



2021-2022 COVID-19 Guidelines

Last Revised: 8/16/2021

Board Policy Reference:	Board Policy 7010 – Purchases; Bids, Public Lettings Board Policy 7015 – Contracts; Limitations, Exemptions
Statutory, Accreditation, and Federal Reference:	<p>Higher Learning Commission Notification Procedures for Changes to Educational Offerings</p> <p>U.S. Department of Education 34 CFR § 668.3 – Academic Year Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act</p> <p>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission</p>
Related Form(s):	

System and College officials continue monitoring events associated with COVID-19 (Coronavirus) via guidance from the Nebraska Department of Health, and local health professionals. New and revised guidance will be added to this document as additional information becomes available. College campuses will be open, and students will have access to residence halls, dining facilities, libraries, computer labs, and the complete range of student and academic support services necessary to successfully provide in-person delivery for the 2021-2022 academic year.

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1. Protective Measures

1.1. Vaccinations

College employees and students will not be required to provide evidence of vaccinations in order to be on campus or to attend on-campus courses/activities/events. While vaccinations are strongly recommended for all individuals, the Colleges shall not implement mandated vaccinations nor require individuals to disclose their vaccination status. Colleges can promote and offer vaccination by developing educational messaging for vaccination campaigns; hosting on-site vaccinations, either through a mass vaccination clinic or smaller vaccine venues on campus; or offering flexible excused absence options for employees and students to receive vaccinations locally.

1.2. Social Distancing

As of May 25, 2021, the Directed Health Measures established for Nebraska have removed all social distancing restrictions, which allows the Colleges to return to normal operating procedures¹. However, Colleges will continue to draw upon the Social Distancing requirements determined by the Department of Health and Human Services, which would be outlined in any reactivated current Direct Health Measure for the State of Nebraska, and make any necessary changes accordingly.

1.3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

As of May 13, 2021, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidance² removes the requirement of face-covering³ in public settings. While the CDC strongly recommends the continuation of face-covering for individuals who have not been vaccinated, especially in situations where social distancing is not possible, individuals who have been vaccinated no longer need to wear a face-covering or socially distance in public. . Current medical guidance is to wear masks indoors in an area with high rates of transmission, especially for those who have not been vaccinated. At this time, no students, faculty, staff or visitors will be required to wear a mask when on campus unless the President designates the College or Community is experiencing high rates of transmission. Colleges may continue to provide on-campus students, faculty, and staff with face covering as appropriate.

1.3.1. Campus Facilities and Open Spaces

No students, faculty, or staff will be required to wear a protective face covering while on campus. However, individuals who have not been vaccinated are strongly encouraged to wear a protective face covering while on campus, even when appropriate social distancing is occurring. Whether or not an individual has been vaccinated will be based on the honor system, and individuals will not be required to show proof of vaccination.

¹ [Nebraska Directed Health Measures](#) are no longer in effect as of May 25, 2021, based upon the Department of Health and Human Services.

² Existing Center for Disease Control (CDC) [guidelines](#), per May 13, 2021, reduce requirements for social distancing and face coverings.

³ [Per guidance from the Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#), approved face-coverings have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric; completely cover your nose and mouth; fit snugly against the sides of your face and don't have gaps; and have a nose wire to prevent air from leaking out of the top of the mask.

Individuals who have been vaccinated but still wish to wear a face-covering will be free to do so.

1.3.2. Courses and Academic Buildings

No students, faculty, or staff will be required to wear a protective face covering in order to attend on-campus courses, and instructors cannot mandate the wearing of face-covering for students. However, individuals who have not been vaccinated are strongly encouraged to wear a protective face-covering, and all course participants are free to wear face-covering as desired.

2. Continuity of Campus Activities

2.1. Face-to-Face Courses

On-campus courses will return to normal operations, and students are expected to attend in person. All courses shall have a course shell using the College's LMS at the start of the semester.

2.2. Study Abroad Programs

Study Abroad programs can be scheduled for the Spring 2022 academic term and beyond.

