Inclement Weather Procedure

University of Colorado Denver  | Anschutz Medical Campus

When inclement weather is imminent, the University of Colorado Denver implements their Campus Closure Policy. This policy defines the detailed process by which the decision to close, delay the start or remain open is made. The Campus Closure policy can be found on line at:

www.ucdenver.edu/faculty_staff/employees/policies/Policies%20Library/HR/CampusClosures.pdf

This process of gathering information regarding a closure begins at 3:45 a.m. when the Police Department begins compiling information including the following:

- CU Denver Facilities Operations ability to keep up with snow removal at the Anschutz Medical Campus
- Auraria Higher Education Center Facilities Operations ability to keep up with snow removal at their campus
- Critical infrastructures such as steam, chilled water and electrical service functioning properly
- Road conditions obtained from the Colorado Department of Transportation as well a police officer who drives the interstate highways and major arteries surrounding the campus to assess their condition
- Weather information including the forecast obtained from the National Weather Service as well as local media
- State and local government issued warnings or bans on driving.
- School and government office closures

As 4:45 a.m., University Leadership is provided this information. It is at that time that the decision is made whether to open as normal, delay opening or close for the day. This is communicated to the campus community thru the Info Line at 877-463-6070, the website at www.ucdenver.edu/alert, the RAVE mass notification system and the local media no later than 5:00 a.m. The most reliable and comprehensive information is found by calling the toll free number or checking the university website.

Auraria Higher Education Center

The decision for opening, delaying or closing the AHEC rests on AHEC Leadership in consultation with the Leadership of CU Denver, Metropolitan State College and the Community College of Denver. This decision is independent of the Anschutz Medical Campus. Employees assigned to the Denver Campus will observe AHEC closure determinations. Such determinations will generally apply to CU Denver buildings located near the AHEC and off campus work locations associated primarily with this campus. In addition to the notification methods listed above, information regarding the status of the AHEC during inclement weather can be obtained at www.ahec.edu or by calling 303-556-2401.

Anschutz Medical Campus

This campus has unique considerations. The two hospitals have clinical activities that must be supported, in part, by our staff and faculty regardless of weather conditions. Many laboratories have critical studies and research obligations. Educational impacts extend to every school. The very nature of our education and research places emphasis on keeping the campus open. University leadership makes the decision for the Anschutz Medical Campus.
The decision to open or close is based on a totality of many factors. Nonetheless, each person must assess their ability to get to the campus safely. The distance that must be traveled, road conditions in your neighborhood, your vehicle and personal ability to travel safely in the snow are among many factors that might cause you to use a personal leave day.

Recap of February 3rd Snowstorm

On February 3rd at 4:45 am, the AHEC Facilities Operations determined that, with 10” of snow, they could not keep up with the snow removal. Leadership for AHEC, after speaking with CU Denver Leadership, made the decision to close. As such, the Lawrence Street Center, CU Building and the Lawrence Court Building were also closed. University Leadership, however, made the decision to keep the Anschutz Medical Campus open.

This was not the case at the Anschutz Medical Campus. There was 4-6” of snow on the ground and Facilities Operations was able to catch up with snow removal from the sidewalks and parking lots. All critical services were functioning normally. The Colorado Department of Transportation showed road conditions as passable with the average speeds on the highways at 30-40 mph. This was confirmed by the police department who also confirmed that the arterial streets leading the campus were unobstructed with the City of Aurora Traffic Department engaged in clearing the streets. The weather forecast predicted continued snow but had extended the storm into Saturday, thus reducing the hourly and day time snow fall predictions. Facilities Operations predicted they would be able to keep up with the snow fall. There was no state or local bans on driving. While schools had closed around metro Denver, most government offices were open. With all these factors taken into consideration, the decision to open the campus was made.