

COVID-19 Infectious Disease Control Policy - Cascade Connections Training Center

Effective Date: 9/1/2021

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness with symptoms that include fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea. The purpose of this policy is to ensure the health and safety of our students, instructors, and individuals that Cascade Connections serve during the current public health crisis.

1. Classroom Safety

In light of the current situation, Cascade Connections Training Center has adopted the following practices to minimize potential exposure of students to COVID-19.

All students are required to:

When entering the building:

- Answer COVID-19 symptom questionnaire. If you answer yes to any of the symptoms, you will be asked to go home and reschedule your class.
- Wear masks or cloth face coverings. Wear a face shield or goggle where social distancing is not feasible (for example, during the skill classes such as CPR/First Aid, RIGHT RESPONSE, HCA Skill Classes, etc.).

In class and building:

- Practice physical distancing (staying at least 6 feet away from others).
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the inside of the elbow.
- Avoid gathering in break rooms, kitchen, hallway, and other areas where groups congregate.

- Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds regularly.
- Utilize hand sanitizer provided in common areas in between handwashing.

Instructors are required to:

- Conduct training classes virtually as much as possible.
- Have students in cohorts according to agency, site, client base.
- Keep classroom clean using company-provided cleaning supplies. Clean all surfaces before and after use. Do an additional cleaning every 3 hours – keeping in mind to clean surfaces that are regularly touched including phones, doorknobs, computer keyboards, pens, clipboards, etc.
- Be fully vaccinated to be able to provide instruction in-person.
- Keep doors open for airflow when conducting in-person sessions.

2. COVID-19 Vaccination

Some students might not be able to get the COVID-19 vaccine due to religious, medical, or other conditions. Students who cannot be vaccinated must fill out an exemption form. Please contact Training Director, Allison Hill at ahill@ccsite.org for the exemption forms. Forms will need to be submitted 2 weeks before an in-person skill session is conducted. It is Cascade Connections Training Center's goal to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Students whose exemption forms are accepted are required to:

- Come to skills sessions/classes 30 minutes early to take a RAPID COVID-19 Test. All tests are confidential and will be conducted per the DOH guideline.
- Wear additional PPE such as double face mask and face shield for their protection depending on the infection rate in our area.

Students whose exemption forms are NOT accepted will be:

- Given a list of other training sites that may work for them.

3. Stay Home If You Are Sick

Students must stay home if they are sick; this includes cold and flu. They should be tested for COVID-19 at their earliest convenience. If the student is an employee of Cascade Connections, instructors must notify their supervisor of any symptoms related to COVID-19, including fever, cough and/or acute respiratory symptoms. Students with a positive COVID-19 test must stay home until they meet one of the sets of CDC criteria for ending home isolation found [here](#). If a student shows any symptoms of COVID-19 illness during the class, they will be sent home immediately.

4. Face Coverings

Until further notice, it is required that students wear a facemask or cloth face covering that covers their mouth and nose while in the class, except to the extent a student is using break time to eat or drink (students must still ensure physical distancing). Masks continue to be required even if instructors and students have received the COVID-19 vaccine. Cascade Connections Training Center will provide masks or face coverings to students.

5. Report Potential Exposure

Instructor and students should notify the Training Director if they have been in contact with someone who has a positive test result for COVID-19, even if they are asymptomatic. Any instructor or student who may have been exposed to COVID-19 should follow the advice of the Whatcom County Health Department: <https://www.whatcomcounty.us/360/HealthDepartment>

6. Fully Vaccinated Higher Education Institution

On June 30, 2021, Governor Jay Inslee issued [Proclamation 20-12.3](#), which applies to Institutions of Higher Education and modifies previous proclamations which restricted classroom instruction. Cascade Connections Training Center is a Licensed Private Vocational School through the WA Workforce Board. Cascade Connections Training Center also holds contract with DSHS (# 2048-79084) as an approved WA DOH training site. **Cascade Connections Training Center falls under this Proclamation and has declared it is a Fully Vaccinated Higher Education Institution. In order for Cascade Connections Training Center to continue providing in-person training, we must comply with the proclamation.**

7. More Information Regarding COVID-19 And Vaccination

Vaccination is the leading prevention strategy to protect individuals from COVID-19 disease and end the COVID-19 pandemic. Current COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use in the United States are safe and [effective](#), widely accessible in the U.S., and available at no cost to all people living in the U.S. Learn more about the [Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#).

Cascade Connections Training Center endeavors to establish and promote a vaccination environment that is safe and [equitable](#) for all students and instructors.

Prompt collaboration between Cascade Connections Training Center and our local health departments to implement contact tracing can effectively break the chain of transmission and prevent further spread of the virus in the classroom setting and the community. All COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing will be done in coordination with state, local, tribal and territorial public health authorities and in accordance with local requirements and guidance. Cascade Connections Training Center will continue to support investigation and contact tracing detailed in [CDC's Guidance for Case Investigation and Contact Tracing in IHEs](#). People who are fully vaccinated with no COVID-like symptoms do not need to [quarantine](#) or be restricted from work following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.

If Cascade Connections Training Center experiences an increase in COVID-19 cases among fully vaccinated persons, the Training Director will promptly contact their local or state public health department and determine whether they need to re-institute, intensify or implement certain prevention strategies.