



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**

W E F L Y

Ball State University COVID-19 Screening and Testing Protocols

Last Updated August 8, 2022

I. Overview

Having students, employees, and visitors on campus during this pandemic requires Ball State University to continue implementing various procedures and protocols in order to create a safe place to work and learn. In that respect, screening for symptoms of COVID-19, along with testing for the virus, is considered to be of great importance. The University's current protocols for screening and testing, as well as related information such as returning to campus after having COVID-19, are outlined below.

II. Screening for COVID-19

The University's current screening protocols are as follows:

- A. Employees and students are encouraged to continue monitoring their [symptoms](#) every day before coming to campus for work or school.
- B. If COVID-19 symptoms—such as a fever greater than 100.4 or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, muscle aches, headache, new loss of taste/smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose—are present (without a separate diagnosed cause, e.g. asthma, allergies, etc.), students and employees are encouraged to seek medical care. If it is determined that the person has COVID-19, they should not come to campus and should follow isolation protocols. Free resources to assist in determining if medical care should be sought are available, including the CDC's [Coronavirus Self-Checker](#).
- C. Additional screening measures, including surveillance testing and temperature checks, may be implemented in certain contexts, including, for example, residential students, student-athletes returning to practice, and specific academic programs.
- D. Visitors are also encouraged to monitor symptoms before coming to campus and are asked to delay their visit if experiencing any.

III. Testing for COVID-19

Information about symptomatic and asymptomatic testing is provided below. More information about getting tested is available on the [Get Tested webpage](#). In addition, please note that COVID-19 self-test kits are often available for purchase at various locations such as CVS and Walgreens.

A. Symptomatic Testing

Students who experience COVID-19 [symptoms](#) (without a separate diagnosed cause, e.g. asthma, allergies, etc.) are encouraged to seek immediate medical care in order to get tested. Students may call the Student Health Center at 765-285-8431 to [schedule an appointment](#). Students experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms should immediately inform staff to ensure that proper referrals can be made.

Employees who experience COVID-19 symptoms (without a separate diagnosed cause, e.g. asthma, allergies, etc.) are encouraged to seek immediate medical care through their primary care physician or a community health care provider in order to get tested.

B. Asymptomatic Testing

Students and employees seeking asymptomatic testing are encouraged to visit the Indiana State Department of Health website for [testing sites](#) in the community. Testing sites are listed by county. Ball State University is in Delaware County.

IV. Return to Work and Campus Activities after Testing Positive or Being a Close Contact

If a student or employee tests positive for COVID-19 or is a close contact of a person infected with COVID-19, they should follow the COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Guidance found in the [COVID-19 Plan for Employees](#) and the [COVID-19 Plan for Students](#). Upon completion of any necessary quarantine or isolation period, the individual may return to work, classes, and campus.

V. Faculty Guidance for Students Return to the Classroom after Quarantine and Isolation

In situations where a student may be required to quarantine or isolate, the student is responsible for notifying instructors of their absence from class and coordinate with the instructor a plan for continuing their education. The instructor is expected to work with the student on such a plan. The instructor may set a deadline by which missed coursework is to be completed. Furthermore, while the student may disclose information regarding their situation to the instructor, a student's medical situation is private and confidential. As such, the instructor should not ask for or require medical documentation, either to prove the viability of the absence or to allow the student to return to class.

VI. Dashboard

The University has created an online dashboard to communicate information about COVID-19 on our campus. To be transparent, the dashboard provides data collected from the Student Health Center and self-reports from both students and employees. The dashboard is updated weekly and includes information about the number of people tested, the number of positive cases, estimated active cases, and estimated recovered cases. People are encouraged to [visit the dashboard](#) for updated information and related FAQs.