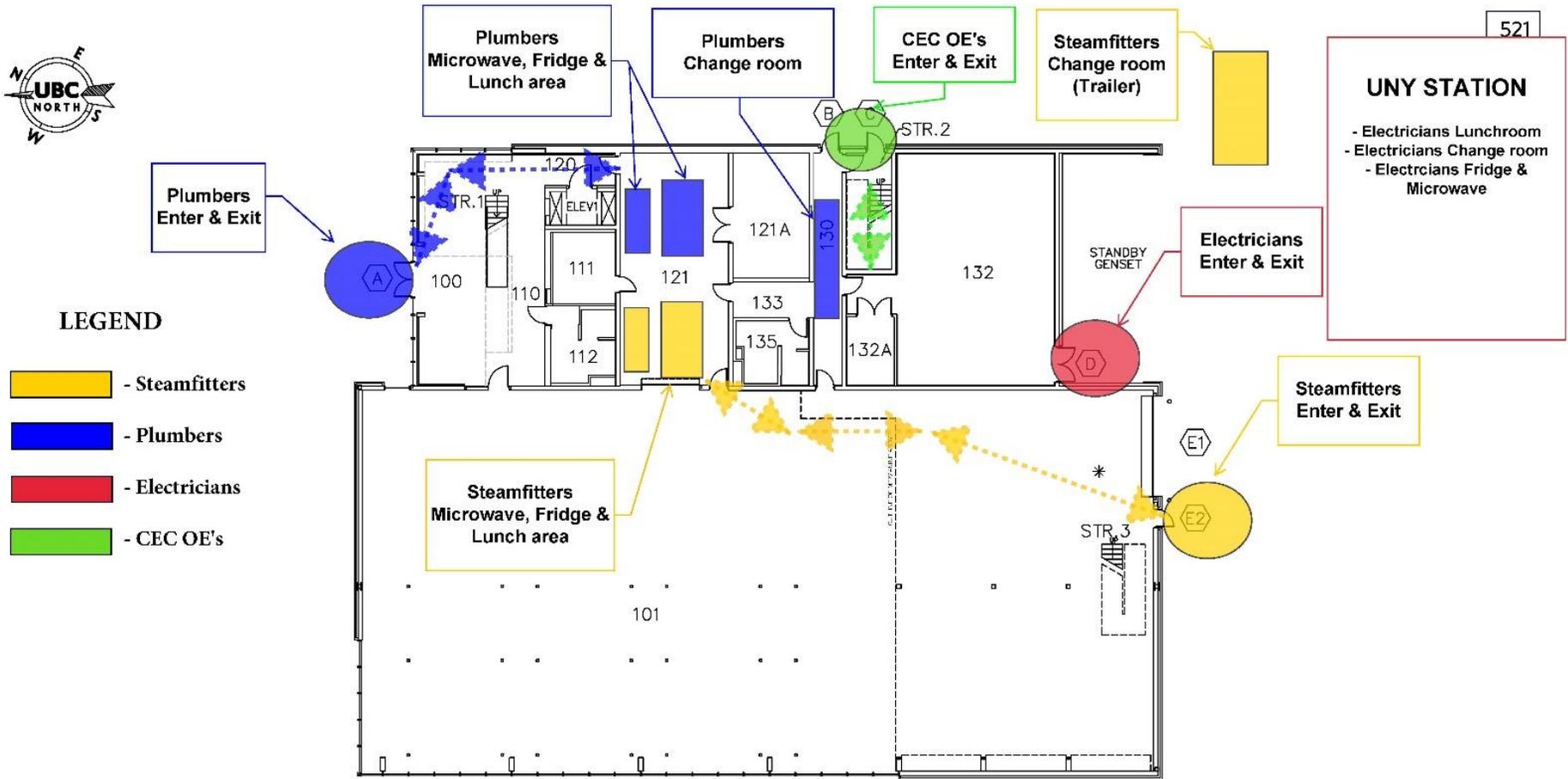
Our cleaning practices meet ISSA Canada and APPA Leadership in Educational Facilities cleaning standards for COVID-19.

