



## **COVID-19 Guidance FAQ 2021-2022 Academic Year**

*Updated Aug. 30, 2021. Please note the following information is subject to change as information and conditions change. We will do our best to update you promptly regarding any substantial changes to the information below.*

### ***What is the University's primary directive concerning COVID-19?***

Creighton is committed to providing its students a full in-person learning experience for the 2021-2022 academic year. As vaccinations are our best defense against COVID-19, the University has required students, and strongly encouraged faculty and staff, to be vaccinated. If you are feeling ill or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, notify your chair, associate dean or manager and do not report to campus – regardless of your vaccination status.

### **VACCINES**

*(Rates, fake cards, inquiring if someone is vaccinated)*

### ***What are Creighton's vaccination rates?***

More than 94% of Omaha campus-based students and more than 96% of Phoenix campus-based students are vaccinated for COVID-19 (as of Aug. 26, 2021). With the FDA's Aug. 23 approval of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, all students are now required to be vaccinated unless they have been approved for a medical exemption.

### ***Is it possible/likely that individuals could misrepresent their vaccine status with a fake vaccine card?***

While it is possible that individuals could be misrepresenting their vaccine status, any unauthorized use of an official government agency's seal is illegal and could result in serious legal consequences. Creighton will treat submission of a fake vaccine card as a violation of Standards of Conduct and the Office of Community Standards and Wellbeing will follow up per standard operations for any violation of University rules.

### ***Can a faculty or staff member ask a student if he or she has been vaccinated?***

Although there is a vaccine mandate for students, vaccination status is protected health information, so faculty or staff should not ask students if they are vaccinated.

### **CAMPUS**

*(Dashboard, testing center, contact tracing, outbreaks)*

### ***Will Creighton relaunch the COVID-19 dashboard for campus?***

There are currently no plans to restart the campus-wide COVID-19 dashboards for the Omaha and Phoenix campuses; all tracking is managed by the counties. Please refer to the respective health department dashboard ([Douglas County](#) in Omaha and [Maricopa County](#) in Phoenix) for the most current county information on COVID-19.

***Are we still offering COVID-19 testing on the Omaha campus?***

We are no longer offering testing on campus. If you need a COVID-19 test, you can find many options in [Douglas County](#) (Omaha) and [Maricopa County](#) (Phoenix). In Omaha, students can receive a COVID-19 test by visiting the CHI Student Care Clinic at 24<sup>th</sup> and Cuming streets.

***Is Creighton still doing contact tracing for positive cases?***

Creighton employees are no longer contact tracing on campus. In Nebraska, medical providers and laboratories are required by state law to report positive cases of COVID-19 to the health department. Thus, the health department should provide any necessary follow-up regarding contact tracing. Those contacted for contact tracing are strongly encouraged to cooperate.

***Will we be notified of outbreaks on campus (in the residence halls, etc.)?***

No. However, Student Health Education & Compliance is handling any clusters of cases.

**IN THE CLASSROOM**

*(Face coverings, remote learning/teaching, classroom notifications, student absences, service learning, sanitizing, guest speakers)*

***I am a faculty member. What should I do if I have a student arrive to a class or lab without a face covering?***

Face coverings are required in all classrooms and laboratories beginning Sept. 1 through Oct. 1, after which the requirement will be reassessed. For students who come to class without a face covering, faculty are encouraged to remind them of this requirement and then, for the safety of the entire class, ask them to obtain a face covering before allowing them to enter the classroom or laboratory.

***I am a faculty member. What should I do if I have a student contact me and ask to attend my class remotely this semester because of a health concern?***

Creighton University is not offering students the opportunity to take in-person classes remotely. Students requiring accommodations should be referred to the [Office of Disability Services](#).

***Can faculty run their classes remotely if they are isolating but not feeling ill?***

Faculty who would like to teach classes synchronously and remotely while isolating are asked to have their students still meet in the classroom and have another faculty member set up Zoom in the classroom. Faculty are urged to avoid having students Zoom in from various locales, as this makes it impossible to ensure a standard educational experience for the class. Faculty should follow the Faculty Handbook regarding single or prolonged absences.

