

Fall Semester 2021 Frequently Asked Questions

(as of August 12, 2021)

COVID 19 AND VACCINATIONS

1. Q: Is there a vaccine requirement, or may we require vaccines of students or staff?

A: Effective September 8, all state agency employees, including employees of Minnesota State and Normandale Community College, who are assigned to work at the workplace or otherwise provide agency services outside their home are required to either show proof of full COVID-19 vaccination or be tested at least weekly. Teleworkers who wish to access the workplace for more than 10 minutes or provide agency services outside their home will be required to show proof of full COVID-19 vaccination before being allowed to do so.

We are working on how employees will attest to your vaccination status and how you will access testing and will share details with you in the coming weeks.

While there is currently no vaccination requirement for students, we will continue to highly encourage you to get vaccinated. Normandale has signed on to the White House COVID-19 College Vaccine Challenge. The Challenge includes three commitments, and we are in the process of developing strategies for them:

- Ensure all members of the campus communities know they are eligible for the vaccine and knows where to get one.
- Identify champions for vaccine efforts across the campus and implement a plan to get as many members of the campus community vaccinated as possible.
- Make it easy for campus community members to get vaccinated either on-campus or nearby.

2. Q. Where can I find vaccine and/or testing locations?

A: If you are trying to find a location for COVID vaccines you can go to [VaccineConnector.mn.gov](https://vaccineconnector.mn.gov) to find appointment locations across the state of Minnesota. You can also find COVID-19 testing sites and information at the [Minnesota Department of Health website](https://www.health.state.mn.us/).

3. Q. What should I do if I have contracted or been exposed to COVID-19?

A: First, stay home. Contact Dean of Students Office at DOS@normandale.edu, if you have been exposed, have symptoms, or have been clinically diagnosed. The Dean of Students will contact the Minnesota Department of Health, who will conduct contact tracing.

4. Q: What should I do if I am aware of another student who has COVID-19 or who has been exposed to COVID-19?

A: Contact the [Dean of Students Office](#) with the student's name and any other details that you have. The Dean of Students will contact the Minnesota Department of Health, who will conduct contact tracing.

5. Q: How long do I need to quarantine if I have been exposed to COVID-19? What about if I'm vaccinated?

A: Please consult the Minnesota Department of Health for [current guidelines](#).

SAFETY ON CAMPUS

1. Q: Is there a mask requirement on campus?

A: All employees, students, and visitors, including contractors and vendors, must wear a face covering when inside college facilities, regardless of vaccination status. Disposable masks are available at the College Services information desk. Individuals alone in a private office or work space with the door closed may remove their mask. An individual may briefly lower or remove their mask while actively eating or drinking, but they are required to wear their mask between bites and sips.

2. Q: What is being done to make the campus a safe environment for students and employees?

A: The campus spaces, furnishings, and schedules will support a minimum of 3' distancing, which is currently recommended by Minnesota Department of Health. Class sizes are capped to support 6' distancing. Based on faculty request, some classes are arranged to support the 3' minimum recommended by MDH. We currently require masking indoors, and we are instituting an employee vaccination and testing policy. Campus signage will describe the college policies in place regarding masking, distancing, vaccinations and other practices. We are promoting vaccine opportunities. Classes are scheduled with at least 30 minutes between them to support air exchange in rooms. Facilities Management provides daily cleaning throughout campus. Additionally, we are in the process of making improvements to the HVAC system that go above and beyond recommended practices.

3. Q: What do I need to do to be safe on campus?

A: We are recommending the following practices:

- Physical distancing by maintaining at least three (3) feet of distance from other individuals at all times
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water frequently throughout the day, but especially at the beginning and end of your time on campus, before eating, and after using the toilet
- If you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, stay home.
- All employees, students, and visitors (including contractors and vendors) must wear a face covering when inside college facilities, regardless of vaccination status. Individuals alone in a private office or work space with the door closed may remove their mask.

4. Q: Will I be safe if I am attending an in-person course this fall?

A: All classrooms and meeting rooms have been evaluated and assigned a safety occupancy maximum based on physical distancing guidelines. We have also built in approximately 45 minutes in between uses of classrooms to ensure that they are properly cleaned. There will also be maximum occupancy numbers will be posted outside each classroom and meeting room. Computer and science labs also have modified occupancy to assure physical distancing. Physical distancing of at least three (3) feet will be maintained in classrooms.

5. Q: Will room capacities go back to normal?

A: The Minnesota Department of Health advises us to maintain 3'-6' distancing when bringing groups or classes together in an environment where the vaccine uptake levels are unknown. Until such time that we have vaccine uptake data on our campus staff and students, we will set up classrooms, offices, and other service spaces with 6' distancing as much as possible.

6. Q: Is a face shield an acceptable substitution for a mask?

A: No, a face shield must be worn in combination with a mask; it is not sufficient on its own.

COURSES

1. Q: Will there be in-person courses offered in Fall 2021?

A: Yes. We are scheduling approximately one-third of our courses to have some in-person component to them. Most of those courses will be a mix of in-person and online. About two-thirds of Fall Semester courses will be online. The Fall Semester 2021 course schedule is online at [eServices](#).

2. What will in-person classes look like?

A: With the safety of students and faculty in mind, we will continue to follow Minnesota Health Department (MDH) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance. We have arranged our classrooms to allow for safe physical distancing spacing of a minimum of 3 feet.

