

January 8, 2022

Welcome back, Students!

With the start of the 2022 Spring semester, we are asking the entire NDSCS community to help minimize the risk and spread of COVID-19. Both Wahpeton and Fargo communities are seeing more flu and COVID-19 cases and it is expected that this increase will continue as we start the Spring semester. All students are encouraged to get vaccinated/boosted, be tested at least once per week, wear a face covering, and report through the [COVID-19 Reporting form](#) if you are not feeling well.

Like the fall semester, classes and labs will be held in person, unless previously scheduled as an online course.

### **COVID-19 Testing Information**

NDSCS community members are encouraged to get tested at least weekly. Testing options are available on campus and in the Wahpeton and Fargo communities.

#### **Wahpeton**

**Mondays and Thursdays** (starting January 10)

**11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Harry Stern and Ella Stern Cultural Center**

- This event uses BinaxNOW screening/testing, a **rapid test** meaning the results are texted/emailed to you in approximately 15-30 minutes. This screening is not as sensitive as the PCR test.

**Monday-Friday | by appointment only at Student Health Services**

- PCR testing is available by appointment Monday-Thursday. This is for those experiencing symptoms or have been notified they are a close contact. Appointments will be made available after individuals complete the [COVID-19 Reporting Form](#).

#### **Fargo**

**Monday-Friday**

**8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at 3051 25 St S, Suite K** (located in the strip mall between Grand Junction & Midwest Vision)

- Binax screening and PCR testing are available at this location. Please indicate that you are an NDSCS student/employee.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Information**

The [COVID-19 vaccine is safe](#), decreases the risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death. And getting a booster shot, when eligible, increases the effectiveness of the vaccine, according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

NDSCS continues to work closely with the Richland County Health Department and Fargo Cass Public Health to provide testing and vaccinations. Vaccination/Booster clinic dates and additional information will be shared as soon as it is available on the [COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination information webpage](#).

### **Isolation and Quarantine Information**

NDSCS is now following the updated NDDoH and CDC recommendations for [isolation and quarantine](#). Any changes will be communicated through email and on the NDSCS COVID-19 webpage.

If you test positive, you need to isolate for at least five days. In most situations, after **five full days**:

- individuals will be released from self-isolation, if they are asymptomatic, or if symptoms are improved, AND they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.
- All those required to isolate **MUST wear a well-fitting mask for five days following end of isolation period while around others.**

If an individual is unable to wear a mask when around others, they will be required to continue isolation/quarantine for a full 10 days. NDSCS Residence Life still has isolation and quarantine housing/meal delivery available for students.

### **Keep Wildcats Well!**

Students are required to report if they are symptomatic, test positive, or are identified as a close contact through the [COVID-19 Reporting Form](#).

**Face coverings are not currently required for students/employees that are not under Isolation/Quarantine protocols** (see above), **but are encouraged**. All students living on-campus will receive a new cloth face mask when they return; students living off campus can pick up their new cloth face mask at the Customer Service Desk (Wahpeton) or at the front desk (Fargo).

The updated COVID-19 Positive Case Procedure for Students and Employees is available [here](#). If you have specific questions, please contact the Student Success Center.

We all have a responsibility to minimize the risk and spread of COVID-19. Please help us keep the Wildcat community healthy by getting vaccinated, monitoring your health, using the COVID-19 reporting form, wearing a face covering, and washing your hands often.

The NDSCS COVID-19 Response Team continues to meet at least weekly. Weekly case and protocol updates will continue to be posted every Monday morning on the [NDSCS COVID-19 webpage](#).

Thank you,  
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*Pronouns: she/her/hers*