***Will faculty be contacted if one of their students tests positive for COVID-19?***

Not necessarily. Students testing positive should work with Student Health Education & Compliance and their respective health departments for reporting purposes and abide by directives from their care provider. As was the case pre-pandemic, students who need to be absent for an extended period of time will work with Student Life. Faculty will receive email notifications of absences but will not be provided the reason.

Students testing positive who live on campus are being asked to notify their resident advisor and resident director to coordinate a check-in from Student Health Education & Compliance.

***Should faculty notify their class if a student tests positive and/or learns a student is unvaccinated?***

No. You must maintain confidentiality around student health information. Health departments will engage in contact tracing and will contact students in the class if it is appropriate to do so.

***Can faculty penalize students who miss class and don't provide an appropriate verification for being absent?***

Faculty are encouraged to be clear about expectations and consequences for student attendance in their syllabi, and to follow those directives carefully.

***What should faculty do with their service-learning/internship classes?***

It is important for faculty to communicate with community partners, and for students, faculty and staff to follow the highest standards and protocols of the community partner and Creighton University. This is especially important in situations that involve contact with vulnerable or unvaccinated individuals. The expectation is that everyone must follow the community partner's protocols, and those of Creighton University, and this expectation should be clearly communicated in person and in writing on the syllabus.

***Should faculty still encourage students to wipe down classroom spaces after each class?***

Faculty and students are not required to wipe down classroom surfaces after class. However, cleaning supplies are still maintained in the classrooms for those who wish to use them.

***Can I have guest speakers from off-campus come to campus?***

Our campuses are open to guests, including guest speakers. However, all guests must wear a face covering in classrooms and laboratories and are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering in all locations on our campuses. Guests must wear a face covering at all events with 25 or more attendees, and everyone is strongly encouraged to wear a face covering at events, of any size, at which guests are present. If an event or activity includes individuals 16 years of age or younger, all of those present are required to wear face coverings.

**STUDENT EXPOSURE**

***What if a student believes he or she has been exposed to someone with COVID-19?***

**Vaccinated students:**

- Students should contact his or her health care provider or Student Health Education & Compliance and follow any directives.
- Students with underlying health issues or who are considered high risk should contact the CHI Student Care Clinic to schedule an appointment (402.280.3735, option 2).
- Students will need to wear a face covering, and monitor symptoms for 14 days, but in most cases will not be required to quarantine.
- Course attendance policy governs short-term absences. Students who miss class should consult course syllabi to make up work.

**Unvaccinated students:**

- Students should contact his or her health care provider or Student Health Education & Compliance and follow any directives.

- Students with underlying health issues or who are considered high risk should contact the CHI Student Care Clinic to schedule an appointment (402.280.3735, option 2).
- Students will need to continue to wear a face covering and will be advised to obtain a COVID-19 test and quarantine until further directed. (Unvaccinated students, faculty, staff and guests are expected to wear a face covering on campus, whether or not they have been exposed.)
- Students who need to be absent for an extended period of time, as was the case pre-pandemic, will work with Student Life. Faculty will receive email notification of the absence, but they will not be given the reason.

## **FACULTY, STAFF PROTOCOLS**

*(Experiencing symptoms, testing positive, COVID-19 exposure)*

### ***What if I am feeling ill or have COVID-19 symptoms?***

- If you are feeling ill, DO NOT COME TO CAMPUS.
- Contact your chair/associate dean/manager.
- Follow department procedures regarding class cancelation. (Faculty who are absent for more than one class should also notify their associate dean; please see Faculty Handbook.)
- If you believe your symptoms suggest you may have COVID-19, please obtain a test, wear a face covering and monitor your symptoms for 10 days.
- Faculty are encouraged to clearly state on all syllabi procedures for instructor illness.

