

COVID RELATED INFORMATION – August 18, 2021

Prepared by the School of Natural Resource Sciences, NDSU

Mask guidance

We are labeled as a high transmission county, which means all people (vaccinated and *especially* unvaccinated/partially vaccinated) should wear a mask in public indoor settings, particularly if individuals are at risk, have someone in their household who is at increased risk of severe disease, or someone in their household who is not fully vaccinated (e.g. children under 12). Additionally, per President Bresciani's 8/17/21 email, NDSU is requiring masks in all classroom settings. Instructors who are able to maintain social distance from students may remove their masks during the class to be heard more easily. (Sources: <https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/safework>, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>, <https://www.health.nd.gov/ndhelps>)

Classroom management and masks

Per the provost's 8/30/21 email, NDSU has implemented a mask requirement for all classroom settings whether such classes are credit, non-credit, training sessions, etc. Faculty members who are able to maintain social distance from students may remove their masks during the class for purposes of being more easily heard. Educational institutions like NDSU have the right to establish appropriate classroom behavior, including the wearing of reasonable protective clothing. Whether its protective goggles in a laboratory or shirt/shoes in regular classes, we have all become accustomed to educational requirements regarding our attire. Masks are new, but they are no different from prior requirements. Medical exemptions for mask wearing can only come from Disability Services (701-231-8463). Students asking for a medical exemption should be directed to that office.

Faculty should take the following steps:

Faculty should set clear expectations about the required use of masks in their classes. In the event that the faculty member has not been strictly enforcing the mask requirement to date, the faculty member should indicate that, starting with the next class meeting, the policy will be strictly enforced.

In the event that one or more students do not wear a mask to a class, the faculty member should remind the student(s) of the mask requirement and indicate that the student(s) must comply.

It is optional but recommended that the faculty member offer non-complying student(s) a mask (a limited supply is available from Central Stores).

If a student continues to violate the mask requirement after being directed to comply, the faculty member may ask the student to leave the class. The faculty member is not required to either provide an alternative learning method or provide make-up opportunities for any missed class requirements.

In the event that a student is asked to leave the class on three or more occasions, the faculty member should contact her/his chair to discuss further action(s). A possible action may be an administrative drop of the class, but this will only be used after a meeting between the student and the chair. This meeting is intended to discuss the situation and gain compliance for mask wearing by the student. I

f the student is disruptive in class beyond non-compliance on mask wearing, the faculty member should file a [Concern and Complaint form](#) with the Dean of Student's Office to determine if a violation of the Code of Student Conduct occurred.

Close contact with infected individual

A close contact is when a person who has been within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative 15 minutes in a 24 hour period. The CDC states that someone who is **unvaccinated** and has had a close contact must quarantine regardless of masking status, while the North Dakota Department of Health states any close contact is exempt from quarantining if both parties were masked. (Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html> , <https://www.health.nd.gov/what-do-if-you-are-close-contact>)

Testing and quarantine guidance

If you have had a close contact and are potentially exposed to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, **always** get tested 3-5 days following the exposure regardless of vaccination status.

NDSU Student Health Service offers rapid testing (as well as PCR) Monday – Friday by appointments. Students may call 701-231-7331 for an appointment. Walk-in testing for those who are asymptomatic is available at Student Health Service on Tuesdays from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. [Information about testing options](#) for faculty and staff is available.

In Fargo, testing & screening are both provided at 3051 25th Street South, Fargo, Suite K, which is located in the Family Fare strip mall, between the Hi-Ho Burgers & Brews and Grand Junction Grilled Subs restaurants. They offer multiple testing options, including the rapid test.

In Moorhead, testing is available at the former Thomas Edison Elementary School, 1110 S. 14th Street, Moorhead. There results will be provided via email approximately 48-72 hours after testing.

Until you get your test results:

Fully vaccinated people:

- Do NOT need to quarantine after exposure unless they are exhibiting symptoms.
- Should wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days following exposure or until their test is negative (if not already masking consistently).

Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated people:

- Should quarantine for 14 days, but may shorten their quarantine under certain circumstances.
 - You may quarantine for 10 days without testing if you experience no symptoms during that time.
 - You may quarantine for 7 days with a negative test and no symptoms exhibited during that time.

If you test negative:

- You do not need to quarantine. Continue safe practices and watch for symptoms.

If you test positive:

- Regardless of your vaccination status, you need to go into isolation.
- People who are in isolation should stay home until it's safe for them to be around others. At home, anyone sick or infected should separate from others, stay in a specific "sick room" or area, and use a separate bathroom (if available).
- Monitor your symptoms. If you have an [emergency warning sign](#) (including trouble breathing), seek emergency medical care immediately.
- If you exhibit symptoms, you can be around others after:
 - 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and**
 - 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
 - Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.
- If you exhibited no symptoms, you can be around others after:
 - 10 days since you had a positive viral test for COVID-19

If you are exposed in any scenario, continue to self-monitor your symptoms for 14 days. (Sources: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>, <https://www.health.nd.gov/what-do-if-you-are-close-contact>)

Faculty and student considerations

If a student reports to an instructor that they are positive for COVID-19, the instructor should ask the student to complete the [online reporting form](#) so that NDSU can reach out to the student and offer support. If all students were wearing masks in the classroom there is no requirement for anyone in the classroom to quarantine. Instructors should notify students of their possible exposure and refer them to the North Dakota Department of Health website which directs them to monitor for symptoms and seeking testing in the case of symptoms being present. An [email template](#) for notifying students is provided.

If quarantined, students should receive support through virtual learning options. Similarly, alternative teaching and work-from-home options for faculty, instructors, and staff should be provided to those who are well enough to continue working remotely. Flexible sick leave and supportive policies should be considered. (Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/ihe-testing.html>)

Please see updated [mandatory student travel guidance](#) and [voluntary student travel guidance](#).