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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