



Due to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant and recent Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidance for vaccine status, Ohio Northern University (ONU) is incorporating several changes into the 2021-22 Safety Plan for its spring semester.

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 and 2021 fall semester 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 past success and revise our Safety Plan with two primary goals in mind: 1) keep faculty, staff and students healthy and safe, and 2) return as much as possible to normal operations for learning, living and working on campus.

CHANGE TO DEFINITION OF VACCINATION STATUS

Ohio Northern is adopting the CDC’s latest definition of **up-to-date vaccination status**. **Up-to-date vaccine status** means that you completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine less than six months ago OR you completed the primary series of Johnson & Johnson less than two months ago OR that you have received a booster of any COVID-19 vaccine.

CDC also updated its recommendation for when many people can receive a booster shot, shortening the interval from six months to five months for people who received the Pfizer vaccine. The booster interval recommendation for people who received the J&J vaccine (two months) or the Moderna vaccine (six months), has not changed.

Revised vaccination status and new surveillance testing requirements for faculty, staff and students (FS&S) will go into effect on Jan. 18, 2022. See changes under each heading below.

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 FS&S to be up-to-date with their vaccines, including receiving a booster dose.**

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 those who have **up-to-date vaccination status**. Students can email images of completed vaccine cards to [health-center@onu.edu](mailto:health-center@onu.edu). Employees can send completed vaccine card images to [hr@onu.edu](mailto:hr@onu.edu).

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 spring semester is as follows:

ALL FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS

All members of the ONU community will wear masks indoors, if not in a personal office or residence hall living space, as long as the level of transmission for Hardin County is substantial (orange) or higher.

## UP-TO-DATE VACCINATED FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS

- 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 5 days after coming in close contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19, and to wear a mask in public indoor settings for 10 days or until they receive a negative test result.

## UNVACCINATED OR NOT UP-TO-DATE FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS

**Note:** see the **CHANGE TO DEFINITION OF VACCINATION STATUS** section above.

- 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 (*this now includes FS&S who have not acquired up-to-date vaccine status – see the definition on page 2*).

## FACE COVERINGS

All members of the ONU community will wear masks indoors, if not in a personal office or residence hall space. The [level of transmission for Hardin County](#) is high, now requiring those who are up-to-date 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 up-to-date 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

### Return to Campus Safely Testing for Unvaccinated Students

If you are **NOT vaccinated** for COVID-19 or do not plan to submit your vaccination card information:

1. Schedule and complete a COVID-19 viral test at a laboratory or pharmacy, OR purchase and complete an over-the-counter take-home kit no more than 7 days prior to your campus arrival. Tests may be difficult to find so please schedule your testing appointments or secure your kits now.
  - For students arriving on Jan. 16, tests must be processed after Jan. 9. Student athletes, currently in season, should contact their head coach for specific details.
2. Written results of a negative COVID-19 test must be submitted electronically to [covidresults@onu.edu](mailto:covidresults@onu.edu) (scans or pictures are acceptable).
3. If you have had a documented COVID-19 infection within 90 days of arriving on campus, you are NOT required to provide a negative COVID-19 test. Instead, make sure the ONU Health Center was informed of your positive test. (If you tested positive at ONU HealthWise, the Health Center has those positive results.) You can send lab results of your positive test to [covidresults@onu.edu](mailto:covidresults@onu.edu).
4. Written results of a negative COVID-19 viral test or take-home kit (or a documented COVID-19 infection) must be submitted **PRIOR** to leaving home for your campus arrival.
5. Ohio Northern University strongly encourages all faculty, staff and students to get fully vaccinated.

Please direct any questions about these COVID-19 return to campus safe procedures to the Health Center at [health-center@onu.edu](mailto:health-center@onu.edu) or call 419-772-2086.

