



# COVID-19 Response Plan

Updated August 26, 2022

## Overview

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Mayville State University (MSU) is committed to providing a healthy environment for all stakeholders. Our faculty, staff, and students are our most important assets. To this end, the University will continue to remain focused on providing meaningful teaching, learning, and working experiences for everyone.

This response plan is aimed to identify how MSU can continue in-person operations; with the ever-changing guidance and data regarding COVID-19, this plan will evolve as necessary. Revisions will be in response to various public health conditions and factors, and guidance from local public health units ([Traill District Health Unit](#), [ND Department of Health \(NDDoH\)](#), [North Dakota State Board of Higher Education \(SBHE\)](#)), and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#).

According to the [CDC](#), COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. MSU has continued to approach minimizing the risk and spread of COVID-19 through multiple prevention strategies, including personal prevention practices (such as [handwashing](#), [staying home when sick](#)) and environmental prevention practices (such as [cleaning and disinfection](#)). Throughout this time of disruption, MSU employees and students have adapted to meet the continuously evolving circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Factors and Considerations

For Fall 2022, the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, and guidance and expectations will be based on the outlined (below) factors and any additional guidance provided by the NDUS Smart Restart Taskforce, NDUS, and the ND SBHE. The MSU COVID-19 New Normal Taskforce, under the guidance of the President's Cabinet, will continue to revise plans and develop communication to all stakeholders as conditions evolve.

MSU considers various factors when implementing campus-wide guidance and requirements. Some of the factors include:

- [level of community transmission of COVID-19](#);
- [COVID-19 vaccination coverage](#);
- participation in COVID-19 screening/testing events;
- any local COVID-19 outbreaks or increasing trends; and
- direction or guidance provided by the local public health unit and the [North Dakota Department of Health \(NDDoH\)](#).

Additionally, MSU is a mixed population, that includes individuals who are fully vaccinated and those who are not fully vaccinated; this is an important consideration that guides MSU in making decisions to minimize the risk and spread of COVID-19.

### Resources and Equipment

To reduce risk and continue to align with guidelines, environmental (e.g. barriers, signage, workspaces) and personal prevention practices may be required. To the extent practical, MSU will seek to be consistent regarding the modifications, resources, and/or equipment provided. Centralization of purchasing most necessary items will continue, allowing MSU to maximize resources and enhance efficiency.

## Response Plan (Fall 2022)

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MSU has continued to minimize the risk and spread of COVID-19 through encouraging personal and environmental prevention practices/strategies. Going forward, MSU will continue to facilitate programs, procedures, and guidance that supports the adoption and implementation of these prevention strategies to minimize the risk and spread of COVID-19.

### Communication

As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, MSU will regularly communicate to the campus community regarding any guidance and procedures that will be implemented or shifted to reduce the risk and spread of the virus. Specifically, when updated guidance and expectations are communicated – information will typically include guidance on:

- **Masks/Face coverings**
- **Occupancy**
- **Visitors**
- **COVID-19 Dashboard and case response updates**
- **Other important information**

**COVID-19 Update** messages will be sent, at least, through:

- Employee and Student Official Student Listservs
- [MSU COVID-19 Information](#) website

**Positive Case Update:** Starting Monday, August 22nd, 2022, MSU (within the [MSU COVID-19 Information](#) website) will provide weekly COVID-19 case number (positive/recovered) updates as an indicator of the level of activity of COVID-19 in the campus community, with more frequent updates if determined necessary.

### Personal Prevention Strategies

#### Vaccine access and promotion

Vaccination is the leading prevention strategy to protect individuals from COVID-19 and end the COVID-19 pandemic. Current COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use in the United States are safe and [effective](#), widely accessible, and available at no cost to all.

MSU will continue to work closely with local public health, Sanford Health, and NDDoH to increase vaccine uptake among students and employees by providing information about and offering COVID-19 vaccine and promoting vaccine trust and confidence. This will include offering on-site vaccination options and information about community vaccination opportunities. See the [MSU COVID-19 Information](#) website for additional information regarding vaccination opportunities on campus.

