

Spring Semester 2022 COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) as of March 3, 2021

Face-Covering and Mask Update

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

A: As of Friday, March 4, 2022, Normandale students, faculty, staff, and visitors are not required to wear a face-covering or mask on campus.

You may choose to mask at any time. Normandale honors the many reasons why an individual may still wear a mask.

This update is based on the [CDC's recently updated the metrics](#) used to inform their mitigation recommendations, most importantly including masks. Their measure now has three levels: low (green), medium (yellow), and high (orange). The levels are based on a mix of case rates, total new COVID-19 admissions over 7 days, and the 7-day average of percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied.

With these changes, the Minnesota State system approach is also changing. For colleges and universities in counties in the “low” or “medium” levels, the system will no longer require face coverings in indoor public settings. **In Hennepin County, our community level is medium.**

The CDC has not updated its masking guidance for healthcare and clinical settings. As a result, campus clinical settings, such as dental clinics, nursing, etc., will remain subject to indoor masking requirements until that guidance changes. Specific programs outside of healthcare may also require masking, so please consult current program, licensure, and accreditation requirements for the latest safety guidelines.

Spring Semester Information (as of January 19, 2022, Fall Semester Information will be included by March 14, 2022)

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.**

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 (as of January 19, 2022)

- 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 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 (as of January 19, 2022)

- 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 across the board for all students. However, colleges and universities will require vaccination or a negative test 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; and students paid stipends for serving in leadership roles.

Program-specific COVID-19 vaccination and testing requirements must be completed and may exceed those required by the college. We encourage all students to become vaccinated. See vaccineconnector.mn.gov and [vaccine opportunities in Bloomington](#).

- 3. Q: Is there an option to be tested on campus even if I am fully vaccinated?**
A: Currently, Normandale's onsite testing is only for unvaccinated individuals. We are referring fully vaccinated individuals to the free community testing site in Bloomington (see below). You may also order a [free at-home test](#) from the state of Minnesota, order up to four free at-home tests from the Federal government at covidtests.gov, contact your health care provider to get tested, or go to another [testing](#) site in Minnesota. Your health insurance company will cover or reimburse up to \$12 per test for eight at-home over-the-counter tests per month for each person on the plan. See details [here](#).

Bloomington Community Testing Site (Former DMV Location)
9930 Logan Avenue South
Monday - Friday 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
To schedule an appointment: mncovidtestingappt.as.me

Facilities, Distancing, Masks (as of January 19, 2022)

- 1 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.
- 2. Q: Is campus open to the public for community members?**
A: We will not be open to the public generally, except for approved events.
- 3. 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.
- 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 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).

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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)

13. 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.