Dear Students:

Many of you have questions about the University of Washington Tacoma’s COVID policies and procedures. Answers to many of your questions are provided on the University’s website in various locations. We hope this document provides a useful centralized resource. The information below is not exhaustive but we hope it provides guidance. While these are policies and procedures for autumn quarter, things may change. The SSWCJ will do its best to keep students updated as information comes from the University.

Sincerely,

SSWCJ Leadership and Staff

**University Masking Policy**

*May I remove my mask when speaking in class?*

The statewide mask mandate requires all individuals to always wear masks while indoors. Eating and drinking in class are prohibited, and students are encouraged to use break times as much as possible to remain hydrated.

**Accommodation Requests**

*What is the process for requesting an accommodation through the Disability Resources for Students?*

To request a disability accommodation, go to [https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/drsuwt](https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/drsuwt) and complete the application process. For questions you can contact the Disability Resources for Students office at 253-692-4508 or email drsuwt@uw.edu.

*I consider myself at elevated risk for severe illness from COVID-19. May I request accommodations?*

If you believe you need accommodations due to medical concerns, you must seek accommodations through the DRS. The DRS will make an official decision and may grant a DRS-sanctioned accommodation.

*What if I require a medical or religious exemption to the mask policy?*

Medical and religious exemptions to the mask policy are processed by the [Disability Resources for Students](https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/drsuwt) (DRS) office. If you do not have a DRS-sanctioned medical exemption, you will be required to wear a mask per university policy. For more information on medical exemptions please visit the

*I am taking a course designated as in-person, may I request for an instructor to make an accommodation and provide an online or hybrid options for me and/or my class?*

Instructors are not expected to teach their in-person course online or remotely; neither are they expected to prepare two versions of their course, one online and one in person (hyflex). University policy requires that only faculty who have participated and completed the iTech fellows-certified training can teach a fully remote/online course or hybrid course (more than 39% of class time...
Research has found hyflex instruction (simultaneous remote/online and in-person instruction) has significant challenges in terms of quality and increased probability of poor student experiences.

In addition, international students and those receiving veteran’s benefits have limits on how many online or hybrid courses they may take without jeopardizing their educational benefits or visa status. These students need courses that are designated principally or fully in-person.

As noted above, requests for any medical or disability-related accommodations should be directed to Disability Resources for Students.

**How do I find out what format my class is?**

Students can check their MyUW page for their class information, including format. Classes meeting in-person have the room numbers included in the information. A video guide of MyUW is available on the [website](#).

**Responding to Illness**

It is essential that students and UW personnel stay home when they are ill. We want you to put your health first.

*What should I do if I am not feeling well? Should come into class for a quiz, presentation, or other classroom activity?*

You are strongly encouraged to stay home and get tested. In addition, if you test positive for COVID-19, you should notify Dr. Bernard Anderson (Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Life; bander48@uw.edu) and all your instructors.

Faculty are encouraged to design their courses and assignments in ways that allow students to remain home when they feel ill without worrying about the impact on their grade. We strongly encourage students to stay in touch with their instructors and to notify instructors at the earliest possible point regarding any anticipated absences. Instructors understand that the evolving COVID pandemic will mean that students may have periods in which they are not able to attend class because of an illness or COVID exposure in their household, and instructors will provide information about how to access material covered in class.

**COVID Vaccination Requirements**

All students are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, or to secure an exemption. Students must attest to their vaccination status no later than September 29th. Additional information and links to the attestation portal can be found [HERE](#).

Social Work students have additional COVID-related immunization responsibilities because the Social Work program is a health sciences program and all students are required to comply with immunization requirements through the UW Health Sciences Immunization Program (HSIP). All HSIP requirements can be found at the [Health Science Immunization Program](#) webpage. Social Work students who are out of compliance with immunizations will not be able to participate in practicum and will be subject to a registration hold.
Student Support Services

It is understood that these are challenging, unprecedented times. There are several resources available both within the school and on-campus to support students' well-being and academic success. For more information about campus-based supports related to health, mental health, parenting/childcare, financial emergencies, and other questions, visit the “Find Help and Support” tab on the [UWT Student Affairs website](http://www.uwt.edu).

Social Work Practicum

Is practicum being conducted remotely or in-person?

Most practicum placements are being conducted in-person. However, each practicum agency is offered options to host students in-person, remotely or a combination depending on the agency's needs and services. Students are expected to follow all agency safety and health protocols. Please consult with your Field Instructor and/or Task Supervisor regarding your schedule and applicable safety and health policies.

Is COVID-19 vaccination a requirement for practicum placement?

COVID-19 vaccination is a required immunization to be eligible for practicum placement. The only exceptions are HSIP approved medical or religious exemptions. Please refer to emails sent by HSIP or the Field Education Office regarding COVID-19 vaccinations and social work practicum placements. You may also contact Chris Barrans, Director of Field Education, at barransc@uw.edu if you have questions.