### ***What if I test positive for COVID-19?***

*The following guidance applies to both vaccinated and unvaccinated employees.*

- Notify your chair/associate dean/manager.
- Work directly with your health care provider for specific directives.
  - The CDC recommends isolation for 10 days after symptoms first appear or a positive test.
  - Nebraska state law requires that positive tests be reported to the health department for the purposes of contact tracing.
  - Isolation can be discontinued after 10 days and at least 24 hours without fever and improvement of other symptoms.
- Notify your chair/associate dean/manager when you plan to return to campus.

### ***I was exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19. What should I do?***

#### **If you are vaccinated:**

- Take a COVID-19 test 3-5 days after exposure. *(If you test positive, see above.)*
- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, contact your health care provider, notify your chair/associate dean/manager, and follow the guidance of your care provider.
- If you are asymptomatic, you should continue to report to work, wear a face covering, and monitor your symptoms for 14 days.

#### **If you are unvaccinated:**

- Take a COVID-19 test 3-5 days after exposure. *(If you test positive, see above.)*
- Contact your chair/associate dean/manager to let them know of the exposure.
- Wear a face covering and quarantine for 10 days while monitoring your symptoms.

## **FACE COVERINGS**

*(On campus, in offices, in departmental spaces)*

### ***Are face coverings required on campus?***

Face coverings are required in Creighton classrooms and laboratories beginning Sept. 1. Faculty members, presenters and guest speakers who are able to maintain at least eight feet of social distance may remove their face covering while addressing classes or other audiences.

Face coverings also will be required in all spaces in the Cardiac Center, the Boyne Building, the Bio-Information Center (BIC) and the School of Dentistry Building on Creighton's Omaha campus and the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust Health Sciences Building in Phoenix, as a precaution due to possible patient interactions.

In addition, Creighton is requiring face coverings to be worn in all indoor spaces at its athletic venues during athletic competitions and other events.

For indoor, in-person organized campus events and meetings of 25 or more people, face coverings will be required. At indoor organized campus events and meetings with 24 or fewer attending in person, face coverings will not be required if at least six feet of social distancing can be maintained among all attendees. Otherwise, face coverings are required.

These requirements will be in effect through at least through at least Friday, Oct. 1, at which time the University will reassess the situation.

### ***Can faculty require students to wear a face covering in their office?***

For faculty who would like students to wear a face covering in their office, it is recommended that they have disposable face coverings at their desk and inform students of this request in their syllabi. Faculty may also offer students the option of meeting remotely. In these buildings, face coverings are required in all spaces: the Cardiac Center, the Boyne Building, the Bio-Information Center (BIC) and the School of Dentistry Building (Omaha) and the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust Health Sciences Building (Phoenix).

### ***Are faculty, staff and students required to wear a face covering in campus spaces outside of classrooms and laboratories?***

Not at this time. However, it is strongly encouraged that face coverings be worn in all indoor spaces on our Omaha and Phoenix campuses. Faculty, staff and students who would feel more comfortable wearing a face covering in other spaces on our campuses are encouraged to do so as well.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

*(Face coverings at events, travel, snow days)*

### ***I am hosting an event on campus with 25 or more attendees. What should I do if someone arrives to the event without a face covering?***

Face coverings are required of all attendees in this situation, beginning Sept. 1 through Oct. 1, after which this requirement will be reassessed. For attendees who come to an event without a face covering, event hosts/organizers are encouraged to remind those attendees of this requirement and then, for the safety of all in attendance, ask them to obtain a face covering before allowing them to enter the event.

***What if I book University travel and then an outbreak causes me to cancel my plans?***

As a reminder, any University-sponsored travel more than 75 miles away MUST be [registered](#) with the Global Engagement Office. The University's preferred travel company, [Concur](#) (formerly Travel & Transport), will help to ensure that trips are strategically sourced, with appropriate travel provisions.

***Will we have snow days?***

The University Policy Committee is working to update our Inclement Weather policy. Look for more information soon.