- **Hand sanitizers:** Hand sanitizing stations located at the main entry for each building are refilled by Building Operations. The main entry is where the building's name signage is located.
- **Cleaning:** Cleaning standards: Building Operations continues to meet ISSA Canada and APPA Leadership in Educational Facilities cleaning standards for COVID-19.
- **Rotations:** Custodial Services cleaning will take place during weekdays only, no weekend shifts at this time.
- **Cleaning areas:** Cleaning is focused on public areas. High touch points areas in main corridors, elevators and stairwells will be cleaned once per day. EWS staff will clean the crew gathering areas when a crew enters the gathering area and when they leave the gathering area. Kitchen areas and appliances will be cleaned by EWS staff for each break period.
- **Washrooms:** Washrooms will be cleaned once per day.
- **Offices:** Personal offices will be cleaned at night to maintain physical distancing and will be cleaned at a cadence of once every two weeks.
- **Workstations:** Personal desktops and personal items will not be cleaned by Custodial. Individuals occupying these spaces will be encouraged to clean their own spaces regularly. Employees will not share desks, but several "swing-spaces" will be set up to enable employees that primarily work from home to be on campus for a few hours if operational needs require it. These spaces will contain disinfectant and instructions to clean the space before and after use.

9. MONITORING THE WORKPLACE & UPDATING SAFETY PLANS

- CEC will continue to be regularly monitored by SRS and management on a regular basis to ensure that all precautions that have been put in place continue to meet the safety needs of staff working from campus. Additional monitoring will take place and more safety precautions added (if needed) as more staff transition to working on-campus and/or work from campus more frequently
- Employees can raise safety concerns to their Heads and Supervisors or their JOHSC confidentially. Concerns are to be escalated to SRS, who will then communicate to senior management and the Leadership Team for review and consideration.
- The Safety Plan will be amended on a monthly basis (as required) and incorporate concerns/feedback and improvements from employees and the JOHSC's .
- The Leadership Team will continue to update and maintain the CEC Safety Plan and ensure the most recent copy is available to staff on the EWS website

Appendix A: Campus Energy Centre Ground Floor



COPYRIGHT (C) THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA 2014 KEYPLAN BY INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

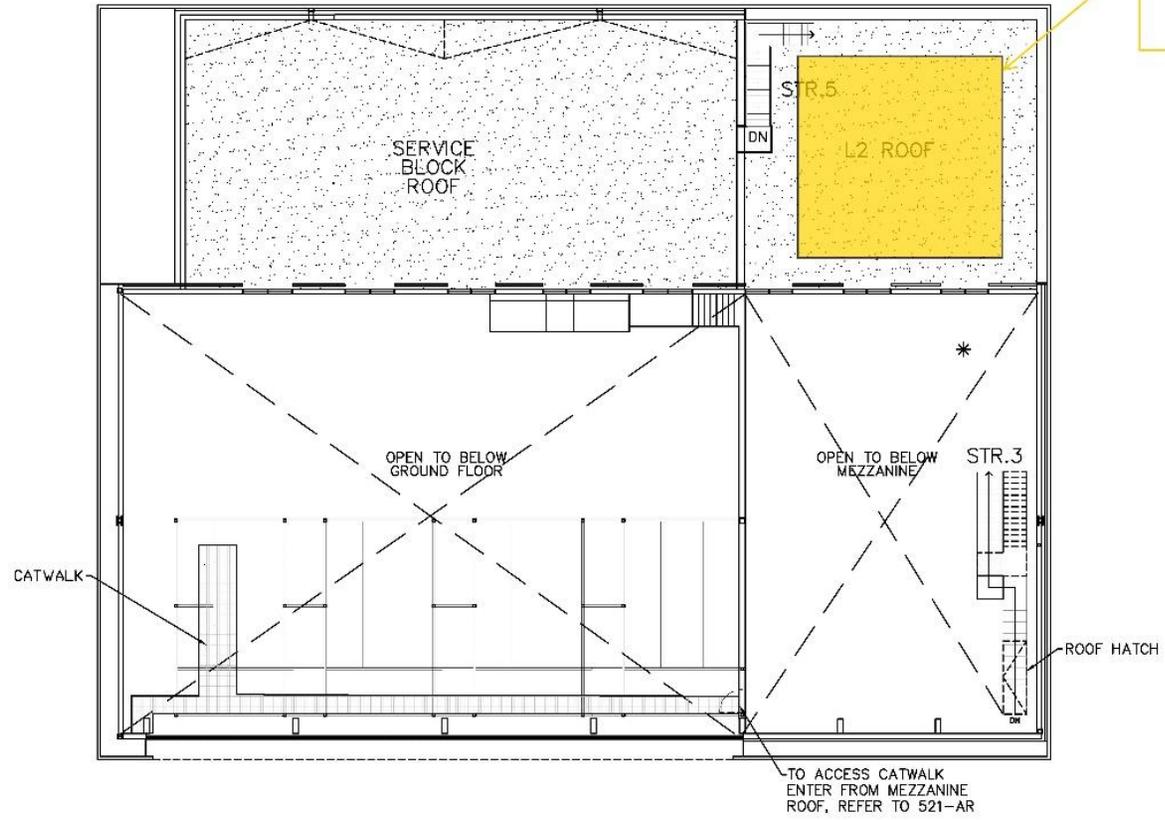
UBC THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
CAMPUS ENERGY CENTRE
6130 AGRONOMY ROAD, V6T 1Z4

