

Faculty COVID FAQ

As a faculty member, what can I expect for the Spring '21 semester?

Spring 2021 Reopening Plan *(to be published on 1.14.21)*

[Spring 2021 Academic Calendar](#)

[Spring 2021 Eight-Week and Four-Week Course Drop Dates](#)

Instructional Format

Face-to-Face Instructional Method Some currently scheduled face-to-face 16-week courses will be moved to larger classrooms to comply with social distancing requirements. Instruction will continue as usual with all students and faculty wearing face masks and maintaining social distancing.

Blended Instructional Method Some face-to-face courses that are not able to be moved to classrooms that can accommodate the entire number of students enrolled will use blended instructional methods to be determined by the individual faculty member teaching the course. Faculty will use the blended methods that work best for the content to be taught. These may include:

- **Synchronous distance learning:** In these courses, faculty will assign groups of students to attend class on certain days of the week and others to participate via live videoconferencing (e.g., Zoom, Teams, Virtual Classroom) from their place of residence or a computer lab on campus. Groups will rotate by days. If participating from a computer lab on campus, students must supply their own headphones or earbuds.
- **Asynchronous activities in Brightspace.** In these courses, faculty will assign groups of students to attend class on certain days of the week and others to complete online activities in Brightspace, such as watching pre-recorded lectures and instructional videos, participating in electronic discussion boards, completing quizzes, reading, working on projects, etc. Groups will rotate by days.
- **Combination:** In these courses, faculty will assign groups of students to attend class on certain days of the week and others to participate via live videoconferencing and/or complete asynchronous activities in Brightspace. Groups will rotate by days.

Online Instructional Method A small number of face-to-face 16-week courses will be converted to 16-week fully online courses. Students whose face-to-face courses are converted to a 16-week online format will not be charged the regular online technology fee.

Classroom and Labs

All classrooms and labs have been assessed for social distancing requirements. Students will be required to sit in desks and chairs that have a 6-foot radius between them. Desks and chairs that may not be used will be clearly marked. Faculty and students will not be permitted to move desks, tables, or chairs.

Faculty will be required to stand/sit beyond six feet of the students. Instructor space will be clearly marked.

¹ <https://www.neiu.edu/about/coronavirus-response/frequently-asked-questions/covid-19-faculty-frequently-asked-questions>

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Students and faculty are advised not to move around the classroom during class.

Students and faculty are required to wear masks/face coverings during class.

Classes will begin and end as scheduled.

How will the faculty be notified if a student is required to quarantine or isolate?

The COVID Response Team will update faculty members of students who have been instructed to either (1) quarantine (come into direct contact with a COVID suspected person) or (2) isolate (received a positive test and/or is symptomatic) on the day or day after the paperwork has been processed through Health Services. The email will include a projected release date of the student from quarantine or isolation.

Many of our students may contact instructors prior to their paperwork being processed through Health Services. If a faculty member would like to check the student's status, please reach out to the COVID Response Team COVIDResponseTeam@mckendree.edu.

What is the policy regarding face coverings in the classroom?

Face masks must fit snugly to the face to help prevent the spread of the virus. Neck gaiters, bandanas, face coverings with valves, and face shields should **not** be worn, except in limited situations, such as athletic practices.

In addition to wearing masks, the campus community will need to maintain a minimum six-foot social distance from others, wash their hands regularly, stay home if they are feeling sick, and avoid large gatherings.

What is the faculty responsibility regarding reporting COVID-19 scenarios if a student discloses positive results, exposure and/or signs and symptoms? ¹

Faculty and staff are required to report positive and presumptive COVID-19 cases and exposures to the COVID Response Team. This is not considered a breach of confidentiality. Due to the current COVID-19 public health emergency, the U.S. Department of Education has made an exception to FERPA student privacy rules. The disclosure of personally identifiable student information to parents, law enforcement officials, trained health care professionals and public health officials is permissible to protect the health and safety of others. ¹

What is my responsibility regarding reporting COVID-19 scenarios if I have a positive test result, exposure and/or experience signs and symptoms of COVID-19?

