



2021-22  
SAFETY PLAN  
FOR IN-PERSON  
EDUCATION  
OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY

Due to recent Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidance for fully vaccinated people and Governor DeWine’s decisions to rescind most of the COVID-19 orders of the Ohio Department of Health and to end the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration for the state, Ohio Northern University (ONU) is incorporating several changes into the 2021-22 Safety Plan.

We recognize that no university, nor any other organization, can guarantee an environment free of COVID-19, and we expect everyone associated with the University to understand that there is a risk of contracting the virus here or anywhere. Nonetheless, our highest priority is the health, safety and well-being of every member of the ONU community. To address the COVID-19 risk factors, ONU will rely once again on the unique benefits of our **size** and **expertise**, as well as the **experience** gained from safely and successfully completing the entire 2020-21 academic year in person.

Every member of our community must share responsibility for taking all necessary steps to minimize the risk of COVID-19 infection. This means following the measures included in this Safety Plan, which are informed by national, state and local health directives, by guidance from similar levels of government and by following other relevant University requirements and practices.

Because guidance from various health organizations and government offices may change as conditions and scientific recommendations change, the ONU Safety Plan is subject to change as well. We will continue to review what we have learned from last year’s success and revise our Safety Plan with two primary goals in mind: 1) keep students, faculty and staff healthy and safe, and 2) return as much as possible to normal operations for learning, living and working on campus.

## VACCINATIONS

Approved vaccines are effective in protecting vaccinated people against COVID-19, and the CDC emphasizes the following regarding COVID-19 vaccine efficacy:

- All COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States are effective at preventing COVID-19 as seen in clinical trial settings.
- [Research](#) provides growing evidence that mRNA COVID-19 vaccines offer similar protection in real-world conditions.
- COVID-19 vaccination is an important tool to help stop the COVID-19 pandemic.
- COVID-19 vaccination helps protect people from getting sick or severely ill with COVID-19 and might also help protect people around them.
- To receive the most protection, people should receive all recommended doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Some people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 will still get sick because no vaccine is 100% effective. Experts continue to monitor and evaluate how often this occurs, how severe their illness is, and how likely a vaccinated person is to spread COVID-19 to others.
- CDC recommends you get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as one is available to you.

Based on these facts, conclusions and insights, **Ohio Northern University is strongly encouraging Faculty, Staff and Students (FS&S) to get fully vaccinated.**

ONU requires FS&S to verify their proof of vaccination to the appropriate office (Student Health Center for students, and Office of Human Resources for faculty and staff) in order to follow the Safety Plan policies permitted for the fully vaccinated. Students can email images of completed vaccine cards to [health-center@onu.edu](mailto:health-center@onu.edu). Employees can upload completed vaccine card images through the Records module of PeopleAdmin, [jobs.onu.edu/portal](https://jobs.onu.edu/portal)

### RESPECTING CHOICES AND BEING A KIND AND CARING COMMUNITY

The University recognizes that not everyone in our community may be vaccinated. Please respect individual choices and be sensitive to students and colleagues on campus who are wearing a face covering or practicing other forms of health protection regardless of their vaccination status.

A summary of campus safety measures that will be in place for fall semester is as follows:

#### ALL STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF:

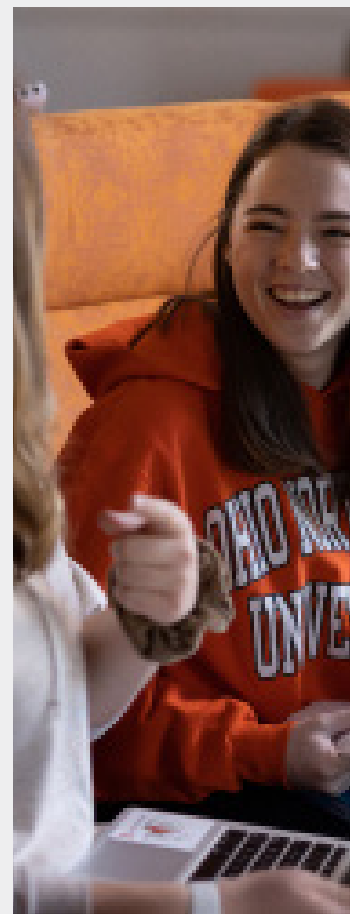
All members of the ONU community will wear masks indoors, if not in a personal office or residence hall space, beginning on Aug. 9. The level of transmission for Hardin County increased from moderate (yellow) to substantial (orange) on Aug. 7, now requiring those who are vaccinated and unvaccinated to mask indoors.