Some in-person courses will be utilizing new technology that will allow the class to take place in two adjacent rooms at the same time. These paired classrooms will allow for sufficient social distancing while creating more in-person availability in selected courses.

3. Q: Will I find out more about the classes I have signed up for before fall semester starts?

A: Please refer to the [Explanation of Course Formats](#) for more information about class formats. As you are registering for courses, **please pay attention to the notes in [e-Services](#)** that provide further detail about your courses. You will continue to receive communication from the college about resources and updates that can help you be fully prepared to succeed in the fall semester. The [Student Resources Checklist](#) provides a great list of resources to be fully prepared for a successful fall semester.

4. Q: What will online and in-person student services look like in Fall 2021?

A: Student services will be a mix of online and in-person. Admissions, Advising, Counseling & Career Center and Student Services are currently providing robust online services and will continue to do so in the fall. In-person services will be available from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Online services will be available from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

5. Q: When will on-campus work and class schedules fully return to normal?

A: We had anticipated resuming normal operations as of January, 2022. However, with the surge in COVID-19 cases, we are now planning to maintain a reduced level of on-campus activity in spring.

At this time, our spring plan will continue to enable social distancing. With new College Services classrooms available in spring, we will be able to offer a higher percentage of face-to-face courses

than we are offering this fall, but it will be a more conservative level of on-campus instruction than is typical.

When the relevant data and guidelines support it, we will move into our “long-term mode,” which calls for routine levels of face-to-face instruction and for employee work to return substantially to campus.

6. Q: What if my major requires face-to-face experiences as part of my academic program, and those offerings are not available in the fall?

A: We are examining all options to make sure we meet minimum requirements for courses that are part of programs with accrediting bodies that mandate certain face-to-face obligations or require face-to-face assessment to obtain certifications. Normandale and Minnesota State are in constant communication with accreditation agencies to make sure we stay within the standards and maintain approval. There are and will continue to be separate communications to students in programs with these accreditation requirements.

7. Q: What if I am still not comfortable coming to campus for courses?

A: Please see [Explanation of Course Formats](#) to see types of courses that do not require on-campus presence. You can search in [eServices](#) for the specific types of courses that will meet your needs. If you need assistance with your schedule please reach out to advisors through [Advising, Counseling & Career Center website](#).

8. Q: What if I only want to take in-person courses?

A: There will be some courses offered 100% in-person and many more will have at least some in-person component to them. Please check [eServices](#) for In Person, Blended/Hybrid and Hyflex. If you need assistance with your schedule please reach out to advisors through [Advising, Counseling & Career Center website](#).

9. Q: Can classes travel outside of Minnesota for college or university related purposes?

A: Domestic travel outside of Minnesota for purposes related to college business is now allowed if approved by the College. International travel continues to be suspended indefinitely. This includes any travel where college or university resources would be spent on travel or attendance or if the employee would be on paid status during the event or session. Waivers will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and you may see study abroad international courses offered that are scheduled for future semesters in anticipation that the opportunities will be available. CDC Travel Guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>

STUDENT SUPPORT

1. Q: The pandemic has made my finances very difficult. Is there any help available for students?

A: Grants of up to \$1,000 are available to students whose finances have been impacted by the pandemic. The easy application is available on the [emergency grant webpage](#).

2. Q: Is there still food assistance available on campus

A: Yes, the [Campus Cupboard](#) offers a variety of food – non-perishable, perishable, and ready-made meals. Hygiene products are also available. In the fall, it will be located in A 1560 near the Fitness

Center.

3. Q: Where can I find additional information?

A: The [Student Portal](#) is a great resource to find key links to all of the student service areas and timely announcements. The [Student Services website](#) is also a great resource to find answers to key questions you have. Also, be sure to regularly check your Normandale student email.

CLASSROOMS AND PUBLIC SPACES ON CAMPUS

1. Q: Will the parking ramp be open in the fall?

A: The parking ramp will not be open Fall Semester but will be open Spring Semester. Students and employees will not be charged the parking fee Fall Semester. The fee will be reinstated Spring Semester.

2. Q: Will we be open to the public in fall? For example, will community members be able to come to campus to use the library? Will non-Normandale groups be able to book spaces at Normandale for their events?

A: We will not be open to the public generally, but non-Normandale groups may be able to book spaces for events that conform to the 6' recommended distancing.

3. Q: Will additional doors beside Door 1 be open?

A: Yes. All normal entry doors are now open.

4. Q: What about maintaining physical distancing in common spaces like the Student Center, Library and food services areas?

A: Furniture is arranged so that seating is physically distanced in these spaces. Signs will reflect our policies regarding masks, distancing, and other mitigation requirements or recommendations.

ADDITIONAL COVID-19 QUESTIONS

1. Q. What should I do if I have contracted or been exposed to COVID-19, or if I am aware of another student who has been exposed to COVID-19?

A: Anyone who has contracted COVID-19 or been exposed should stay home. If you or another student have contracted COVID-19 or been exposed, please contact the Dean of Students with the student's name and any other details that you have. The Dean of Students will contact the Minnesota Department of Health, who will conduct contact tracing. DOS@normandale.edu

If you have questions that you would like added to this document, send them to NORM-COVID-19 Help@normandale.edu

