



2022-2023 COVID-19 & Public Health Emergency Standards

Last Revised: 11/07/2022

Board Policy Reference:	Board Policy 6400 – Purchasing of Materials and Equipment Board Policy 6401 – Contracts and Agreements for Services
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 will continue monitoring events associated with COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and emerging Public Health Emergencies via guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Nebraska Department of Health, and local health professionals. New and revised standards will be added to this document when warranted or 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 unless otherwise notified. If a College needs to make emergency purchases to respond to issues emerging from a Public Health Emergency, the "emergency" clauses in Policy 6400 Purchasing Materials and Equipment and Policy 6401 Contracts and Agreements for Services shall be used.

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1. Protective Measures

1.1. Vaccinations

College employees and students will not be required to provide evidence of vaccinations and/or boosters 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.

1.2. Social Distancing

Colleges will continue to draw upon the Social Distancing requirements determined by the Nebraska 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)

While the CDC strongly recommends the continuation of face-covering for individuals in situations where social distancing is not possible, individuals are no longer required 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. In the event of high rates of transmission, the President may encourage students, faculty, staff or visitors to wear a mask when on campus. Colleges may continue to provide on-campus students, faculty, and staff with face covering as appropriate.

1.3.1. Courses and Academic Buildings

Instructors cannot mandate the wearing of face-covering for students. All course participants are free to wear face-covering as desired free from harrassment.

2. Continuity of Campus Activities

2.1. Face-to-Face Courses

Students are expected to attend in person for courses designated as on-campus face-to-face courses. 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 may be scheduled, and should be evaluated drawing from updated CDC guidance on current public health emergencies.

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, or alternative public health emergency 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-19 or public health emergency testing programs established by the College for Athletics.

2.5. Dining and Food Service

Dining facilities and food service shall function using normal operating procedures, which includes full seating capacity.

2.6 Campus Admission and Recruitment Activities

Each colleges' recruitment staff are permitted to travel and attend off campus recruitment activities without restrictions. Additionally, on campus recruitment related activities can be held without special requirements or limited capacities.

3. Academic Policies & Accommodations

3.1. Course Delivery and Scheduling Options

- 3.1.1. Classroom capacity limits shall be at 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. Beyond responding to student-initiated requests for temporary remote access, faculty do not have the authority to alter course modality.
- 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-19 or related public health emergencies 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 given the option of returning home until it is safe to return or be isolated/quarantined in alignment with DHHS guidelines as indicated by the CDC.¹

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-19 testing guidelines.

4.2 Room and Board Refunds

In the event that in person course delivery is no longer viable on the College campus, the 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 unless extreme circumstances dictate otherwise.

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.

¹ Center for Disease Control (CDC) [guidance](#) establishes acceptable isolation and quarantine periods for individuals who are exposed to COVID-19.