

# GSO COVID FAQ

All COVID-related policies are subject to change. This document reflects the most up-to-date policy for PhD students in the Eshelman School of Pharmacy on the date the response was written, which can be found at the end of each answer.

Please contact Dr. Kim Brouwer ([kbrouwer@unc.edu](mailto:kbrouwer@unc.edu)), Dr. Mike Jarstfer ([jarstfer@email.unc.edu](mailto:jarstfer@email.unc.edu)), or GSO leadership with any questions for the ESOP COVID Operational Return Committee.

## Spring 2021 COVID Requirements

### **Do I need to submit a daily symptom checker before coming to campus?**

Yes, PhD students are required to login with their ONYEN and complete the [UEOHC online symptom checker](#) before coming to campus. Submission is only required on days that you access campus. Symptom attestations will be monitored by Associate Dean of Strategic Risk Management Roy Zwahlen and Executive Vice Dean Scott Savage.

Answer updated 1/19/2021

### **Are weekly COVID tests required for Eshelman students?**

No. The University has exempted Health Professional Schools from weekly testing requirements, but the School strongly encourages all students who are coming to campus to test once weekly.

Answer updated 1/18/2021

### **Am I required to follow ESOP guidelines while not on campus?**

While ESOP students are expected to comply with COVID guidelines both on and off campus, UNC cannot enforce COVID guidelines off campus. However, all ESOP students should know and comply with both state and county recommendations and requirements where they study, live or work, including [masking requirements](#) and [limits on in-person gatherings](#).

Answer updated 1/19/2021

### **Am I required to quarantine after traveling?**

You are not required to quarantine after traveling. However, if the answer to any of the following questions is 'yes', you should work from home for at least five days and then get tested for COVID before returning:

1. Did you travel on public transit (eg. plane, train, taxi, etc.)?
2. Did you break any of Orange County's [Phase 3 guidelines](#) over the holidays, particularly in group settings?
3. While on holiday, did you ever find yourself in a situation where the 3Ws may have been compromised or you felt uncomfortable about COVID safety?

Alternatively, you may choose to work from home for 14 days and return to campus if you have not developed symptoms for COVID-19.

Answer updated 1/14/2021

### **What guidelines do I need to follow while working in ESOP buildings?**

The UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy has the following guidelines for in-person work on campus:

- Wearing an ESOP-approved mask in our buildings (University-issued surgical mask or the Campus Care Kit "sock" mask)



- Distancing from others by at least 6 feet and wearing a face-shield when closer working distances are required
- Increasing hygiene activities (sanitizing hands when entering our buildings, sanitizing classroom/work/lab stations before leaving)
- Completing the [UEOHC online wellness checker](#) with your ONYEN before reporting to on-campus work

Answer updated 1/19/2021

### **Vaccination**

#### **When will graduate students have access to the vaccine?**

We do not currently know, as the classification of graduate students for vaccination purposes is still being determined (see below). Graduate students may be classified in one of three phases: Phase 1B Group 3 as 'frontline essential workers', Phase 2 Group 4 as 'essential workers', or Phase 3 as students. UNC Chapel Hill is currently in Phase 1b of their vaccination plans. For up-to-date, estimated start dates for each Phase, please visit [this link](#).

Answer updated 1/20/2021

### **Will graduate students be considered “essential workers” for vaccination purposes?**

We do not currently know. ESOP Human Resources is actively working with the Orange County Health Department to clarify which employees and students qualify as ‘frontline essential workers’, as the county will make the final determination. The [CDC has defined ‘frontline essential worker’](#) as: first responders (e.g., firefighters and police officers), corrections officers, food and agricultural workers, U.S. Postal Service workers, manufacturing workers, grocery store workers, public transit workers, and [\*\*those who work in the education sector\*\*](#) (teachers and support staff members) as well as child care workers.

[ESOP leadership and GSO are actively advocating for graduate students to be included in the definition of essential workers](#), particularly for students who are required to come to campus for their research and who were classified as Communicable Disease Mandatory Employees (CDME) during the initial shutdown.

Answer updated 1/21/2021

### **Where and how will I receive my COVID vaccination when I am eligible for it?**

When you are eligible to receive a COVID vaccine, you may schedule an appointment with either your local county health department (see [Orange County vaccination information](#)) or with [UNC health](#). For more information on COVID vaccination, please visit [this link](#).

Answer updated 1/19/2021

## **ESOP COVID Guidelines**

### **Why did ESOP labs move to 100% capacity?**

In early December 2020, the UNC [Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research](#) Dr. Terry Magnuson announced that laboratory research capacity would increase to 100%. This decision was made at the University level, as no cases of COVID transmission have been observed in UNC buildings. As such, laboratories are allowed to increase capacity to 100% [as long as they are maintaining compliance with ESOP guidelines](#).

Labs that cannot adhere to ESOP COVID guidelines at 100% capacity should continue at reduced capacity and maintain shift schedules to ensure compliance.

Answer updated 1/18/2021

### **Is a campus-wide shutdown (including research) possible? If so, what are the criteria for a campus shutdown?**

While a transition to remote-only courses for undergraduate students remains possible, a shutdown of the UNC research enterprise is extremely unlikely. Current guidelines have

prevented transmission in UNC buildings, which enabled continued in-person research throughout the Fall of 2020.

