

East West University

Fall 20, Reopening Plan

Over the next months and beyond, as our city, state and nation responds to the coronavirus pandemic COVID-19, EWU will continue to work towards safely re-opening within the guidelines and recommendations from the Chicago department of public health (CDPH) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Our overall focus will be the continued reduction of the spread of COVID-19 to protect our staff, faculty and students.

Practices To reduce the spread of COVID-19:

Fall 2020 re-opening committee (FRC) make several recommendations that inform and serve as the foundation of the University's response efforts. Based on these recommendations, FRC has established guidelines below that will include, but not be limited to:

- Social Distancing
- Face Covering & Hygiene
- Temperature check upon arrival
- Gymnasium and Workout room closure
- Posters, Signage and traffic flow
- Cleaning and Disinfection: Work and Learning Spaces
- Shared Responsibility
- Office desk barriers and reception desk enclosures
- Reporting & Detecting Possible Health Risks

Social Distancing

Social distancing is a critical element in reducing the spread of the novel coronavirus. One of the biggest adjustments to on-campus life and engagement will be re-imagining the 6-Foot space. In addition to remaining physically distant from one another, the physical separation also means that work and learning spaces will be reconfigured to reinforce this critical element to reducing transmission of COVID-19 among colleagues.

By modifying classrooms/labs, common areas, lunchroom, open computer labs and library area with staggered seating and buffer zones thus reducing the seating capacity by 50%, it will allow us to continue to operate, while still maintaining a healthy physical distance.

Face Covering and Hygiene (reducing touch points):

The use of face coverings, and good hygiene are essential to a successful re-opening plan. In compliance with the CDC in response to the pandemic, everyone should wear a face covering when in public, everyone should wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds often and high touch points should be eliminated to reduce cross-contamination and spreading. The University will comply with this recommendation during emergency response period to the coronavirus. To that end:

- All faculty, staff, students and visitors, including third party vendors, are always required to wear face coverings while in public spaces or shared spaces on campus.
- Faculty, staff and students will continue to be encouraged and instructed through posters to wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after returning from a public place, blowing nose, coughing or sneezing.
- “High touch” items will be removed to reduce touch points and reduce the spread of the coronavirus *i.e.*, magazines and reading materials in the library, water stations, coffee pots, dry erasers and writing chalks, etc.
- Sanitation Stations will be placed in all the classrooms and labs, including hand sanitizer and wipes.

Faculty, staff, students and visitors are expected to provide their own masks or face coverings. If someone does not have a mask or face covering when attempting to enter the campus, a disposable/cloth mask will be provided at the entrance.

Temperature check

Temperature checking stations will be set up at both the entrances of the campus. Students, staff, faculty and visitors will be required to go through a thermal scanner for the temperature check.

Gymnasium and work out rooms

Gymnasium and work out rooms will remain close during pandemic.

Library Services

In-person library services will remain during classes; however, capacity restrictions and distancing measures will be strictly observed. Group meeting rooms will be offline, but students will be granted entry for individual study. Journals, periodicals, magazines and newspapers will be removed from the shelves and students will be encouraged to rely on “online resources” for the purpose of research and information.

Posters, Signage and traffic flow

A Poster campaign will be a constant reminder of protocols during COVID-19 to the campus community and directional signage designating the direction of foot-traffic in corridors, stairs, entrances and exits, and 6-ft markings for the reception areas, library circulation desks will help maintain the social distancing and help assisting in navigating the “new” traffic flow.

Cleaning and disinfection

Heightened attention to cleaning to support the health and wellbeing of faculty, staff and students is a top priority. While our custodial staff will be focused on this area by adopting following guidelines

- Wiping down desktops with disinfectants, at the turn of classrooms/labs.
- Wiping down by using disinfectants “high touch” areas, such as washroom counter tops, faucet-toilet-urinal handles, doorknobs, elevator buttons, handrails, lobby door handles etc.

Disinfecting wipes will be available in the computer labs for students to wipe down the keyboards prior to using it.

Shared Responsibility.

in order to keep our campus environment as safe as possible and in accordance with CDC guidelines, the entire campus community shares responsibility in the effort of keeping it clean/sanitized. It is almost impossible for custodial staff alone to perform these functions with the frequency and extent needed to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus. Each member of the EWU Campus Community has a joint responsibility for sanitation in their own areas. Disinfecting wipes will be provided to help everyone do their part to promote health and wellness on campus.

Office desk shields:

Office staff that is frequented by students and visitors will be provided desk shields and reception desks will be provided plexiglass screens for protection.

Reporting & Detecting Possible Health Risks

In an effort to maintain a healthy environment during the COVID response, the following detection and reporting guidelines and practices are in effect:

- Faculty and Staff who present or believe that they have coronavirus symptoms or someone in their home test COVID-19 positive should remain at home, contact their medical provider and their respective department Supervisor.
- Students who present or believe that they have coronavirus symptoms or someone in their home test COVID-19 positive must report to their medical provider and the University designated person.
- In the event that a positive case is confirmed on campus, a University designated staff will be a point person to convey it to senior management and EWU community.
- The Chancellor will consider possible classes suspension.
- The Chancellor will contact the Facilities department to disinfect the possible contaminated areas or the entire campus.