

Spring Semester 2022 COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) as of December 15, 2021

1. Q: What will the Spring 2022 class schedule be like?

A: The Spring 2022 class schedule continues to support safety strategies currently in place on campus. Classroom capacities and class sizes are based on 6' distancing and rooms will be set up accordingly. A block schedule with at least 30 minutes between classes will enable air exchanges in rooms between classes. We will introduce new College Services classrooms in Spring 2022, which will enable us to offer more face-to-face classes than we could in Fall. Please check [e-Services](#) to view options for the Spring Semester.

2. Q: What will in-person classes look like?

A: Class sizes are capped and classrooms are arranged to support 6' distancing. We currently require masking indoors, and we have instituted an employee vaccination and testing policy. Campus signage will describe the college policies in place regarding masking, distancing, vaccinations and other practices. Additionally, we are in the process of making improvements to the HVAC system that go above and beyond recommended practices.

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

A: Please refer to the Explanation of Course Formats (*at the end of the document*) 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 spring semester.

4. Q: What will on-campus services look like in Spring 2022?

A: Starting Spring Semester, we will return to regular service hours on campus. **This means that both in person and virtual student services will be available Monday-Thursday from 8 am to 5 pm and Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm.**

During the weeks of January 3 and January 10, Student Services will provide extended service hours, Monday-Thursday, 8 am to 6 pm and Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm, and with regular service hours resuming the week of January 18.

We will scale the on-campus services appropriately to serve the increasing numbers of students we anticipate being on campus in Spring, as compared to Fall term. We will also continue to monitor COVID transmission levels, vaccine uptake in the college community, and guidance from MDH and CDC to determine if any changes will occur.

- 5. Q: What if I am still not comfortable coming to campus for courses?**
A: Please see Explanation of Course Formats (*at the end of the document*) 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 the [Advising, Counseling & Career Center website](#).
- 6. Q: What if I only want to take in-person courses?**
A: There will be courses offered 100% in-person and many more will have at least some in-person component to them. Please check [eServices](#) for In Person, and Blended/Hybrid. If you need assistance with your schedule please reach out to advisors through the [Advising, Counseling & Career Center website](#).

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 application is available on the [emergency grant webpage](#).
- 2. Q: Is there 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. The [Campus Cupboard](#) is [located in A 1565 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.

Vaccination and Testing Policies

- 1. Q: Is there a vaccine and testing requirement for employees?**
A: As of September 8, a policy applies to all employees, including student workers, on-site vendors and contractors, volunteers, and interns. If you are required to be on campus for more than 10 minutes at any given time, or otherwise provide services as a college employee outside of your home, you must either: (1) provide proof of being fully vaccinated; or (2) consent to, and participate in, at least weekly medical testing for the COVID-19 virus.

2. Q: Are there vaccine requirements for students?

A: Minnesota State does not have a vaccination and testing requirement for all students. However, colleges and universities will require vaccination or a negative test on a weekly basis for specific student groups or populations. At Normandale, the vaccine and testing policy applies to student workers, volunteers, and interns; students in extracurricular theatre productions; students paid stipends for serving in leadership roles; and those directed by clinical sites to comply.

We are encouraging all students to become vaccinated. We are offering [vaccine events, incentives, and promotional and educational content](#) throughout the fall and promoting other [vaccine opportunities in Bloomington](#) and at vaccineconnector.mn.gov.

Facilities, Distancing, Masks

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

A: All employees, students, and visitors, including contractors and vendors, must provide and correctly wear a mask when inside college facilities, regardless of vaccination status. Correctly wearing a mask means the mask covers both mouth and nose. 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. Individuals alone in a private office or workspace with door closed may remove their mask. If you have any questions, contact the Dean of Students at dos@normandale.edu.

2. Q: Will the College provide masks?

A: A reusable Normandale-branded mask is available to each employee and student. Watch the Student Roar Newsletter announcements and Welcome Week/Ask Us events the first week of classes for details on how to get one.

Though we previously offered disposable masks to visitors who needed one, this is unsustainable for us. The College is requiring all individuals to arrive wearing their mask and following the mask wearing protocols.

3. 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.



4. Q: What if I have been exposed to COVID, have COVID symptoms, or test positive?

A: Please contact Jason Cardinal, Dean of Students at dos@normandale.edu. Dean Cardinal will gather all relevant information, provide guidance on quarantining, testing or other guidelines; conduct contact tracing as needed; and monitor for campus clusters that may require further mitigation. Please do not impose quarantines or other steps outside of the contact tracing process. The College is working in accordance to [Minnesota Department of Health \(MDH\)](#) and Minnesota State protocols. The guidelines on who needs to quarantine and for how long will be determined by the contact tracing process.

5. Q: Is campus open to the public for community members?

A: We will not be open to the public generally, except for approved events.

6. Q: Will the parking ramp be open in the spring?

A: The parking ramp will be open in the Spring Semester. Students and employees will be charged the parking fee for the Spring Semester.