10001		SCALE	* DENOTES LAST REVISION			
GROUND	2014/15	1:200	NO.	DATE	PROJ. BY	REVISION
REVISION DATE	18 DEC 14	EL	03	25 JAN 17	-	AS PER F. DESMARAIS
		1 OF 4	02	26 AUG 16	SCHEMATIC REPORT 2015.09.20	UPDATE BLDG NAME
			01	11 FEB 15	-	IFC CAD FILE

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Campus Energy Centre Second Floor

521

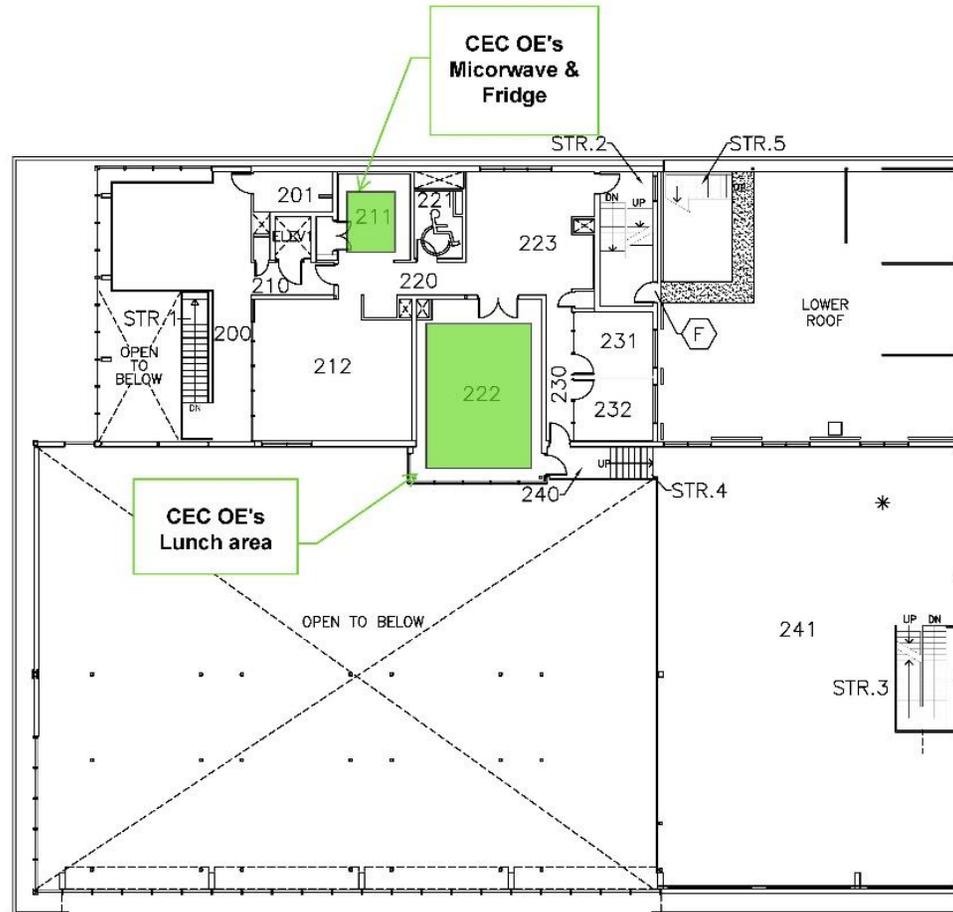


COPYRIGHT (C) THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA 2014 KEY PLAN BY INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

UBC THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
CAMPUS ENERGY CENTRE
6130 AGRONOMY ROAD, V6T 1Z4

FLOOR		SCALE	* DENOTES LAST REVISION		REFERENCE		REV
THIRD	1:200	BL	DATE	PROJ. NO.	REFERENCE	PL	
2014/15	EL	02	26 AUG 16	50465-03-01	UPDATE BLDG NAME	PL	
18 DEC 14	3 OF 4	01	12 FEB 15	2015 02 29	IFC CAD FILE	PL	

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COPYRIGHT (C) THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA 2019 KEYPLAN BY INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

UBC THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
CAMPUS ENERGY CENTRE
6130 AGRONOMY ROAD, V6T 1Z4

FLOOR	SECTION	SCALE	NO.	DATE	ISSUED FOR	REVISION	BY
SECOND	2014/15	EL	03	26 AUG 16	BOARD REPORT 2015.09.29	UPDATE BLDG NAME	PL
			02	19 JUN 15	REVISED LIFE L&S	PER ARCHITECT FILE	PL
			04	07 OCT 19		R2018.201	PL

* DENOTES LAST REVISION

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Appendix B: Building Emergency Response Plan Amendment and Floor Wardens

Building Evacuation Amendment COVID-19

Purpose

The following document is to provide guidance for incorporating COVID-19 precautions to Building Emergency Response Plans (BERP). The leadership and guidance of Emergency Directors and Floor Wardens are essential during this time of physical distancing to prevent disease transmission. While it is important to maintain a safe physical distance (>2 metres) to minimize the risk of spreading the disease, the priority is to execute a safe and expeditious evacuation.

