

May 21, 2021

Greetings!

Please see [this video](#) for important announcements and information.

We are announcing that at 8 a.m. on Monday, May 24, 2021 NDSCS will shift to following the 'New Normal' ([Blue](#)) COVID-19 protocols and practices. **This is a huge milestone for our College community!**

While the risk and spread of COVID-19 has significantly reduced, it has not been eliminated. NDSCS will continue to monitor the situation.

With the shift to the [Blue Risk level](#), the following protocols will be followed:

- **Occupancy:** In accordance with state guidelines, all conferences, dining, learning, and other spaces shall operate without occupancy rate restrictions.
- **Face coverings:** Face coverings will be *optional* throughout the College community regardless of individuals' vaccination status.
  - All individuals should be comfortable continuing to wear face coverings if they choose.
  - Faculty may require face coverings in specific learning spaces. Face covering requirements cannot be based on vaccination status. Face covering requirements should be placed in the syllabus. Academic Affairs will provide sample syllabus statements to faculty by June 1, 2021.
  - Face coverings may be required in certain areas/offices. Supervisors should be consulted regarding these requirements. Face covering requirements cannot be based on vaccination status.
- **Personal Prevention Practices:** Employees, students, and visitors will be encouraged to practice personal prevention practices to minimize the risk and spread of COVID-19, these include:
  - Getting tested frequently for COVID-19.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer will continue to be available throughout the College community.
  - Avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
  - Cleaning your living/working/learning spaces frequently. Cleaning products will continue to be available through the College community.
  - Screening yourself for symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Do NOT go to work, class/lab or participate in activities if you have any [symptoms](#).
  - Coughing/sneezing into tissues or your elbow.
  - Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces.
  - Getting the COVID-19 vaccine.



- **Environmental Prevention Practices:** NDSCS Facilities Management staff will continue with enhanced cleaning practices. Additionally, many modifications have been made throughout the college to reduce the spread of COVID-19 (e.g. Bi-Polar Ionization Air Purifiers, touchless doors and faucets). If you have concerns or questions about cleanliness, please contact [701-671-2313](tel:701-671-2313).
- **Reporting:** All NDSCS community members (employees and students) must report their symptoms through the COVID-19 reporting [form here](#). You should NOT attend work, class, shop/lab, or participate in any other activities. If you have symptoms, stay in your living space and limit contact with other individuals.
  - NDSCS will continue to monitor positive cases within the College community. These will be reported monthly on June 1, July 1, and August 2.
- **Testing:** All NDSCS community members are encouraged to get tested for COVID-19 frequently (regardless of vaccination status)! Testing is available throughout the summer at NDSCS Wahpeton and in the Fargo community. Please [click here](#) for testing options.
- **Telecommuting:** The NDSCS Telecommuting Policy (606.08) can be found [here](#). Please consult with your supervisor if you have specific questions.
- **Signage/Barriers:** Most signage related to COVID-19 will be removed. However, it will be replaced with new signage with reminders about personal prevention practices. Barriers (e.g. plexiglass) may continue to be utilized, please consult with your supervisor or with Ann McGray, NDSCS Director of Safety and Payroll.

If you have specific questions on what this shift to the blue risk level means for you, I encourage you to contact your supervisor.

Thank you for your continued assistance and compliance – because of your dedication we are to this point.

Stay Well, Wildcats!

John Richman, Ph.D.  
President

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