

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. Self-monitor symptoms and take your temperature daily before coming to class. 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. If you had contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19, you must quarantine for 14 days after your last contact with that person. You do not have to quarantine if you fall into one of the following categories:
 - If you have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered and do not have any symptoms or develop any new symptoms.
 - If you have been fully vaccinated against the disease within the last three months and show no symptoms.
7. Fitness Center and gym on the Wheeling Campus will remain closed until further notice.
8. Student unions or lounges will operate at 50 percent capacity until further notice. Maximum occupancy restrictions will be posted at the doors and/or furniture will be removed or blocked off.
9. Recreational activity in the Student Lounges will be blocked off until further notice (pool table, air hockey, ping pong, etc.).
10. Most student activities will be offered virtually.
11. Drinking fountains will be restricted to bottle refillable stations only.
12. Vending areas will be open. You must use hand sanitizer after using them. However, the seating areas will remain closed or limited capacity.
13. No more than one person should use the elevator at a time.
14. If someone starts showing possible symptoms of COVID-19 during the day, they will be sent home and separated from contact with others.
15. We will require students who have traveled to an area with "widespread sustained transmission" not to return to their in-person class, if currently on campus, right away.

When you return from travel the following protocol must be adhered to:

- If you are fully vaccinated then you must get tested when you return from your trip. When you receive a negative test you can return to class on campus.
- 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.

- Free tests are available for students by contacting Health Sciences Division Chair, Bonnie Peterman (bpeterman@wvncc.edu or 304-214-8883) or Professor of Nursing, Jill Keyser (jkeyser@wvncc.edu or 304-214-8876)

16. 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.

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@wvncc.edu / **304.214.8923**, for additional information.

WVNCC's Approach

Students who need assistance may need to make virtual appointments to meet with advisors, financial aid and service centers.

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.

Surveillance Testing

At the direction of West Virginia Governor Jim Justice, all colleges and universities in West Virginia are required to conduct COVID-19 surveillance testing, during the Spring 2021 Semester.

Our Allied Health and Nursing faculty will oversee our testing program. They will be assisted by our nursing students to test a ten (10) percent sample of our students and employees weekly at all three campus locations.

Free testing will be done via saliva collection, not nasal swab. The test should take less than five minutes to complete. Samples will be sent to the lab overnight and test results will generally be available in 1-3 days. Anyone with a positive test result will be contacted by the health department and provided information for immediate medical care. WVNCC's contact tracing team will trace contacts with any positive cases. Testing is confidential and regulated by Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) guidelines - <https://www.cdc.gov/phlp/publications/topic/hipaa.html>

You cannot eat, drink, chew gum, smoke, or vape for 30 minutes prior to your test.

More specific details regarding testing dates and times will be provided. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to Health Sciences Division Chair, Bonnie Peterman (bpeterman@wvncc.edu or 304-214-8883) or Professor of Nursing, Jill Keyser (jkeyser@wvncc.edu or 304-214-8876).

COVID-19 Vaccine

If you have not yet received the vaccine but wish to do so, please register at <https://dhhr.wv.gov/covid-19/pages/vaccine.aspx>

Students will be required to sign an acknowledgment form, which is located at the top of the student portal prior to the start of classes.

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.