Responsibilities

Building Emergency Directors

The Emergency Director is responsible for determining and implementing the following:

- Knowing if designated floor wardens are in attendance to perform their duties (are they working in the building or from home?). Where necessary, the BED will appoint interim Floor Wardens to fill this role.
- Familiarizing available floor wardens with all the evacuation routes from their areas
- Physical distancing measures have been considered and included
- Once evacuated, floor wardens are to provide physical distance guidance to all evacuees.
- Note: Physical distancing is not required during an emergency evacuation. The primary goal in an emergency situation shall always be to evacuate the building expeditiously and meet at a predesignated safe location outside the building.
- When providing updates about the emergency and evacuation to the Fire Chief on site, maintain appropriate physical distancing (at least 2 metres apart).
- Encourage all floor wardens to provide an update about evacuations in their individual areas. (Cell phones and walkie-talkies are recommended where possible)
- Refrain from touching your face after evacuating the building as you may have touched doors, handrails etc. Once permitted to re-enter the building, maintain your physical distance and wash your hands with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds.

Building Floor Wardens – Instructions

Building Floor Wardens are responsible for the following:

1. Review wall mounted Emergency Procedure Key Plans to ensure all evacuation routes and Predesignated Meeting Areas are known and appropriately used.
2. Physical distancing is not required during an evacuation.

Note: Physical distancing is not required during an emergency evacuation. The primary goal in an emergency situation shall always be to evacuate the building expeditiously and meet at a predesignated safe location outside the building.

