



2023 CAMPUS RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The campus continues to respond to the pandemic with a series of actions intended to minimize the impact of circulating communicable diseases on our student body, employees and patients. The College continues to implement a plan that addresses the following:

- ongoing safe face-to-face classroom instruction;
- monitoring health conditions to detect infection;
- containment to prevent spread of the disease when detected; and
- shutdown considerations if necessitated by severe conditions and/or public health guidance.

Components of this plan are described below.

VACCINATION:

Mandatory Covid vaccination for students and employees was implemented in October 2021 and continues to be required. Influenza vaccination continues to be an annual requirement for all students and employees. Religious exemptions and exemptions for health reasons are available to students and employees. 100% masking (personal cloth face covers) is required for all unvaccinated students and employees while on campus.

REVISED STUDENT PROTOCOLS:

All students are required to communicate the onset of symptoms to the Campus COVID Response Coordinator for further instruction regarding quarantine, testing, and masking requirements. The College's disabilities department, through the Campus COVID Response Coordinator, maintains reporting and tracking information related to any student exposure, positive test results, or exhibited COVID-19 or other communicable disease symptomatology.

New student protocols that were implemented January 2, 2023, include:

1. Symptomatic students will quarantine 5-days followed by 14-days mandatory masking on campus. These students are required to submit medical documentation (test results or work release note from a healthcare professional. Students who test negative will be required to mask for 14-days when they return to campus.
2. Students exposed to a person who has tested positive for Covid will not be required to quarantine; however, they will be required to mask on campus for 14-days and must submit medical documentation from a healthcare professional.

3. Students who test positive for Covid, flu, or other communicable disease, will quarantine 5-days followed by 10-days of masking on campus.
4. Symptomatic and exposed students will have up to 5-days of excused absence with submission of the required medical documentation.

Students are given the opportunity to attend classes virtually while on quarantine. Missed laboratory and clinical experiences are made up upon return of the student.

EMPLOYEES

The College works directly with RHS Employee Health, RHS Central Exposure Team, and RHS Emergency Management - COVID-19 Response Team (who is in direct communication with the local health department) to determine the appropriate level of disease prevalence and identify any need for additional review, input, or provision of assistance to include but not limited to contact tracing. Employees follow Riverside Health System (RHS) Human Resources masking policies.

The College collaborates with RHS Human Resources and RHS Employee Health to identify and assist vulnerable employees and provide options to perform their work remotely as applicable. The College follows RHS policies related to sick leave for employees as well as direction from the RHS Central Exposure Team in the event of a symptomatic employee or employee COVID-19 exposure. COVID-19 related absences will not have a negative affect an employee's job status.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The College attempts to decrease the risk of transmission of communicable diseases on campus for students and employees through the following procedures:

1. All classrooms continue to be configured to reduce seating capacity by approximately 1/2 of maximum with only one chair per table instead of two, and increased table spacing.
2. Students continue to be encouraged to eat at tables provided outside, in their vehicles, or to travel to nearby drive-thru restaurants for meals or breaks as desired.
3. All campus buildings, classrooms, offices, and common areas continue to be serviced by a professional cleaning service throughout the day from 8am – 4pm. Clinical and lab equipment, to include non-consumables, mannequins, beds and stretchers, are cleaned with approved disinfectants immediately after each individual use; linens are replaced after each individual use.
4. Classrooms, skills laboratories, and hallways have hand sanitizer stations. Janitorial staff perform daily checks on hand sanitizer volume and replenish as appropriate.

CAMPUS RESPONSE TO COMMUNICABLE DISEASE TRANSMISSION (COVID, Influenza, etc.)

The College is sponsored by Riverside Regional Medical Center (RRMC) a Level-2 Trauma Center hospital in Newport News, VA, within Riverside Health System (RHS). RRMC and RHS have conducted extensive planning around COVID-19. RRMC and its sister hospitals, have

provided care for numerous COVID-19 suspected and positive patients. The health system has implemented a system incident command structure to oversee the organization's response. The health department is an active participant within this structure. The College Executive Director maintains contact with the RHS leadership team and receives pertinent information that may impact the College.

The College works collaboratively with RHS departments including Infection Prevention, Emergency Management, Human Resources, and the RHS COVID-19 Incident Management and Command Center Team in the tracking of disease exposures and illnesses. The local health department will play an active role in any campus outbreak as applicable. The College follows, as appropriate, guidance for outbreak management per CDC and/or local health department guidelines as directed.

The College has demonstrated capability to convert a majority of its educational activity to an online environment when deemed necessary to protect the health and welfare of its students and staff. The College continues to further improve campus infrastructure and the servicing of students via virtual means through additional software and technology purchases and external vendor agreements.