

## Infectious Disease Response Plan (updated October 2024)

### Introduction

Utah Valley University (UVU) is in central Utah, with campuses in Utah and Wasatch County.

Members of the campus community frequently engage in international and interstate travel. Students and faculty come from across the globe, and many participate in various study abroad programs, conferences, events, and personal travel outside of the region throughout the year.

Local and state agencies (ex. Utah County Department of Health, State Department of Water Quality) monitor infectious diseases, and infectious disease agents, with regular updates to the region as threats become severe. The Utah County Health Department requires local health care providers and labs to report over 60 communicable diseases. Some of these infectious diseases include:

- Influenza and other vector-borne diseases (H1N1 Influenza A, West Nile, H5N1 Avian flu)
- Foodborne diseases (Salmonellosis, E. Coli)
- COVID 19 and its variants

UVU's Office for Global Engagement monitors global outbreak conditions that may impact international travel programs. The Student Health Services (SHS) office also monitors illness cases that present among students seeking treatment.

Students and personnel may need to be informed of regional or global outbreaks that can impact the campus community. University operations can also be affected depending upon incident-specific circumstances.

Organization leadership coordinating the response to an infectious disease incident may need to provide effective direction to students and personnel, provide clear situation information on campus operational changes, and inform the public of these updates.

### Purpose

This plan provides instructions and guidance to effectively address the response of Utah Valley University to infectious disease incidents or threats.

The plan identifies how infectious disease information is gathered and assessed, mitigation efforts, the decision-making process, and communication methods.

## Assessment, Mitigation, and Response

Global and regional government (health departments) alerts, case information from the campus SHS, and general news reports are the primary means of recognizing the potential for an infectious disease outbreak.

Some diseases can be regularly anticipated (seasonal flu) while others cannot. For regularly occurring diseases, on-campus mitigation efforts are already in place. These include:

- Full-time employee flu shots provided by Human Resources
- Student wellness check-ups offered by the Student Health Center
- Education and wellness campaigns by the Student Health Center

Should other infectious diseases become regularly occurring, appropriate mitigation strategies will also be implemented.

In the case of an irregular or novel infectious disease incident, university response activities may include the below activities:

- Activation of an information gathering and decision-making workgroup. Many of those who currently respond to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) would be included in this group.
- Containment of disease strategies including, do not come to campus while ill, mask usage, class or event cancellation, travel restrictions, movement of classes to a live-stream or online environment and other social distancing techniques.
- Participate in possible testing that may be organized by state or local health departments
- Distribution of vaccines or medication as obtained from the Utah County Department of Health
- Communications with the students, staff, and faculty on a regular basis as the environment will change quickly.
- Collaboration with state, local health departments, emergency management groups, and legislative bodies.
- Be prepared to track illness using technology and report that to several illness to the required entities and to university leadership.
- Use expertise on campus for study of infectious disease, consider involving someone with expertise in epidemiology.
- Engage with senior leaders immediately for decision making and communications to campus.

For acute infectious diseases, response activities are categorized based on threat level according to the following criteria:

<b>Level</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Activities</b>
1	Planning	No confirmed cases within two degrees of association of the campus community (Example: If a student lives with their cousin, the cousin is within one degree of the campus community. The cousin’s co-workers would be within two degrees of the campus community)	Monitoring, action plan updates, and readiness assessment
2	Alert	Confirmed exposure within two degrees of campus	Notifications to targeted campus populations, increased monitoring, allocation of resources as needed, social distancing
3	Danger	Suspected on-campus case OR confirmed case in Utah County	Consider campus-wide communications and protective actions such as social isolation
4	Full	Confirmed on-campus case(s)	Screening and continued isolation procedures, EOC as needed

Should the work group plan altering normal campus operations, they will also form an action plan that includes communications informing the campus community.

Communication methods include texts, campus-wide monitor alerts, website notifications, local and regional media contacts for dissemination, and postings at the [www.uvu.info](http://www.uvu.info) website.

The work group will reconvene as necessary according to the severity and anticipated impact of the incident.