1. When all occupants have exited the building and met at the Predesignated Meeting Area, floor wardens are to provide instruction for all to maintain a 2-metre physical distance from each other.
2. When reporting the status of the evacuation to the Building Emergency Director, utilize electronic means of communication where possible to minimize in person-to-person conversations.
3. Refrain from touching your face after evacuating the building as you may have touched doors, handrails etc. Once permitted to re-enter the building, maintain your physical distance and wash or sanitize your hands before returning to your work area.

Building Occupants – Instructions

When evacuations are necessary for various emergencies outlined in this document, you must evacuate the building and follow the instructions of building floor wardens. Maintain appropriate physical distancing when gathering at the predesignated meeting area.

Note: Physical distancing is not required during an emergency evacuation. The primary goal in an emergency situation shall always be to evacuate the building expeditiously and meet at a predesignated safe location outside the building.

Refrain from touching your face after evacuating the building as you may have touched doors, handrails etc. If possible, sanitize your hands. Once permitted to re-enter the building, maintain your physical distance and wash your hands with soap and water before returning to your work area.

Persons Requiring Assistance

Persons Requiring Assistance (as identified by the process outlined in Appendix 5 of the BERP) who are not working from home and reporting to work as usual, should work with their Floor Warden and Building Emergency Director to develop a modified personal evacuation plan that incorporates physical distancing. If this is not feasible, a **safe location** that is away from the hazard should be identified so the individual can remain there until the Emergency responders can assist these persons.

Safe Locations

For personnel who are unable to evacuate the building, it is recommended that if a safe location in the building has been pre-identified in the BERP that the individual remain there until emergency responders can assist. If more than one person needs to remain in the safe location, maintain 2 metres distance or the maximum possible, where 2 metres is not feasible.

Fire Evacuation Drills

All fire drills are on hold for the year 2020. This decision has been made after consultation with the Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services. Building users are advised not to submit a fire drill service request until further notice.

COVID-19 Amendment- Emergency Procedures: Safety & Risk Services

Do's

- ✓ If fire alarm is ringing, promptly evacuate the building
Note: Physical distancing is not required during evacuation
- ✓ Remain calm
- ✓ Meet at predesignated meeting area (Location identified on wall mounted Emergency Procedures maps)
- ✓ Physically distance (2 m) once you have evacuated from building
- ✓ Wash hands before re-entering workspace
- ✓ Follow instructions from emergency personnel

Don'ts

- ✓ Impede a prompt evacuation from building
- ✓ Panic
- ✓ Ignore alarm and direction from emergency personnel

Floor Wardens and Alternates:

POSITION	PHONE NUMBER	
	WORK	OTHER (e.g. work mobile)
Building Emergency Director Name: Jason Rako	604 822-4676	604-351-1692
Deputy Building Emergency Director Name: Doug Doyle Russell Neal	604-822-4179 604-822-1171	604-803-7964 604-839-6790
Building Floor Warden - Level 1 Name: Brennan Sekora	604-822-0098	604-868-4207
Alternate Building Floor Warden - Level 1 Name: Kevin Shillitto	604-822-9445	
Building Floor Warden - Level 2 Name: Erin Kastner	604-822-1333	604-872-5591

Alternate Building Floor Warden - Level 2 Name: Darren Benson	604-822-0450	604-861-6708
Building Floor Warden – Boiler Plant Name: On Shift Operator	604-822-8512	604-219-0139

Appendix 4: UBC COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Guidance Documents

UBC Employee COVID-19 PPE Guidance Overview

This document provides guidance about UBC's stance on employee Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including industry standard face masks/respirators, gloves, homemade and non-surgical masks and other PPE in relation to COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

Visit ubc.ca/covid19 for more information about UBC's response to COVID-19, including frequently asked questions.

Current health guidance relating to PPE

Throughout the current COVID-19 global outbreak UBC has taken direction on infection prevention from the Provincial Health Officer, the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), and continues to do so. This guidance can be expected to evolve as these agencies continually monitor accumulating scientific evidence to determine how we can best prevent the spread of COVID-19.

