Note: this version contains various updates, including the discontinuation of the requirement to wear face masks on campus in most circumstances.

I. Introduction

Ball State University will continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in a manner that promotes the safety of employees, students, and campus visitors, while furthering the University’s mission and values. BSU’s policies and plans are informed by guidance from government agencies, public health officials, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

This pandemic is a dynamic situation, and the University will continue to review and appropriately update policies and plans as more information becomes available.

II. Cardinals Care

This plan outlines policies, protocols, and guidelines to inform members of the University community of actions necessary to promote healthy behaviors. These actions reflect our Enduring Value of Social Responsibility; that is, to care for each other as members of the community. Not adopting these behaviors may unintentionally place others at risk, and may result in corrective action.

Plainly stated, Ball State University's Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities (Code) prohibits conduct that causes or threatens harm to the health or safety of another person, both on and off campus. Such conduct can include the failure to follow health and safety protocols, or directives of University officials, related to COVID-19. Thus, a student who is alleged to have engaged in these types of unsafe behaviors may be subject to investigation and adjudication under the Code, which could involve an interim suspension while the matter is pending and the full range of disciplinary measures should the student be found responsible for the conduct, up to and including suspension and expulsion.

III. COVID-19 Vaccinations and Boosters

The University continues to strongly encourage its students to get a COVID-19 vaccination and booster when eligible. There are many vaccine sites throughout Indiana, including one on our campus that is under the authority of the Delaware County Health Department (DCHD) and utilizes University personnel. To schedule an appointment at any vaccine clinic in Indiana, visit ourshot.in.gov or call 211. More information is available on this webpage.

IV. University Face Mask Policy

Effective March 4, 2022, at 5:00 p.m., face masks are optional on campus. However, they may still be required in certain locations, such as health care settings and laboratory settings. Determinations for these settings will be made by the area supervisor. In addition, masks also must be worn as required by the section of this plan titled “Updated COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Guidance.”

Individuals who are at greater risk for infection, or the consequences of infection, are encouraged to continue wearing a mask if they prefer to do so.
V. Health Considerations

A. Daily Symptom Self-Check

Students must continue to monitor their symptoms every day before coming to campus or leaving their residence halls. If a student experiences symptoms of COVID-19 (without a separate diagnosed cause, e.g., asthma, allergies, etc.), the student should seek medical care, either through the Student Health Center or a primary care provider. A symptomatic student seeking medical care should call in advance to schedule an appointment so that intake procedures are understood prior to arrival.

B. Updated COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Guidance

i. Isolation: Consistent with updated CDC guidance, a person infected with COVID-19 must isolate for five full days.

If an infected person does not have symptoms, they may return to normal activities after five full days of isolation. For asymptomatic people, Day 1 is the first full day after the specimen was collected that resulted in a positive test.

If the infected person has symptoms, they can end isolation after five full days if they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and other symptoms have improved (note: loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation). If the person continues to have a fever or other symptoms have not improved after the five days, the person should wait to end their isolation until they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and other symptoms have improved. For symptomatic people, Day 1 is the first full day after symptoms developed.

After the isolation period ends (for both symptomatic and asymptomatic people), the person must wear a face mask when they are around others for at least five additional days. If unable to wear a mask around others, the person should isolate for a full 10 days.

These isolation guidelines apply to all people regardless of vaccination status.

ii. Quarantine and Exemptions: Consistent with updated CDC guidance, unless exempt from quarantine as described below, an individual must quarantine for five full days if they are a close contact with a person infected with COVID-19 (i.e., less than six feet away from an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period). Day 1 is the first full day after exposure.

If a close contact does not develop symptoms, they may end quarantine after five full days but should continue to monitor for symptoms and wear a face mask around others for at least five additional days. Also, if possible and available, an asymptomatic close contact should consider getting a COVID-19 test at least five days after the exposure.

Certain people are exempt from these quarantine requirements, as follows:

- People who are up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccines.
- People who tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days.

If a close contact develops symptoms at any point after being exposed to an infected person, they should get tested and immediately begin isolation until they receive test results. If the test is positive, the isolation guidance should be followed.
iii. **Additional Information:** In addition to the isolation and quarantine guidance outlined above, students can find more information on related matters in [BSU's Screening, Testing, and Contact Tracing Protocols](#).

VI. **Requests for Disability Accommodations**

If a student has or may have a need for a disability accommodation related to COVID-19, the student should contact the [Office of Disability Services](mailto:dsd@bsu.edu) at 765-285-5293.

VII. **General Resources**

Please consult the University’s [COVID-19 Website](#) for more information on the University’s response to this pandemic. In addition, other general resources include:

1. [CDC’s COVID-19 Webpage](#)
2. [Latest guidelines and updates from the CDC](#)
3. [World Health Organization information on COVID-19](#)
4. [Indiana State Department of Health](#)
5. [Delaware County Coronavirus Hub](#)