However, in the event that cluster transmission is observed in a laboratory, the individual lab may be shut down and required to quarantine, depending on Orange County Public Health guidance.

Answer updated 1/19/2021

### **Will undergraduate students be allowed in ESOP labs for the Spring semester?**

Yes, undergraduate students will be allowed in ESOP laboratories and must adhere to both ESOP COVID guidelines and individual lab guidelines submitted by each PI. For all undergraduate students living in Chapel Hill or Carrboro (including those in remote-only courses), [weekly COVID testing will be mandatory](#) and monitored with the Hall Pass application. Individual labs may independently choose not to bring back undergraduate researchers for Spring semester.

Answer updated 1/18/2021

### **Why does the Eshelman masking policy differ from the University's?**

The UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy has a stricter masking policy than the University's. At the beginning of the pandemic, Dean Kashuba spent significant time reviewing data on COVID transmission and the filtration capacity of different mask types. The two approved mask types (surgical or the UNC-issued cloth sock mask) have 60% filtration capacity. This stricter rule is intended to reduce the risk of transmission in our buildings.

Answer updated 1/13/2021

## **Guideline Monitoring and Violations**

### **How are guidelines monitored? What are the repercussions for not following ESOP COVID guidelines?**

Individual PIs are responsible for ensuring that their laboratory is operating under the **Guidelines for Operating a Safe Laboratory Environment** that they submitted prior to reopening their laboratory – the most updated version should be reviewed regularly by all lab members. Division Chairs and their leadership teams will be responsible for oversight to ensure that guidelines are being followed, including unannounced walk-throughs (at least 3 per week) of the labs in their Division.

For observations or reports of non-compliance among students, the guideline violation will be discussed with the student and expectations will be clearly established. If non-compliance continues, the student may lose access to campus or face academic probation or de-enrollment.

For more information on violation reporting and enforcement, please visit the [FAO Pharmacy webpage](#) and click 'violation reporting'.

Answer updated 1/21/2021

### **Where can I report guideline violations?**

Graduate students have three avenues for reporting violations:

1. Fill out an Eshelman Care Team [online referral form](#)
2. Contact Human Resources or report to your direct supervisor
3. Anonymously report using [this form](#)

Answer updated 1/13/2021

### **How are guideline violations that happen outside of ESOP buildings (e.g. on buses, in testing sites) reported to the University?**

Guideline violations are discussed internally in weekly meetings with the ESOP COVID Operational Return Committee, led by Executive Vice Dean Scott Savage. Additionally, reports of guideline violations and feedback are compiled by Dean Kashuba, who communicates them in meetings with the UNC Provost, Robert A. Blouin, at least twice weekly.

Answer updated 1/19/2021

## **COVID Testing**

### **Why are weekly COVID tests not required for Eshelman students?**

The Health Professional Schools (School of Pharmacy, School of Medicine, etc.) have had no transmission in their buildings, despite continued in-person classes and active in-person laboratory work since June. Therefore, the University exempted these Health Professional Schools from mandatory weekly testing. However, **the School strongly encourages all students who are coming to campus to test once weekly.**

Answer updated 1/18/2021

### **Will a new testing site closer to the medical campus (Marcus, GMB, etc.) be opened?**

It is unlikely that a new testing site will be opened on the medical campus. However, Dean Kashuba is aware of concerns about the current testing sites (including long lines and individuals standing less than 6 ft apart) and has escalated these concerns to the Provost. In response, the Provost Office conducted visits of testing sites to ensure compliance.

Answer updated 1/19/2021

## **What should I do if I test positive for COVID-19? What is the chain of communication?**

If you test positive for COVID-19, follow these steps:

1. Notify your supervisor
2. Notify Campus Health at 919-966-2281
3. Notify the Eshelman Care Team (ECT) at 919-813-0481

The ECT can help you navigate Campus Health and the requirements for quarantining and testing when you are positive. For more information, visit the [FAQ Pharmacy](#) site under “Testing > If You Test Positive”

Answer updated 1/19/2021

## **Will I be notified if someone in my lab or on my floor tests positive?**

Under [Orange County guidance](#), individuals are considered a “close contact” if they were in contact with a positive individual less than 6 feet apart for at least 15 minutes. If you meet these criteria, you will be contacted by County Contact Tracers.

If you do not meet these criteria, you will not be notified if someone tests positive for COVID-19 in your lab or on your floor, as your risk for COVID transmission is exceedingly low and this information is protected under HIPAA. Only the individual that tested positive is able to share that information with peers. However, the positive individual is required to notify their supervisor, Campus Health, and the Eshelman Care Team, who will guide them through quarantining and the process of safely returning to work once the individual is no longer contagious.

Answer updated 1/13/2021

## **How and where can I get tested for COVID on campus?**

UNC is providing free testing for all students, conducted using a nasal swab. There will be [three testing sites](#) on campus for Spring 2021:

- Frank Porter Graham Student Union Gallery Space
  - Monday-Friday, 7am-6pm and Saturday-Sunday, 11am-5pm
- CURRENT ArtSpace + Studio at 123 W Franklin St.
  - Monday-Friday 9am-6pm and Saturday-Sunday, 11am-5pm
- Rams Head Rec Center Multipurpose Room
  - Monday-Friday 9am-6pm and Saturday-Sunday, 11am-5pm

Answer updated 1/18/2021