2.3. Residence Halls

Multiple students may be assigned to a room in the residence halls. Student housing assignment requests based on vaccination status should be honored if possible; however, the College shall not designate vaccinated versus non-vaccinated housing spaces in dorms (e.g. specific floors or spaces).

In the event a student requests to be assigned a roommate who has been vaccinated, the Colleges must inform the student making the request that the College does not require disclosure or documentation of vaccination status. However, the College may ask a student if they are willing to voluntarily disclose their vaccination status, and the individual room assignment can be made with that disclosure in mind. Students requiring accommodations due to pre-existing conditions or other safety concerns may be provided options for a single room provided they comply with established disability services procedures.

To accommodate required isolation and/or quarantine for a COVID-19 medical reason, Colleges should either designate one (1) residence hall or limited access wing, enter into a contract with a local hotel(s), or identify another suitable location to support students who have tested positive or are experiencing symptoms.

Colleges shall not establish housing guest restrictions/policies based upon vaccination status.

2.4. Athletics

Each College shall follow the rules and guidelines developed by its respective conference or association and state DHM's and Guidance. Colleges may permit related personnel and student athletes to provide proof of vaccination as an alternative to mandatory COVID testing program established by the College for Athletics.

2.5. Dining and Food Service

Dining facilities and food service can return to normal operating procedures, which includes full seating capacity.

3. Academic Policies & Accommodations

3.1. Course Delivery and Scheduling Options

- 3.1.1. Classroom capacity limits can return to normal occupancy limits established by the College.
- 3.1.2. Before or after the semester starts, subject to normal drop/add/transfer deadlines, a student can request schedule or course changes if the student has general concerns about attending classes in person. These requests should be addressed similarly to a student who is unable to attend classes during any specific academic term but wishes to continue their education remotely.
- 3.1.3. The Chancellor can make the comprehensive decision to move all College courses to online/remote instruction should the need arise.
- 3.1.4. At any time before or during the semester, individual student requests will be treated as follows:
 - ADA accommodation requests (which may or may not be COVID-related) must be addressed by the College's ADA Coordinator.
 - COVID concerns not rising to the level of a disability will be treated on a case-by-case basis via faculty and College administrators, similar to how current temporary situations are handled when a student becomes ill or cannot physically attend class.
 - Face mask objections or fear issues will not be treated as an ADA accommodation request.
 - Requests for waivers of the on-campus residency requirements or to be released from housing contracts should be handled in the same manner as outlined in each College's housing rules, regulations, and contracts. A request for a waiver for COVID-related reasons should be addressed as any other ADA accommodation request.

4. Student Reimbursements & Quarantine Protocols

4.1. Students Exposed to, Experiencing Symptoms, or Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

The Colleges shall work closely with their regional health departments for continued testing and tracing as needed, based upon campus and home symptoms surveillance. If a student living on campus begins experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, they should be isolated/quarantined in alignment with DHHS guidelines as indicated by the DHM.⁴

⁴ Center for Disease Control (CDC) [guidance on December 2, 2020](#) establishes two acceptable alternative quarantine periods. Under these options, quarantine can end after ten days without a COVID-19 test if the person has reported no symptoms or after seven (7) days with a negative test result if the person has reported no symptoms.

Colleges cannot provide individual information to the Department of Health and Human Services or the local health department regarding a sick student or employee except as required in conjunction with DHHS COVID testing guidelines.

4.2 Room and Board Refunds

In the event that in-person course delivery is no longer viable on the College campus due to factors resulting from the pandemic during any given academic term, the Colleges will determine the appropriate proration of room and Board refunds. Room and board refunds for individual student cases will be addressed using the existing “Cancellation and Refund Policies” at each campus. For those who are unable to leave or choose not to leave, the residence halls, dining services, and other student services will remain open.

4.3 Tuition and Fees Refunds

Refunds covering tuition and fee expenditures will not be awarded to students when online, hybrid, and remote instruction options are provided to ensure the successful completion of academic credit for all students.