COVID-19 PLANNING: FACILITIES AND BUILDING OPERATIONS

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Our Commitment...
Creating and Maintaining Healthy Environments

• Abide by all CDC, state, university, and industry protocols for healthy working conditions and behaviors.

• Continue to evaluate data-informed conditions, feedback, and processes to help the department assess and address gaps in service execution.

• Ensure that operations remain in sync and intentionally scaled with enterprise wide operating conditions, allowing the department to remain nimble, responsive, and positioned to provide best-in-class services to the university community.

• Recognize the critical role that housekeeping services plays in protecting human health by preventing transmission of infectious diseases, and in many instances the role it plays as the first line of defense against the spread of infectious agents. The division is prepared and equipped with the ability to expeditiously clean and disinfect necessary areas as needed.

• Approach all campus locations (Blacksburg, Roanoke, Greater Washington D.C., metro region, ARECs, and beyond) — whether university owned or leased — as consistently as possible.

“While maintaining Virginia Tech’s unique sense of place remains our passion, our foremost priority is the safety and wellbeing of the university community.”
Our Guiding Framework...
Creating and Maintaining Healthy Environments
Our Focus...
Creating and Maintaining Healthy Environments

• Cleaning and Disinfection
• Shared Objects
• Ventilation Systems
• Water Systems
• Modified Layouts
• Physical Shielding
• Communal Spaces
• Food Service
Our Actions...
Creating and Maintaining Healthy Environments

• Deploying Consistent and Stringent Standards
• Enhancing Cleaning and Disinfection
• Enhancing Hand Hygiene Program
• Supporting Environmental Quality (Air/Water)
• Assisting with Space Modifications
• Implementing Signage Standards
• Activating Outdoor Spaces
• Supporting the Standardization of Building Access
• Supplementing of Resource Capacity
• Prioritizing Spaces and Services
• Coordinating with Contractors
• Unifying Service Delivery at Off-site Locations
• Communicating Efforts and Updates
Creating and Maintaining Healthy Environments by Deploying Consistent and Stringent Standards

The university’s housekeeping teams follow stringent documented standard operating guidelines for everyday maintenance efforts and in the prevention of contagious viruses. This includes:

- Stringent daily cleaning protocols.
- Deep cleaning of campus buildings during non-peak times (10p – 6a).
- Increasing inventory of high-grade cleaning disinfectants and hand sanitizer (2,300 stations).
- Enhanced employee training around chemical usage, hand washing, and provision of personal protective equipment.
- Following all recommendations provided by the CDC and ISSA, the cleaning trade association.

The Division of Campus Planning, Infrastructure, & Facilities coordinates with all housekeeping contractors/external vendors to ensure the same stringent industry-level service delivery.

KEY PARTNERS: Safety & Security (OEM, EHS); Student Affairs; Athletics
Creating and Maintaining Healthy Environments by Enhancing Cleaning and Disinfection

Operating a stringent standard cleaning protocol, using EPA-approved disinfectants against COVID-19 to disinfect high-touch surfaces, such as:

- Light switches (if manual)
- Buttons on food/drink vending machines
- Exterior/interior elevator buttons
- Exterior/interior handrails
- Exterior/interior glass windows on doors
- Exterior/interior door knobs/levers/push handles
- Sink faucets/toilet fixtures/dispensers
- Other areas

In many high-volume settings, electro-static disinfectant misting machines are being used to increase the number of surfaces cleaned per hour and ensure hard-to-clean surfaces are disinfected.

KEY PARTNERS: Safety & Security (EHS, OEM); Student Affairs; Athletics
Creating and Maintaining Healthy Environments by Enhancing the Hand Hygiene Program

• Deploying over 2,300 new hand-sanitizer stations at entrances, elevators, classrooms, and other high-traffic areas of every academic and administrative building.

• Installing 600 new touch-free soap dispensers and 600 new touch-free paper towel dispensers in as many building restrooms as possible to eliminate avoidable high-touch surfaces.

• Enhancing signage to remind users of proper hand hygiene practices. (Wash here, Remember to wash for 20 seconds, Remember to wash)

KEY PARTNERS: Safety & Security (EHS, OEM); Finance; Hokie Wellness; University Relations
Creating and Maintaining Healthy Environments by Supporting Environmental Quality (Air/Water)

• Outdoor air supply rates (ventilation) in academic and administrative spaces are being increased in spaces with such capability.

• Corresponding adjustments to HVAC equipment began in March 2020 in order to provide as much outdoor air as possible while still maintaining acceptable indoor air quality.

• Every box filter (filters that serve air handling units) in academic and administrative spaces is a MERV 13 or higher 'upgraded' filter efficiency.

• Flushing of building water systems ongoing.

