

IN-PERSON LEARNING DURING COVID-19

STUDENT GUIDELINES

West Virginia Northern Community College (WVNCC) will implement a responsible and safe approach to in-person learning on all three campuses during the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of this plan is to enable safe in-person learning for WVNCC students. The success of these guidelines relies on everyone complying to keep ourselves and others safe and healthy.



GENERAL SAFETY GUIDELINES AND KEYS TO SUCCESS

1. We have reduced the amount of furniture in each classroom to provide space for social distancing.
2. Wash your hands often and maintain rigorous hygiene practices.
3. Hand sanitizer will be located in classrooms and building entrances.
4. You're required to cover your mouth and nose with a mask at all times when on campus. A limited number of masks will be provided by the college, or you may choose to wear your own appropriate face covering. A face shield alone does not offer adequate protection against the virus
5. Do not come to class if you are feeling ill or have symptoms such as, fever higher than 100.4, cough, loss of taste, loss of smell or shortness of breath.
6. Student unions / lounges are open and will be practicing social distancing.
7. Drinking fountains will be restricted to bottle refillable stations only.
8. If someone starts showing possible symptoms of COVID-19 during the day, they will be sent home and separated from contact with others.
9. **When you return from travel the following protocol must be adhered to:**
 - If you are fully vaccinated and asymptomatic when you return, you are permitted to return to campus without quarantining or being tested.
 - If you are not vaccinated, you must EITHER self-isolate for 10 days OR take a test on day 5 of your return and come back to in-person class on day 7 if your test comes back negative. If you do not get tested then you can return on day 11, if you have no symptoms of COVID-19.

Please notify your faculty member to get any necessary assistance you may require during the quarantine.

Please reference Pandemics Explained website (<https://globalepidemics.org/key-metrics-for-covid-suppression/>), the CDC website or contact your local health department for the latest information on areas with widespread sustained transmission.

10. If you test positive for COVID-19, you must isolate for 10 days and be fever free for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medicine. Also you must receive permission from your local Health Department to return to class. A certified contract tracer from WVNCC may contact you. Please work with your instructor to maintain seamless virtual instruction, if able, during your isolation.
11. Quarantine if you have been in close contact (within 6 feet of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone who has COVID-19, unless you have been fully vaccinated. People who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have symptoms. However, fully vaccinated people should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they don't have symptoms and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.

What to do

- Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19.
- Watch for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19.
- If possible, stay away from people you live with, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19.

After quarantine

- Watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure.
- If you have symptoms, immediately self-isolate and contact your local public health authority or healthcare provider.

Additionally, our plan is mindful of the need to protect vulnerable and high-risk individuals on campus including:

- those with underlying health conditions, such as, heart disease, asthma, and diabetes,
- those who are immunocompromised as a result of cancer treatments or bone marrow transplantation, or other medical conditions,
- those who are 65 years of age or older, and
- those who have routine contact with any vulnerable or high risk individuals, such as individuals with underlying health conditions, individuals who are over the age of 65 living in their home, or individuals who are caring for someone outside their household who is in these categories.

If you fall into one or more of the above categories, you may be able to continue classes virtually. Please consult with your instructor/ professor who will work with the program director to make these modifications. Students with documented disabilities requiring supplemental academic accommodation may contact the Academic Support Center, asc@wvnc.edu / 304.214.8923, for additional information.

WVNCC's Approach

Cleaning and Disinfecting

The College's custodial staff has been wiping down and disinfecting high-touch surfaces since the beginning of the pandemic and will continue to do so. These high-touch surfaces include, but are not limited to, entryway touch points, doorknobs, water fountain fill stations, elevator buttons, stairwell handrails and restroom fixtures (sinks, faucets, toilets, towel dispensers, etc.). Cleaning guidelines will follow all CDC recommendations.

New Requirements Fall 2021

It is currently a requirement of everyone on Northern campuses to complete a brief survey in the Student Covid Reporting class in Blackboard, which is located in your portal. In this course, there will be an assignment where you will respond to questions regarding your vaccination status. After these questions, you will either:

- submit a record of your vaccination** -- Those who are fully vaccinated* will submit a copy or photo of the COVID Vaccination Report Card issued to you at the time of your vaccination.
- submit biweekly (once every two weeks) a COVID PCR test results** -- Those who are unvaccinated will submit biweekly COVID test results (see below) in the Test Results module.

COVID-19 Vaccine

The most important thing that all of us can do is to get vaccinated, ASAP. mRNA vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) are, by far, the most reliable defense against COVID-19 and the Delta variant. If you are not yet vaccinated, please speak with your doctor then visit <https://www.vaccines.gov/> to find a vaccine location near you.

COVID Testing

If you are unvaccinated, a negative COVID PCR test result is required every two weeks. The first negative test result for the Fall 2021 semester is due prior to August 23, 2021, the first day of classes. You can submit your bi-weekly test result in the Student Covid Reporting class in Blackboard.

Free COVID testing maybe available through local health departments in all counties served by Northern. MedExpress and many local pharmacies also offer COVID testing services for a fee. Following are just a few of the many locations where you can be tested:

- Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department offers testing daily at their OVMC location at 2000 Eoff Street
- Wetzel County at the New Martinsville Walgreens & Sistersville Fire Department
- Brooke County Health Department
- Hancock County Health Department
- Marshall County Health Department

Please note: We would recommend calling ahead to verify information of hours and if there is a fee or not.

*In general, people are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.

Please note that due to the ever evolving COVID-19 pandemic, this plan may be modified or discontinued at any time. These are general guidelines, and every situation may not have been covered or will require specialized guidelines or procedures. These guidelines will remain in effect until further notice. We ask for your patience and cooperation. If you have questions or concerns please feel free to email coronavirus@wvnc.edu or contact your instructor/professor.

**Failure to comply with these adopted guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action as noted
in Section II – A of the Student Handbook.**