

Student Health

Dear Faculty, Students and Staff,

COVID-19 Updates

On March 1, 2024, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued updated COVID-19 guidance for community settings. According to the update, people who have tested positive can return to normal activities (classes) when they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without taking medication.

The CDC also recommends that those people who return to work/school use additional strategies for the next (5) days to help curb the virus' spread, such as taking additional steps for **cleaner air, hygiene, masks, physical distancing, and/or testing** when you will be around other people indoors.

The government's free COVID-19 test program will begin the end of September. The tests are useful to have on hand. You can order four COVID-19 @ <https://www.covid.gov/tools-and-resources/resources/tests>

Before you throw out "expired" rapid COVID tests: Check <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/home-otc-covid-19-diagnostic-tests> to see if your COVID-19 tests' expiration dates have been extended.

As a result, the CDC's new guidance regarding COVID-19 now matches public health advice for the flu and other respiratory illnesses. That advice is not to go to class when you are sick but return to class once you are feeling better and you have been without a fever for 24 hours. <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/about/index.html>

The College no longer requires community members to report positive test results. Students who test positive should speak with their faculty about classwork. The Student Health Center does **not** provide medical excuse notes for students due to illness. The students need to communicate with their professors when they are out of class due to illness.

You should have an established plan with your roommates and/or housemates (if applicable) about comfort levels on managing respiratory illnesses.

Student Health is available for any medical assistance during operational hours. If there is an emergency, please call 911.