



Delaware State University

COVID-19 Campus Operations Policy

This policy shall provide the guidelines under which Delaware State University's will operate subsequent to coronavirus (COVID-19). There are obviously heightened levels of uncertainty and concern as this virus has spread around the world. Delaware State University, along with all other institutions of higher education, have taken reasonable and cautious measures to help slow and stem that spread. Now is the time to move forward with our "new normal."

Working in close communication with federal, state and local government officials as well as state health officials and in consideration of guidelines from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the American College Health Association (ACHA), the University has established the following preventative measures and requirements under which the University will operate until further notice. This policy is applicable to all faculty, staff, students and visitors to the University. Our goal is that these prudent measures will safeguard our students, employees, and community, ensuring a safe work environment and educational continuity for all.

COVID-19, is a highly infectious, life-threatening disease declared by the World Health Organization to be a global pandemic. There is no current vaccine for COVID-19. COVID-19's highly contagious nature means that contact with others, or contact with surfaces that have been exposed to the virus, can lead to infection. Having said that, none of us can guarantee a COVID-19-free environment. This is simply not feasible. It would be disingenuous to suggest otherwise. Taking steps to minimize the risk of COVID-19 infections (or any other spread of disease) at the University is a shared responsibility. Every member of our community – including you – must do their part.

By coming onto campus and/or participating in campus activities, students, staff, faculty and visitors acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19, the fact that it can be difficult to identify in another, and the inherent risks of exposure at the University to those who may be infected with COVID-19. Therefore, individuals may contract COVID-19. We certainly do not wish this on anyone, and we are taking all recommended steps to mitigate this risk, but we cannot categorically guarantee this will not happen.

I. Sanctions

Any student, faculty or staff member who fails to comply with this policy may be violation of the University's policies and/or Student Code of Conduct and could subject him/her to sanctions up to and including expulsion or termination from University.

II. Screening Protocol

All faculty, staff, students and visitors are required to complete the [COVID Screening Form](#) **on the date of entry, before reporting to campus**. Residential students are required to complete the screening form **daily, prior to leaving their residence hall for the day**.

Any faculty, staff, or visitors exhibiting any of the symptoms of COVID-19 or who may have potentially been in close contact with anyone with COVID-19 may not come on campus in order to limit the spread of the virus. Residential students should remain in their rooms and contact Student Health at studenthealth2020@desu.edu for further assistance.

Information from the CDC relating to self-care for individuals with COVID-19 can be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/>.

III. Face Coverings

On April 25, 2020 Governor Carney issued a [13th Modification](#) of the Declaration of the State of Emergency. In compliance with this modification, effective May 1, 2020, the University began requiring that, while on campus, all faculty, staff, students and visitors wear a face covering except where a medical condition exists that would prohibit wearing a face covering.

Exceptions to wearing facial coverings include:

- While alone in a private office or residence
- While eating and at least 6 feet away from another person

Any additional exceptions to this requirement are outlined specifically in departmental and shared program policies and must be followed accordingly.

The University has a limited number of disposable face masks which are being reserved for Campus Police, Student Health operations, and visitors. The University will provide reusable/washable face coverings for regularly reporting staff, faculty and students.

Instructions on how to make your own face covering can be found [here](#).

Wearing a face covering is part of the continued effort at DSU to limit the spread of COVID-19. Face coverings protect the community by reducing exposure to potentially infectious respiratory droplets. Proper face mask use includes:

- a. Covering your **nose and mouth**.
- b. Washing your hands before and after adjusting the face covering.
- c. Washing the face covering after it becomes soiled or moist.

Any faculty or staff member who has a medical condition that prohibits him/her from wearing a face covering is required to provide documentation from their physician verifying their exemption from the face covering requirement to Human Resources.

Any student who has a medical condition that prohibits him/her from wearing a face covering is required to provide documentation from their physician verifying their exemption from the face covering requirement to the Student Accessibility Services office.

Disciplinary action may be taken against any faculty, staff or student who does not adhere to the face covering requirement.