#### FULLY VACCINATED STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF:

- Are exempt from distancing guidelines.
- Are exempt from participating in the weekly ONU COVID-19 testing program upon submitting verified proof of vaccination.
- Are required to be tested 3-5 days after coming in close contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19, and to wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.

#### UNVACCINATED STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF:

- Are required to wear face coverings and maintain distancing (six feet) when possible indoors, except when with roommates or suitemates in residence halls and apartments, alone in an office, or in a cubicle six feet from others. Distancing is not required in classrooms and laboratories where seating may be less than six feet apart.



- Are required to participate in weekly ONU COVID testing program.
- Residential students are expected to isolate off campus if they test positive for COVID-19, unless there are extenuating circumstances preventing them from moving off campus to isolate.
- Residential students are expected to quarantine off campus if they are contact traced (exposed to an individual who tests positive for COVID-19), unless there are extenuating circumstances preventing them from moving off campus to quarantine.

## FACE COVERINGS

All members of the ONU community will wear masks indoors, if not in a personal office or residence hall space, beginning on Aug. 9. The [level of transmission for Hardin County](#) increased from moderate (yellow) to substantial (orange) on Aug. 7, now requiring those who are vaccinated and unvaccinated to mask indoors.

The exceptions for wearing face coverings apply as follows:

- Employees working alone in their offices or cubicles.
- Students in their residence hall room when alone or with roommates or suitemates only.
- While participating in activities in which a face covering cannot be worn or would prohibit respiratory function (like eating, drinking, playing a musical instrument or singing, strenuous exercising, playing sports).
- Individuals with a federally recognized disability and an accommodation that prevents them from wearing a face covering or exceptions from state government or other federal guidelines. Students should contact Disability Services for more information, and employees should contact Human Resources for more information.

In general, FS&S do not need to wear face coverings when outdoors. However, ONU may ask people to wear face coverings in crowded outdoor settings or during outdoor activities that involve sustained close contact. Face coverings are available for purchase at the ONU Bookstore and the ONU HealthWise Retail Pharmacy.

## DISTANCING

FS&S, guests, visitors, vendors and contractors who are fully vaccinated are not required to social distance indoors in campus buildings and in outdoor settings.

FS&S, guests, visitors, vendors and contractors who are unvaccinated should continue to practice physical distancing where possible indoors, except when with roommates or suitemates in residence halls and apartments, or in classrooms and laboratories where seating may be less than six feet apart.

## HYGIENE

Hand Hygiene

- Frequent handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of an elbow.
- Use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

## CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

- Place hand sanitizer in high contact areas of all buildings, classrooms, dining areas and work stations.
- Place surface cleaning products in all bathrooms, classrooms and other shared facilities (e.g. copy machines, coffee stations, etc.) for wiping down surfaces touched before and after every use.

## COVID-19 TESTING

### Pre-arrival Testing for Unvaccinated Students

Before returning to campus, unvaccinated students must provide written results of a negative COVID-19 viral test, which includes either a rapid antigen or molecular test (PCR), taken no more than five days prior to returning to campus. Please note that home COVID-19 testing and COVID-19 antibody tests are **not** accepted. The written test result from a healthcare provider (lab, retail pharmacy, hospital, doctor's office, etc.) should be submitted electronically to covidresults@onu.edu. (Scans or pictures of the test result are acceptable.) Fully vaccinated students are exempt from pre-arrival COVID-19 testing if they report their vaccination record to the Student Health Center by emailing health-center@onu.edu. Unvaccinated students who have had a documented Covid-19 infection in the 90 days prior to return to campus are not required to provide a negative COVID-19 test, and should email their positive test result report to health-center@onu.edu, and bring that report with them upon return to campus.

## On Campus COVID-19 Surveillance Testing for Unvaccinated Faculty, Staff, and Students

Unvaccinated FS&S are required to participate in the On Campus COVID-19 Surveillance Testing program. Effective Aug. 23, the On-Campus Surveillance Testing program will be require those who are unvaccinated to test weekly. The surveillance testing program could change to a random approach if transmission levels improve.

### Symptomatic Testing Protocol

Testing is available on campus for any FS&S who develops COVID-19 symptoms.

Students who are symptomatic and request testing should contact the ONU Health Center for guidance. A testing time will then be secured. ONU HealthWise will conduct the testing and communicate the test results. For students who test positive, the Health Center will collect and log the appropriate information through contact tracing protocols.

Faculty and Staff who are symptomatic and request testing should contact Human Resources or ONU HealthWise for guidance. A testing time will then be secured. ONU HealthWise will conduct the testing and communicate the test results. For any Faculty and Staff who test positive, Human Resources will collect and log the appropriate information through contact tracing protocols.

