



2021-22 SAFETY PLAN FOR IN-PERSON EDUCATION

OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY

The CDC released new masking guidelines that focus on the holistic risk of coronavirus. Additionally, given that the CDC COVID-19 transmission level for Hardin County has dropped, that hospitalizations in our local area and in Ohio are declining, that campus COVID case numbers are decreasing and that severity continues to remain low, it is time to adjust our mitigation measures accordingly. Discussions with campus leaders and conversations with the director of public health for the Kenton Hardin Health Department lead us to make several changes to the Spring Semester Safety Plan, effective on Monday, Feb. 28, 2022.

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 requirements for faculty, staff and students (FS&S) went 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. Employees can send completed vaccine card images to 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.

Campus safety measures that will be in place for spring semester are as follows:



FACE COVERINGS

Masks are now optional in public indoor spaces – classrooms, buildings, libraries, McIntosh Center, ONU Sports Center, common areas, etc. – unless required as federal law mandates, such as for transportation. Masking may still be required in a classroom or another area when an individual accommodation is necessary and granted. To request an individual accommodation for consideration, faculty should contact their dean and the interim provost, staff should contact human resources and their vice president, and students should contact the Student Health Center.

While masks are optional indoors at this time, some members of the ONU community may continue wearing a mask. Please respect their choice and be sensitive to students and colleagues who prefer to continue to wear masks indoors. A supply of N95 masks is available for pick-up at ONU HealthWise and the Student Health Center at no cost. Click the link to see the current [level of transmission for Hardin County](#).

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.

DISTANCING

FS&S, guests, visitors, vendors and contractors who are unvaccinated may wish to 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

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

Weekly COVID-19 surveillance testing is discontinued. Symptomatic testing will be available for all students, faculty and staff on campus as needed. Those experiencing symptoms should be tested at the ONU HealthWise testing facility in Stambaugh Hall, which will be open weekdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you have additional questions about testing, contact the ONU HealthWise staff at 419-772-1050, option 5 on the menu. Students participating in performing arts and intercollegiate athletics will continue to be tested according to testing protocols established by their programs or by the NCAA as appropriate.

ISOLATION

FS&S who test positive for COVID-19 must continue to **isolate** for 5 days and mask for an additional 5 days. There is no longer a need to test on day 5. Faculty members of students who are isolating will continue to receive official notification of isolation orders from the provost's or dean's office. ONU will continue to house and feed any residential students who cannot return home for isolation. ALL students and employees who test positive for COVID-19 are required to contact one of the following offices:

- Employees should contact Human Resources at 419-772-2013 or hr@onu.edu
- Students should contact the Student Health Center at 419-772-2086 or health-center@onu.edu

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. FS&S who are required to isolate 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 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.

Close Contacts

Unvaccinated and not-up-to-date close contacts of those who test positive will not be required to **quarantine**. Instead, those exposed to others who tested positive for COVID-19 should wear a mask for 10 days, monitor their symptoms and be tested on the fifth day following exposure. If symptoms emerge, contact Human Resources or the Student Health Center.

SAFE CLASSROOMS AND LABS

- Seating in classrooms will return to normal arrangements that may not permit six feet of social distancing between students.
- Face coverings in the campus classrooms and labs is optional. 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 optional 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; except prospective student guests who are coordinated through the Office of Admissions and verified as having a negative COVID test result.



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.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Students participating in events and organization activities are expected to follow general safety guidelines. The planners of these activities should see page 3 for details.

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.

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
- 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 | 419-772-2033
 - Admissions – admissions-ug@onu.edu | 419-772-2260
 - Athletics – athletics@onu.edu | 419-772-2444
 - Business Services – businessservices@onu.edu | 419-772-2057
 - Dean's Offices
 - Arts & Sciences | a-and-s@onu.edu | 419-772-2130
 - Business | business@onu.edu | 419-772-2070
 - Engineering | engineering@onu.edu | 419-772-2371
 - Law | lawdean@onu.edu | 419-772-3051
 - Pharmacy | pharmacy@onu.edu | 419-772-2275

- Health Center – health-center@onu.edu | 419-772-2086
- Housing – reslife@onu.edu | 419-772-2430
- Human Resources – hr@onu.edu | 419-772-2013
- ONU HealthWise Pharmacy – hwpharmacy@onu.edu | 419-772-DRUG
- Student Affairs – studentaffairs@onu.edu | 419-772-2433
- Student Success Center – 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

March 21, 2022