7. 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 at dos@normandale.edu with the student's name and any other details that you have. The Dean of Students will contact the student and coordinate with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

8. Q: Will the Fitness Center and Gym be open?

A: The Fitness Center has open hours, please see the [current Fitness Center hours](#) on the website. The Gym does not have open hours.

9. Q: What is the protocol for enforcing masking?

A: All employees, students, contractors and visitors are required to wear a mask in all campus buildings. This is reinforced through signage at entry points and within buildings as well as online and in social media. The following statement lays out the expectations for masks on-campus and in public areas:

Mask use is required in all campus buildings, including in classrooms. Coming to class ready to learn means wearing a mask during your time on campus. Everyone is required to bring and wear their own mask on campus and will be denied entry to campus buildings without one. If you have any questions, please email the Dean of Students at dos@normandale.edu.

10. Q: What about maintaining distancing in common spaces like the Student Center and Library?

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.

Students who are unwilling to wear a mask as required may be subject to disciplinary action. Incidents of non-compliance by employees may be reported to the Dean of Students.

11. Q: What is being done to make the campus a safe environment?

A: The campus spaces, furnishings, and schedules will support recommended distancing. Class sizes are capped and classrooms are arranged to support 6' distancing. 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 a series of ten-minute air exchanges 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.

12. Q: What is the state of the air handling system on campus?

A: Normandale Facilities Management works with mechanical engineers and a heating/cooling contractor on an ongoing basis to keep us as safe as possible and mitigate risk. The College uses a dual filter system that is changed every couple of months. The College Services renovation has all new state of the art air handling and mechanical equipment with digital controls and Merv (Minimum Efficiency Reporting Values) 13 filter systems that go above and beyond the ASHRE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers) COVID standards. Facilities Management has engaged a consultant to determine if there are other improvements to the system that can be made. We have begun making recommended changes and have set aside funding for them. We will also have an engineer that will test each of the changes made to make sure that the changes made are doing what they are supposed to be doing mechanically.

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

A: Normandale will consider transmission levels and vaccine rates to determine when room capacities can change or go back to normal.

14. Q: How is everyone guided on maintaining six feet of distance in classrooms?

A: Normandale has used 6' distancing to establish classroom capacities and furniture arrangements in classrooms and elsewhere. In classrooms, we are asking everyone to help maintain room setups the way they were upon entering the room and to try to make sure assigned activities to support distancing.

15. Q: How early can we go into a classroom, and can we stay late?

A: You may arrive as early as ten minutes prior to the start of the class and stay as long as ten minutes after the end of class. This allows time in between for a series of ten-minute air exchanges in rooms, which we built our schedule to allow.

16. Q: Can students share resources?

A: Students may share resources, but we ask that they maintain the recommended distancing while sharing resources (6' is recommended)

17. Q: What is the recommendation on surface cleaning and disinfecting?

A: Facilities Management is following the MDH and CDC guidelines for campus cleaning and sanitizing. According to the CDC, the risk of surface transmission of COVID-19 is low. Regular cleaning is recommended. Facilities will continue to clean and sanitize spaces daily, and they also give added attention to high traffic areas. We don't require additional cleaning of podiums or other shared items.

Explanation of Course Formats

Course Format	Some in-person campus meetings?	Requirement to attend at specific times?	eServices explanation of format	Other things to know
In Person	Yes	Yes	(Blank)	Some courses will be utilizing technology that will allow the class to take place in two adjacent rooms at the same time.
Blended/Hybrid	Yes	Yes	Classes where 25% to 75% instruction is online with regularly scheduled in-person meeting times.	Specific dates for in-person meetings listed in course schedule. Some courses will be utilizing technology that will allow the class to take place in two adjacent rooms at the same time.
Completely Online Asynchronous	No	No	Classes where 100% of meetings are online with no in-person or synchronous meetings and no in-person proctored exams. (Asynchronous means, “not existing or happening at the same time.”)	Dates show as N/A in course schedule because there are no required meeting dates
Completely Online Synchronous	No	Yes	Classes where 100% of instruction is online, but some meetings and activities will be synchronous. (Synchronous means, “existing or occurring at the same time”)	Specific dates for synchronous meetings listed in course schedule.
Hyflex	Yes, if registered for in-person format	Yes, if registered for in-person format	Instruction is offered in-person with remote (online) *synchronous and/or **asynchronous options. <i>* Students registered for synchronous Hyflex may attend scheduled class meetings in-person or online You have to attend the section you registered for – you can't switch between sections.</i> <i>**Students registered for asynchronous Hyflex will participate online with no scheduled class meetings</i>	Specific dates for in-person meetings listed in course schedule.

	No, if registered for online asynchronous version	No, if registered for online asynchronous version		No required meetings dates.
Mostly Online	Yes	Yes	Classes where more than 75% of instruction is online with up to two possible in-person meetings and four proctored exams, two of which may be administered during in-person meetings. Proctored exams not included in the in-person meetings may be arranged locally. Courses may have an online synchronous component.	Specific dates for in-person or synchronous meetings listed in course schedule.