

COVID SAFE CAMPUS TRANSITION PLAN – RESEARCH



UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA

- The health and safety of our community is our highest priority. COVID-19 is a highly contagious and serious disease that spreads quickly in indoor settings. The delta variant is more infectious and spreads more easily than the 2020 variant, requiring additional control measures to those we implemented in 2020. Staff and students are encouraged to get [vaccinated against COVID](#) as soon as possible.
- This should be read in conjunction with the [UOW Covid Safe Campus Transition plan](#). The following table outlines the specific [UOW directions](#) relating to essential research:

	FROM 8 NOVEMBER 2021	FROM 15 DECEMBER 2021 OR 95% VACCINATION RATE (WHICHEVER HAPPENS FIRST)
As per UOW Covid Safe Campus Transition	Only fully vaccinated adults (16+) in Greater Sydney (including Wollongong) and at least one dose in Regional NSW as well as and those with medical exemptions (staff and patrons) will have access to the activities listed below in accordance with the Reopening NSW Roadmap. Unvaccinated staff that are required to be on campus can do so after a risk assessment is completed and appropriate risk controls determined and implemented.	The following will apply to all regardless of their vaccination status. Vaccination requirements remain for NSW Government mandated occupations OR as outlined in the UOW Immunisation Guidelines. Unvaccinated staff that are required to be on campus can do so after a risk assessment is completed and appropriate risk controls determined and implemented.
Covid Safe Research Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and HDR students can attend their work area for work and research including human participants and fieldwork according to updated Covid Safe Plans. Research activities are to be appropriately scheduled to ensure Covid safe practices can be maintained at all times. A Research Covid Safe Plan is to be completed. Researchers are to ensure that they have read and understood the approved Covid Safe Plan prior to coming on campus. The type of mask/personal protective equipment (PPE) required may differ depending on the research activity. Masks indoors to be worn in conjunction with the UOW Covid Safe Campus Transition plan. Sharing of equipment should be minimised. Equipment must be cleaned, in line with COVID Safe Plans, with detergent/disinfectant wipes/sprays at the beginning and end of each person's use. 	
Face-to-face Research Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can commence with approved Research Covid Safe Plan including current COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire in place with 1 person per 2 sqm (HREC to be informed or approval for change obtained as specified in approval letter). Researchers may continue research projects using remote data collection methods such as telephone, online, Skype, Zoom etc Outdoor gatherings/activities limited to 20 persons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covid safe plan including current COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire to be in place with 1 person per 2sqm Outdoor gatherings unlimited
Laboratories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lab activities are to be appropriately managed and scheduled to ensure Covid safe practices are able to be maintained at all times. An approved Research Covid Safe Plan is to be completed. Support staff necessary to ensure that laboratory researchers can perform scheduled research, set up, maintenance and operations to operate safely, must be available and able to carry out their duties in a COVID-safe manner. Appropriate scheduling and team management must be in place, including the scheduling of researchers coming to use facilities and use of A and B Teams where possible. Each lab must ensure relevant PPE is used, where appropriate, to avoid contamination and for personal protection. Lab staff inductions able to commence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lab activities are to be appropriately managed and scheduled to ensure Covid safe practices are able to be maintained at all times. An approved Research Covid Safe Plan is to be completed. Support staff necessary to ensure that laboratory researchers can perform scheduled research, set up, maintenance and operations to operate safely, must be available and able to carry out their duties in a COVID-safe manner. Each lab must ensure relevant PPE is used, where appropriate, to avoid contamination and for personal protection. Lab staff inductions able to continue.
Lab-based Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is permitted where current research: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adheres to current approved Research Covid Safe plans. Not working with hazardous materials if alone. New projects may commence. 	
Animal Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permitted if adheres to revised approved Research Covid Safe plans. This includes the use of appropriate PPE to avoid contamination. New Animals can be bought on site. 	
HDR Candidates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HDR candidates should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with their supervisory team to manage the impact of changes to their projects. Adhere to the directions from the Graduate Research School. Seek appropriate approval through Faculty for access to research facilities. Be adequately supervised on-site by a staff member with appropriate expertise. Adhere to the UOW directions when conducting research at third party facilities, adhering to any additional measures required by the third party. 	
Travel for research or Field Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International and domestic travel, as approved by COO in accordance with border entry requirements. Carpooling allowed between vaccinated people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International and domestic travel, including trips to regional NSW, in accordance with border entry requirements. Carpooling permitted.
Communications and Records Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research staff and students should document the impact of COVID, using the staff reporting template and the HDR candidate contingency plan. Revise and update COVID Safe Plans as needed, using the Research Activity Template for research activities. Issues and concerns are to be raised with Head of School/Unit or WHS Unit. 	
Approvals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff are to follow the local approval processes for research as determined by the Faculty/AIIM. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research will require consultation with Head of School or Head of Research Unit or local Institute Director (Molecular Horizons and IHMRI), and must be accompanied by a revised approved COVID Safe Plan in alignment with current health orders. The WHS Unit available for advice. Protocols should outline how the research can be completed in a safe manner to minimise risk (COVID-safe and WHS, including supervision if needed), timeframe and number of people. A variety of circumstances may trigger a review of these on-campus essential research directives. These will be managed as directed from the UOW Crisis Management Team. 	

All Stages: COVID safe behaviours



1. ISOLATE 2. IDENTIFY 3. INFORM 4. CLEAN 5. REVIEW 6. COMMUNICATE

Find out how: uow.info/6-steps-covid (staff intranet link)

Find out more: uow.edu.au/coronavirus

All stages: 6-step reporting process

Note: This plan is subject to change should there be any change to Public Health Orders, Local Government Area restrictions or at the University's discretion. Version 2 (from 80%). Current as of 10 Nov 2021.