KEY PARTNERS: Safety & Security (EHS, OEM); Student Affairs; UBO
Creating and Maintaining Healthy Environments by Assisting with Space Modifications

- Rearranging all classrooms, labs, and common areas to adhere to public health and safety guidelines.
  - Layout and other changes to approximately 200 general assignment classrooms across campus.
  - Individual departments maintain other classrooms.
  - Spaces will have fewer desks, chairs and furniture as it adjusted.

- The Registrar’s office developed guidelines for classroom design. Facilities teams assisting with implementation.

- Supporting strategy and implementation of physical shielding and guards as appropriate.

- Supporting leased space request for furniture storage.

KEY PARTNERS: Provost; Registrar; Safety & Security (EHS, OEM); Business Affairs; Procurement
Creating and Maintaining Healthy Environments by Implementing Signage Standards

Work Group focusing on:

• Determining the need (and what kinds of signs) for COVID-19 signage across campus based on VDH/SCHEV/NRV standards (distancing, hand washing, face covering, etc.).
• Creating a centralized sign inventory.
• Determining number of signs, specific locations needed.
• Ensuring accessibility compliance.
• Ensuring fire code compliance.
• Determining funding for centralized signage and installation.
• Determining installation process for signage and deployment.
• Determining what is installed centrally, what is installed by departments, colleges.

KEY PARTNERS: Safety & Security (EHS, OEM); University Relations; Business Affairs
Creating and Maintaining Healthy Environments by Activating Outdoor Spaces

Work Group focusing on:

• Activating outdoor spaces that can be made to not only comply with appropriate accessibility and safety concerns, but also possibly provide: seating, Wi-Fi, charging for electronic devices, cover from inclement weather, etc.

• Anticipated locations: Dietrick Plaza, Peddrew-Yates Plaza, Owens Plaza, Lavery Hall Plaza, Burchard Plaza, Derring Overhang

• New Outdoor Wi-Fi – New Classroom Bldg, Squires-Henderson Quad, Goodwin Hall Patio, Theater 101 Outdoor Amphitheater, Moss Arts Outdoor Amphitheater, Ag Quad Courtyard, Davidson Hall Courtyard

KEY PARTNERS: Provost; Equity & Access, UBO, Transportation, Student Affairs, Safety & Security, Procurement, University Relations, IT
Creating and Maintaining Healthy Environments by Supporting the Standardization of Building Access

Work group focusing on:

- Collaborating to standardize building access.
- Communicating that standardization of hours and expectations help maintain the confidence, integrity, and effectiveness of housekeeping services.
- Ensuring that effective deep cleaning will be able to occur overnight in high-volume spaces.

KEY PARTNERS: Safety & Security (VTPD); Provost; Registrar; Mail; Student Affairs; Hokie Passport
Creating and Maintaining Healthy Environments by Supplementing Resource Capacity

• Establishing a dedicated delivery team of 10 facilities service specialists to supplement existing in-house and contracted service providers.

• Supplementing ability to maintain established standards of cleanliness and sanitation for interior spaces across campus.

• Cleaning and disinfecting common high-touch surfaces, restrooms, hallways, corridors, classrooms, stairwells, elevators, and general interior spaces.

• Scheduling to compliment building access plan Mon – Fri, 2 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

KEY PARTNERS: Safety & Security (EHS, OEM); Human Resources; Finance
Creating and Maintaining Healthy Environments by Prioritizing Spaces and Services

- Prioritization of resources and spaces will enable our teams to provide the healthiest environment possible.
- High touch items, high volume spaces, and public areas will receive priority.
- Potential opportunity: Leverage campus WiFi infrastructure for occupancy monitoring; would allow housekeeping staff to make data-based prioritization decisions.

KEY PARTNERS: Provost; Registrar; Safety & Security (EHS, OEM); IT; Student Affairs
Creating and Maintaining Healthy Environments by Coordinating with Contractors

• Engaging with contractors and vendors in ‘resumption of operations’ planning.
• Ensuring continued compliance by contractors of the on-campus protocols.
• Ensuring indoor and outdoor construction projects are being inspected by the University Building Official (UBO) and CPIF teams for compliance.

KEY PARTNERS: Procurement
Creating and Maintaining Healthy Environments by Unifying Service Delivery at Off-site Locations

• Approaching to all campus locations, whether university owned or leased, as consistent and scalable as possible.

• Communicating that service frequency and scope in facilities maintained via third-party providers may vary based on location-specific or program-specific service arrangements.

• Maintaining continual contact with our campus partners beyond Blacksburg via the CPIF Off-site Coordinator and Real Estate Management team.

KEY PARTNERS: University Relations; Roanoke; Greater Washington D.C., metro region; ARECs
Creating and Maintaining Healthy Environments by Communicating Efforts and Updates

- Providing consistent, transparent information on buildings and grounds related response efforts.
Questions?

COVID-19 Planning: Facilities and Building Operations