IV. Suspected or Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

The University continues to urge all faculty, staff, students and visitors to practice COVID-19 personal safety protocols consistently:

- Be sure to continue with infection control measures such as frequent hand washing and social distancing.
- Monitor for symptoms of COVID-19, which are fever of 99.5°F or higher, chills, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle/body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion/runny nose, nausea/vomiting, and/or diarrhea.
- If you have any symptoms of COVID-19, contact your health care provider. If you do not have a local health care provider, call the Division of Public Health Call Center at 1-866-408-1899 (Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Saturday/Sunday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.) or call the Bayhealth hotline at 302-310-8477 or email coronavirus@bayhealth.org (Monday-Friday, 8:15 a.m. - 6 p.m.).
- Students and Employees: Please notify the Student Health Center at 302-857-6393 if you are having any symptoms of COVID-19 or have any questions. You must also send notification of your condition to the following emails:

Students: studenthealth2020@desu.edu

Employees: covidtestresults2020@desu.edu

The Student Health Center staff will be available by phone Monday through Friday to answer questions during its regular hours of operation from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Anyone who has been diagnosed as having contracted COVID-19, is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, or been in close contact with someone who has, must obtain medical clearance before return to the University will be allowed. **This clearance must be received by, and approved by, the Student Health Center prior to returning to campus.**

Residential students will be provided isolation and quarantine housing as detailed in Section VII.

V. Negative Test and Medical Clearance

Staff, faculty and students who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms, have known/suspected exposure to COVID-19, or test positive for COVID-19, will be required to provide proof a negative test and/or medical clearance which is acceptable to the University from a medical provider who is an M.D., O.D., N.P. or P.A. To be acceptable, the medical clearance must confirm the following: (1) staff/faculty/student has tested negative for COVID-19 or a statement by the medical provider that an additional test is not deemed medically necessary; (2) the presenting symptoms (if any) have been determined to be associated with a known, non-COVID illness or condition, and (3) the presenting symptoms are unrelated to COVID-19.

VI. COVID-19 Testing

All students, staff and faculty who work at or engage in academic activities at the University, must participate in the University's COVID-19 testing program. This will require that students, staff and faculty undergo COVID-19 testing at time(s) and place(s) as directed by the University.

VII. Isolation and Quarantine from COVID-19

If any student residing in on-campus housing becomes ill with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 and cannot be safely transported home, that student will be relocated to an isolation/quarantine location established by the University. The Student Health Center will assist in coordinating the health care needs of affected students. Students that are identified as a close contact of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be required to self-quarantine in their residence hall room or may return home.

Any employee who becomes ill with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 must not report to campus or will be required to return home immediately (if already on campus). The employee must contact Human Resources immediately to provide notice of the suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.

If an employee is identified as having close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, he/she will be required to remain off campus and must obtain medical clearance to return (see Section IV).

VIII. Social Distancing

Limiting face to face contact is a best practice to reduce the spread of COVID-19. When that is not feasible, all University community members are required to maintain the recommended social distance of at least six feet from each other. Residence Halls, student classrooms, employee work locations and shared community spaces will be modified to accommodate the necessary physical distancing, when feasible.

IX. Athletic Programs

University athletic programs will operate in accordance with directives and protocols set forth by the NCAA, MEAC, CDC, and the State of Delaware. The University may be required to alter athletic programs accordingly.

X. Events

All events held at University locations will follow the applicable State of Delaware Reopening Plan as it applies to University operations. The current plan can be viewed below:

Phase 2: <https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/reopening/phase2/>

All campus events must be approved by Enterprise Risk Management. Please contact Tamara Stoner, Director of Enterprise Risk Management at tstoner@desu.edu.

XI. Operation Policy Changes

The policy stated above is subject to change based upon CDC guidelines, other state health authority, state and federal laws, or University operational needs. The University reserves the right to modify any and all parts of this policy at any time without prior notification.

Additional Tips for Keeping Safe During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Remember to follow preventative measures no matter how many employees and/or visitors are in your work location:

- Physical distancing
- Stay home when sick
- Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds
- Use an at least 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available
- Use cough and sneeze etiquette
- Clean all high touch surfaces regularly

Please refer to the Division of Public Health's Essential Services Screening Recommendations for COVID-19 Pandemic for additional information. https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/177/2020/07/7.21-Essential-Services-Screening-Policy_final.pdf

If you have questions or concerns? Call the DSU Coronavirus Hotline at 302-531-5554