



Colleagues:

COVID-19 continues to impact our personal and professional lives. Everyone is tired of hearing about it, but we cannot let our guard down.

We have been asked how NDSCS is responding. The COVID-19 Response Team continues to meet at least weekly to review NDSCS COVID-19 data and additional information from the ND Department of Health, the CDC, and the ND University System. Please realize that this is an ever-evolving situation. What we have in place now, may not be what we do in the future. Flexibility remains one of our core values, and this situation certainly calls for it!

Below is an overview of our COVID-19 protocols and expectations. For your convenience, links to additional information have been included.

#### **Self-monitor and Report COVID Symptoms**

Self-monitor for any COVID-related symptoms. Not sure of what they are? Check here: [COVID Symptoms](#) or go to the ND Department of Health COVID-19 Risk Assessment Survey Tool [here](#).

If you do have symptoms - **DO NOT come to work and immediately report through the COVID-19 Reporting Form here: [Reporting Form](#).**

#### **Testing**

Rapid testing (BianxNOW) and PCR testing are readily available to all NDSCS employees and students. All members of the NDSCS community are encouraged to get tested at least weekly – regardless of symptoms or vaccination status. Find various testing options here: [COVID Testing Options](#)

We also have daily testing options for individuals that are close contacts or are symptomatic. Please complete the COVID-19 Reporting Form or call Human Resources at 701 671-2904 or Sandi Gilbertson at 701-889-1062.

#### **Vaccinations/Boosters**

NDSCS strongly encourages eligible individuals to become fully vaccinated. Various no-cost vaccination opportunities are available here: [Vaccination Options](#) or you can also use the following vaccine locator to find an opportunity that best fits your schedule and location: [Vaccine Locator](#). If you are not yet fully vaccinated, please consider doing so for your own protection and for those around you.

#### **Face Coverings**

NDSCS does not currently require the use of face coverings, and we hope we don't ever have to go back to doing so. All members of the NDSCS community are encouraged to wear high-quality, well-fitted face coverings, especially in group settings or when physical distancing is not possible. The NDSCS COVID-19 response plan allows for individuals to require the use of face coverings in individual offices, classrooms/labs, or other areas. Signs for posting that face coverings are required can be found here: [NDSCS Face Covering Required Sign](#).

### **KN95 Masks Available this Week**

NDSCS recently acquired a supply of KN95 masks that are available for employees and students. As with all masks/face coverings, no item is perfect, but this will provide users an additional option. Use recommendations will be provided with these masks. The **KN95 masks are available** for pick-up at: Human Resources (Haverty Hall); Academic Programs Support Office (Tech Center); Student Success Center (Old Main); Customer Service Desk (Hektner Student Center); Patterson Maintenance Center (front desk); NDSCS-Fargo (front desk); and other student-friendly locations. The 'sanitation stations' located at most building entries and in many learning spaces continue to be stocked with disposable masks and other prevention supplies.

We need your help to keep all members of our NDSCS community healthy. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility as we move through these uncertain times.

Stay well, stay flexible, and stay positive.

#### **Harvey Link**

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