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

Not up-to-date and unvaccinated FS&S are required to participate in the On-Campus COVID-19 Surveillance Testing program. Effective Jan. 18, the On-Campus Surveillance Testing program will be required for those who are not up-to-date vaccinated or 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

Isolation is used to separate FS&S with confirmed COVID-19 infection from those without COVID-19. 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. After 5 or more full days

of isolation with improved symptoms and being fever free without the use of fever-reducing medication, FS&S will be required to test with an antigen test. If the test is negative, leaving isolation is permissible and wearing a face covering is required until day 10. If the test is positive on day 5, FS&S should remain in isolation until day 10 and symptoms have subsided. FS&S who are not up-to-date with their vaccines are required to return to the surveillance testing program after 90 days from the positive test date.

### Quarantine

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

**Up-to-date vaccinated** FS&S and those who tested positive for COVID-19 within the previous 90 days are not required to quarantine if exposed to an individual who tests positive for COVID-19. However, **up-to-date vaccinated** individuals are required to be tested 5 days after coming in close contact with someone confirmed positive with COVID-19, and to wear a mask in residential and public indoor settings for 10 days.

**Unvaccinated** and not **up-to-date vaccinated** residential students are expected to quarantine off campus for 5 days from the point of exposure 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. Additionally, **unvaccinated** and **not up-to-date** individuals are required to be tested 5 days after coming in close contact with someone confirmed positive with COVID-19, and to wear a mask in residential and public indoor settings for 10 days.

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.

### CONTACT TRACING

FS&S with a positive COVID-19 test will be interviewed about the persons they encountered for the three days prior to the positive test or the three days prior to experiencing signs of COVID-19, using whichever date is earliest. Anyone encountered who is unvaccinated, if they can be identified and located, will:

- Quarantine if recommended by local public health officials.
- Follow campus health and safety measures.
- Complete COVID-19 testing on day 5 if requested.



## **SAFE CLASSROOMS AND LABS**

- Seating in classrooms will return to normal arrangements that may not permit six feet of social distancing between students.
- Unvaccinated students must wear face coverings in the campus classrooms and labs. Also, some academic programs may require unvaccinated students to follow additional health and safety protocols in laboratory, clinical, or internship situations.
- Cleaning supplies will be available in each classroom and laboratory.

## **ENGAGING CAMPUS LIFE**

### **RESIDENCE HALLS, APARTMENTS, AND FRATERNITY AND SORORITY HOUSING**

- Unvaccinated students are not expected to wear a face covering or social distance in their residence hall room.
- Social distancing and face coverings are required for unvaccinated students in all other public areas of the residence hall, apartment or house – hallways, common spaces, etc.
- No overnight visitors are permitted in the residence halls, apartments or fraternity or sorority housing.

### **CAMPUS DINING**

Campus Dining will offer a full scope of dining services and provide customary quality and value. To increase health and safety, we will reduce the number of chairs at larger tables and consider adding tables in the McIntosh Activities Room if needed.

### **EVENING HOURS IN ACADEMIC BUILDINGS**

Face coverings must be worn during evening hours in all campus buildings, especially in academic buildings where there will be enhanced monitoring during Spring Semester.

### **STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

Students participating in events and organization activities are expected to follow general safety guidelines regarding face coverings and distancing. The planners of these activities should see page 3 for details. All members of the ONU community will wear masks indoors.

### **ATHLETICS**

Athletic teams will develop safety policies that are based on [NCAA Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: 2022 Winter Training and Competition](#). The University is waiting on new guidance for spring and summer 2022.

All spectators are required to wear face coverings at all times while attending an indoor athletic event. No food or beverages will be permitted and there will be no concessions sold. Spectators who do not comply with these safety measures will be removed from the athletic event.

### **UNIVERSITY-SPONSORED TRAVEL**

ONU FS&S will be permitted to travel domestically and internationally for university business and educational purposes. Students and faculty participating in University-sponsored study abroad travel will be required to be up-to-date vaccinated prior to departure. Contact the [Office of Global Initiatives](#) for more information.

Up-to-date vaccinated and unvaccinated ONU travelers must comply with the appropriate CDC guidance or requirements from other organizations (NCAA), programs or destinations. At this time, all individuals must mask in University-sponsored vehicles.

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

Jan. 6, 2022