As this document has been developed, the current health guidance from the above agencies can be summarized as follows:

- Incorrect selection and/or use of PPE may increase your risk of exposure.
- Using non-medical or homemade protective equipment does not diminish the need for physical distancing, frequent hand washing and avoiding touching your face.
- There is no established proof that wearing non-medical or homemade protective equipment protects the person wearing it, and it may provide a false sense of security.
- Wearing a non-medical mask in public may help to limit the travel of your respiratory droplets when you cough, sneeze or talk - which may help to protect others.
- Medical/surgical masks should be used by people who are sick and health care workers.
- N95 Respirators, Medical masks and other critical PPE are in short supply and are needed by health care workers to safely care for their patients.

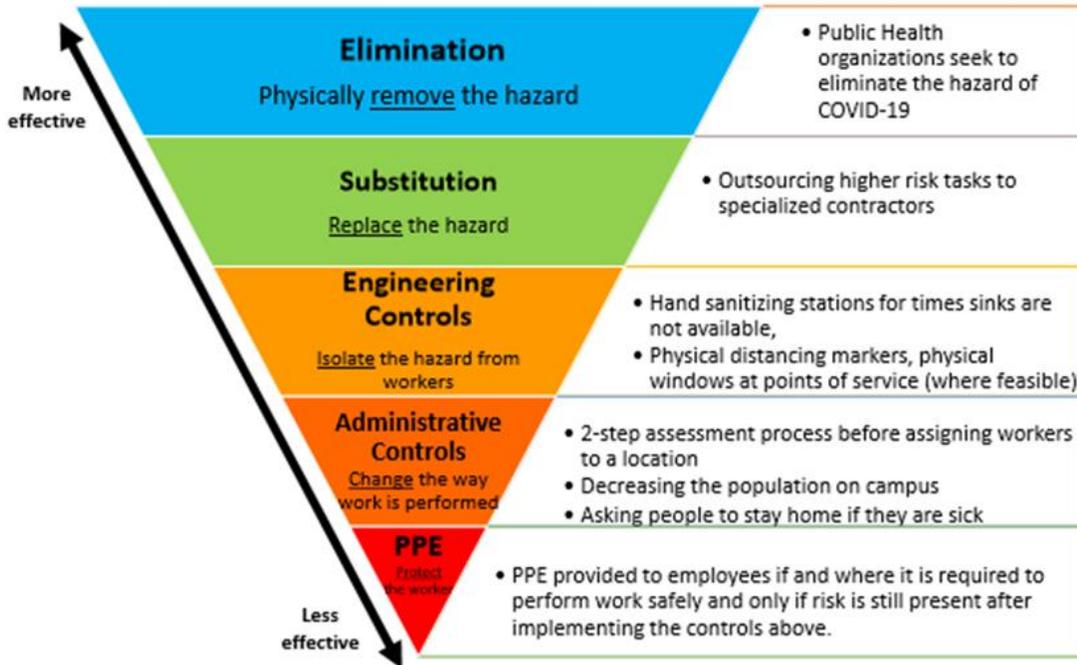
Personal Protective Equipment in the workplace

Based on the above medical guidance and circumstances on our campuses, UBC's position on PPE is as follows:

- UBC employees carrying out tasks that require PPE, including respirators, will continue to be supplied with the appropriate equipment, as per the relevant safe working procedure.
- UBC employees carrying out tasks that do not normally require PPE will not be supplied with masks or respirators of any description.
- UBC will not provide employees with non-medical or homemade masks as these masks do not meet the performance standards for workplace PPE and do not satisfy the safety requirements of any work task.
- UBC employees may wear a non-medical mask or homemade mask at work, provided it does not interfere with them safely carrying out their duties.

- UBC asks the campus community to be respectful of students, faculty and staff who choose to wear masks.

The role of PPE in protecting employees PPE is used to protect employees from specific risks, however it is the least effective method of protecting employees, as outlined in the below Hierarchy of Controls diagram. The diagram also includes examples of current UBC COVID-19 risk mitigation activities



Respirators & Masks

Respirators are one type of PPE, and conditions of their usage for workplace safety is closely regulated by WorkSafeBC. To be effective, all respirators used must be fitted to an individual’s face through a fit test. Health care workers may be directed to wear either N95 Respirators or Medical/ Surgical Masks as part of their PPE for specific tasks and under the regulations as they pertain to health care settings.