Employees with positive COVID-19 tests must notify their direct supervisor, who will then notify the Office of Human Resources. Employees with a positive test should stay home and take the following necessary steps to ensure the safety of others: Remain isolated at home and away from others for at least 10 days since COVID-19 symptoms first appeared (or for asymptomatic individuals, from their test date) and at least 24 hours from last fever (without using fever-reducing medications) and improved symptoms, whichever is longer. ¹

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Employees with exposure must notify their direct supervisor, who will notify the Office of Human Resources. Employees with an identified close contact exposure, including in the workplace, should stay home and take the following steps to ensure the safety of others: Do not go to work, classes or public settings for 10 days from the last day of exposure to a positive case and monitor for symptoms. Employees can return to work after seven days if a PCR or antigen test (performed on days 5, 6, or 7) is negative AND there are no symptoms during daily monitoring.

If symptoms develop, contact your medical provider and be tested for COVID-19; stay isolated until test results return. Please note, negative testing does not clear a close contact to return to classes/public settings sooner than seven days from the date of last exposure. Wearing a face covering does not change the recommendation for quarantine if you have close contact exposure.¹

Employees with COVID-19 signs and symptoms should notify their direct supervisor, who will inform the Office of Human Resources. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever (temperature greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit), chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle/body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting and diarrhea. Employees with symptoms of COVID-19 should take the following necessary steps to ensure the safety of others: Stay home. Contact your medical provider and be tested for COVID-19. Stay isolated until test results return.¹

Where should I direct my students for additional educational resources?

Student Success Center

If a student needs to file for accommodations, they can go to Clark Hall (lower level) or complete the form at the following link.

https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?McKendreeUniv&layout_id=10

Students can make appointments for Tutoring and Writing Center at the following link.

<https://mckendree.mywconline.com/>

Tests will be proctored in Clark Hall (lower level). Students can make the appointments at the following link.

<https://mckendree.mywconline.com/>

Tutoring and writing consultations will be held virtually for the beginning of the semester, Student Success will reevaluate the format throughout the semester.

The testing center, writing center, and tutoring are all by appointment only and must be made 48 hours in advance.

What are the current cleaning protocols for public spaces (e.g., classrooms, restrooms, water fountains)?

Restrooms and classrooms are cleaned daily by the custodial staff using Environmental Protection Agency-approved disinfectants for killing the COVID-19 virus prior to the start of classes at 8:00 AM. Custodians will also clean touch points frequently throughout their shifts. Enhanced cleaning using the electrostatic ionizing

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machine, with an EPA-approved disinfectant for killing the COVID-19 virus, is also used in public spaces and spaces where positive cases have been identified.

Classrooms

We are supplying EPA-approved surface disinfectants for each classroom to enable the instructor to clean the teaching station and students to clean their desks before each use.

If you notice your classroom disinfectant spray and/or paper towels are running low, please contact the Physical Plant at (618) 537-6969.

Water Fountains

Water fountains have been turned off. Water bottle filling stations are still active and are cleaned daily.

Hand Sanitizer Stations

Hand sanitizer stations are located throughout campus and wiped down daily.

Are we surveillance testing our students, faculty and staff?

We will continue to partner with the Illinois Department of Public Health and St. Clair County Health Department to provide convenient, free mobile testing on campus this semester. All Bearcat community members are encouraged to take advantage of the testing throughout the semester. To return to the classroom, all faculty (full and part-time) and students need to verify that they are COVID-free. Specific information is available on our website at [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) Campus Updates](#).

During the spring semester, all of our athletic teams will be participating in competitive sporting events. Athletic surveillance testing protocol has been developed and sorted into three categories:

- **High risk transmission sports** (Football, M/W Basketball, M/W/ Wrestling, M/W Hockey, M/W Water Polo, Cheer and Rugby) – In season: Antigen/PCR testing once weekly (within 72 hours of competition, if possible). Out of season: Antigen surveillance testing 25% every two weeks.
- **Medium risk transmission sports** (Baseball, Softball, Lacrosse, M/W Soccer, M/W Indoor Track & Field, M/W Volleyball – masked, Powerlifting, and Dance) – Antigen surveillance testing 25% every two weeks.
- **Low risk transmission sports** (M/W Bowling, M/W Cross Country, M/W Golf, M/W Tennis, M/W Outdoor Track & Field, Bass Fishing, M/W Swimming) – Antigen surveillance testing 25% every two weeks.

How do I stay up to date on our campus COVID information and COVID numbers?

Please visit [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) Campus Updates](#) for all McKendree related updates.

Who should I contact if I have any additional questions?

Please contact the COVID Response Team, COVIDResponseTeam@mckendree.edu, or your faculty representative, Sara Trask, sltrask@mckendree.edu.

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