### QUARANTINING AND ISOLATING

FS&S who have COVID-19 symptoms or have tested positive for COVID-19 will follow the University's requirements to self-isolate or isolate. **Isolation is used to separate people infected with the virus (those who are sick with COVID-19 and those with no symptoms) from people who are not infected.** Unvaccinated residential students are expected to isolate off campus if they test positive for COVID-19, unless there are extenuating circumstances preventing them from moving off campus to isolate.

#### **Quarantine is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others.**

Fully vaccinated FS&S are not required to quarantine if exposed to an individual who tests positive for COVID-19. However, vaccinated individuals are required to be tested 3-5 days after coming in close contact with someone confirmed positive with COVID-19, and to wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result. Unvaccinated residential students are expected to quarantine off campus if they are contact traced (exposed to an individual who tests positive for COVID-19), unless there are extenuating circumstances preventing them from moving off campus to quarantine.

FS&S who are required to isolate or quarantine will do the following:

- FS&S should not go to class, work, lab or participate in campus activities.
- FS&S should work or study remotely from home or campus location.
- Avoid non-essential travel on or off campus.
- Do not share cups, utensils or other similar items.
- Avoid personal contact with others (shaking hands, hugging, kissing) and maintain physical distance of six feet or more.

Students in isolation or quarantine for several class days will coordinate electronically with their professors and academic dean's office for assistance with remote learning. This might involve recorded lectures, the use of synchronous video calls into the classroom, and/or individual interaction with the faculty member via email, a phone call or video discussion. Academic and student support services will continue to be offered.

In accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, ONU will notify local health officials, faculty, staff and students immediately of any case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and other applicable laws and regulations.





Domestic travel:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html#unvaccinated-people>

International Travel:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel-during-covid19.html>

## **GUIDANCE COMPLIANCE**

We will monitor and evaluate our safeguards and measures, continuously updating them to ensure that they are following current guidance from federal and state governments and the local health department.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

- COVID Point of Contact
  - Dr. Kelly Shields, associate dean, College of Pharmacy, will serve in this role and respond to general COVID-19 concerns from the campus community and parents. She can be reached at [k-shields@onu.edu](mailto:k-shields@onu.edu)
- For specific questions about the COVID-19 safeguards and measures being implemented, please connect with the following campus areas:
  - Academic Affairs – [academic-affairs@onu.edu](mailto:academic-affairs@onu.edu) | 419-772-2033
  - Admissions – [admissions-ug@onu.edu](mailto:admissions-ug@onu.edu) | 419-772-2260
  - Athletics – [athletics@onu.edu](mailto:athletics@onu.edu) | 419-772-2444
  - Business Services – [businessservices@onu.edu](mailto:businessservices@onu.edu) | 419-772-2057
  - Dean's Offices
    - Arts & Sciences | [a-and-s@onu.edu](mailto:a-and-s@onu.edu) | 419-772-2130
    - Business | [business@onu.edu](mailto:business@onu.edu) | 419-772-2070
    - Engineering | [engineering@onu.edu](mailto:engineering@onu.edu) | 419-772-2371
    - Law | [lawdean@onu.edu](mailto:lawdean@onu.edu) | 419-772-3051
    - Pharmacy | [pharmacy@onu.edu](mailto:pharmacy@onu.edu) | 419-772-2275
  - Health Center – [health-center@onu.edu](mailto:health-center@onu.edu) | 419-772-2086
  - Housing – [reslife@onu.edu](mailto:reslife@onu.edu) | 419-772-2430
  - Human Resources – [hr@onu.edu](mailto:hr@onu.edu) | 419-772-2013
  - ONU HealthWise Pharmacy – [hwpharmacy@onu.edu](mailto:hwpharmacy@onu.edu) | 419-772-DRUG
  - Student Affairs – [studentaffairs@onu.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@onu.edu) | 419-772-2433
  - Student Success Center – [academic-affairs@onu.edu](mailto:academic-affairs@onu.edu) | 419-772-2033
- COVID Plan Core Team
  - Monitor and implement the Health and Safety Plan.
  - Develop a FS&S education and training program for resuming in-person education for fall semester in response to COVID-19.
- Training
  - Update and alert FS&S on changes to the safety plan, practices and measures.

## **PARTNERS**

- Kenton Hardin Health Department (KHHD)
- Ohio Department of Health (ODH)
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Lima Memorial Hospital (LMH)
- Mercy Health – St. Rita's Medical Center
- Village of Ada

Aug. 9, 2021