MSU will not require a COVID-19 vaccination (unless necessary for lab/clinical/field experiences for off-site experiences) or verify the vaccination status of students or employees (unless there is a possible exposure). MSU will continue to provide education and recommend that students and employees receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

#### Testing

MSU will continue to offer access to free COVID-19 testing for students and employees at MSU. Testing opportunities will be advertised and shared through various mediums. Members of the MSU community are encouraged to contact Amanda Jordan, Campus Health Nurse, if COVID-19 testing is desired.

## Masks/Face Coverings

- MSU recommends the [proper use of a mask/face covering](#) indoors when social distancing cannot be maintained for both vaccinated and unvaccinated people. Employees and students should always carry a mask with them and be prepared to wear it if desired/needed. This procedure is subject to change at any time.
- All individuals should be comfortable wearing face coverings if they choose.
- See MSU Use of Face Coverings/Masks Policy available within the MSU COVID-19 Information website for more information regarding mask/face covering use.

## Hygiene Promotion and Education

MSU will continue to encourage good hand hygiene and personal prevention and cleaning practices; this will be done by providing sanitation stations across campus and masks available upon request from Amanda Jordan, Campus Health Nurse.

Students, employees, and visitors will be encouraged to:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (especially when entering/leaving public spaces).
- Avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Practice social distancing (maintaining at least a 6 ft. distance from others) whenever possible.
- Avoid interactions with individuals who are showing symptoms of COVID-19.
- Conduct daily self-screenings for symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (e.g. fever, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing) and stay home if experiencing these symptoms.
- Contact Amanda Jordan, Campus Health Nurse, if you are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 by completing the [MSU Illness/COVID-19 Reporting Form](#)
- Cough/sneeze into tissues or your elbow.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects, surfaces, and living spaces.

## Environmental Prevention Practices

### Occupancy/Social Distancing

Guidance will be provided for all learning, dining, conference, and other spaces through various mediums.

- **Classrooms/Labs/other Meeting Locations:** Occupancy may be modified in spaces to enable social distancing pending regular review and communication.
- **Dining/Residence Halls/Living Spaces:** Occupancy and/or visitation may be modified in spaces to enable social distancing pending regular review and communication.
- **Activities/Events:** Pending regular review and communication, events may be shifted to virtual and/or offered in a hybrid model.

## Reporting and Follow-up

Members of the MSU Community are **expected** to notify Campus Health through online [MSU Illness/Covid-19 Reporting form](#) if they have:

- Tested positive for COVID-19
- [Symptoms consistent](#) with COVID-19 (individuals can check their symptoms through the ND Department of Health COVID-19 Risk Assessment Survey Tool by [clicking here](#))

Additionally, employees should report within the [COVID-19 Reporting](#) form if they have been notified by a student or employee that they have symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID-19.

## Quarantine/Isolation

MSU will continue to provide support and outreach, working closely with the NDDoH, to students and employees that have tested positive or have symptoms consistent with COVID-19; please refer the MSU COVID-19 Positive Case/Close Contact Procedure located within the [MSU COVID-19 Information](#) website for more information.

- Quarantine/Isolation processes (e.g. single room accommodations, meal delivery, wellness checks) will be enacted as necessary.
- Approved absences for students from on-campus classes for COVID-19 related illness must be authorized by Amanda Jordan, Campus Health Nurse who will then work with Katie Richards, Director of Student Success and Disability Services to inform course instructors of absence approval and associated conditions.

## Cleaning and Maintenance

MSU facilities services staff will continue to routinely utilize electrostatic cleaning machines in classrooms and office spaces across campus. Diligent cleaning and sanitation practices will continue as in the past with cleaning and sanitation supplies available in shared spaces and provided upon request. MSU facilities staff has continued and enhanced their daily cleaning practices, such as disinfecting high-touch surfaces on a continual basis. If you have concerns or questions about cleanliness, please contact the custodian in your building.