Supply shortages in N95 respirators have prompted the assessment of KN95 respirators as an alternative to address particulate respiratory hazards. However KN95 masks have been deemed inappropriate for occupational use at UBC due to the inability to properly fit test them and lack of vendor clarity around manufacturing standards. Any KN95 masks received as donations cannot be issued to UBC Employees.

Gloves

There are many types of gloves, and the choice of glove must take into account all of the hazards that may be present, as gloves are rated for their usefulness as a barrier to different types of chemicals. Medical gloves create a barrier around the hands to reduce an individual’s risk of exposure to hazardous agents. This type of PPE can be used during infectious outbreaks but must be used carefully to avoid transferring contamination between the handling of infected and clean items. Personal electronics, high touch surfaces and other shared items are prone to this ‘cross contamination.’

Eye & Face Protection

Eye protection, through safety glasses or goggles, and face shields are recommended for health care workers where there is the potential for any spraying or splattering of blood or other bodily fluids. Safety glasses can be found in various different styles and offer side protection in the form of either wraparound arms or shields. Goggles offer a higher degree of spray/splatter protection compared to safety glasses due to their ability to form a tight seal around the eyes. Face shields can protect the entire face from biological hazards. A face shield is often considered a secondary safeguard to protective eyewear. In other words, face shields are typically not used on their own. As per WorkSafeBC requirements, these types of PPE need to meet CSA Standards.

Information about using non-medical or homemade protective equipment

Non-medical/homemade masks are not classed as Personal Protective Equipment.

UBC does not endorse the use of non-medical or homemade masks.

UBC will only supply Personal Protective Equipment that meet applicable standards and as required for UBC work.

If you are considering using a non-medical or homemade mask, you can find information about how to do so safely on the BC Centre of Disease Control website.

Advice on PPE at UBC

If you have any questions or require advice about PPE at UBC, or if you need to communicate widely information in this document, please contact Safety & Risk Services by emailing ready.ubc@ubc.ca.

Additional, up-to-date UBC-COVID resources are found at:

1. <https://covid19.ubc.ca/>

The '**Faculty and Staff FAQs**' and the '**Resources**' sections may be particularly useful.

2. <https://srs.ubc.ca/health-safety/health-safety-covid-19/>

The '**Approved University-wide COVID-19 Safety Documents**' section may be particularly useful.

Regarding the use of non-medical and homemade masks while at work at UBC during COVID

The University is following the guidance of the BC CDC and Public Health Officer on prevention of COVID19 by implementing:

- Physical distancing wherever feasible including scheduling of personnel to allow for physical distancing
- Engineering controls such as barriers at points of service
- Personal Protective Equipment where appropriate

The use of non-medical masks, including re-usable cloth masks by healthy people in the university community carries the following limitations and risks:

Limitations

- Nonmedical masks do not protect the person wearing it, and are not PPE.
- Their effectiveness in containing of the droplets expelled during breathing, talking, laughing, sneezing or coughing is limited and highly variable.
- Depending upon the positioning of the individuals in close proximity to each other, these masks may or may not reduce the droplets expelled by each worker into the breathing zone of the other.
- Nonmedical masks are not equivalent to respirators, and do not override the needs for physical distancing, good hygiene and staying home when ill.
- Nonmedical masks become less effective if soiled or damp, so must be changed and laundered frequently and routinely.

Risks

- Self-contamination that can occur by touching and reusing contaminated mask, especially in worksites where allergens, chemicals or other hazardous materials are present and can be absorbed onto mask material
- Potential breathing difficulties
- False sense of security, leading to potentially less adherence to other preventive measures such as physical distancing and hand hygiene
- Not a measure to protect others if the wearer has symptoms or is ill.

UBC employees may choose to wear a non-medical mask or homemade mask at work, provided it does not interfere with them safely carrying out their duties. UBC asks the campus community to be respectful of students, faculty and staff who choose to wear masks. SRS is currently not recommending the use of homemade or nonmedical masks in the workplace. Our goal is to continue to recommend physical distancing, as we know that is the best method to reduce the risk of transmission.