



COVID-19 and Returning to Campus Safely FAQs for Students

Who should I contact with questions regarding COVID-19 related matters not addressed in these FAQs?

For matters related to students and COVID-19, contact Barry Priest, VP for Student Services – bpriest@bladenc.edu / 910.879.5579; however, positive student cases should be reported to the President's Office – alee@bladenc.edu / 910.879.5502.

What is being done on the BCC campus to reduce risk of COVID-19 exposure and spread?

Much work was completed on campus to respond to this new normal. You should expect to see a variety of new safety measures designed to emphasize the importance of social distancing, personal hygiene and stepped-up facility cleaning processes. These include:

- Physical barriers in public-facing areas and offices to allow separation while interacting face-to-face
- Increase access to hand sanitizer, disinfectant spray, and other PPE (personal protective equipment)
- Instructional signs to teach and encourage COVID-19 safety practices
- Encouraging the use of face coverings when interacting with others (vaccinated or unvaccinated)
- Purchased and trained employees on new equipment to more effectively deep clean surfaces on campus

What can I do to help reduce risk of COVID-19 exposure and spread?

- We are encouraging all employees and students to get vaccinated. This decreases the likelihood of serious symptoms should you contract the COVID-19 virus. Vaccines are offered at no cost. There are multiple locations in Bladen and surrounding counties to schedule an appointment or simply walk in to get your vaccine. The Bladen County Health Department is one of many agencies where vaccines are available.
- Wear your mask while indoors whether you are vaccinated or unvaccinated. Also, wear your mask when you are in close proximity to others whether indoors or outdoors. This protects you and those around you.
- Wash your hands often. Use hand sanitizer.
- Stay home from school or work if you are sick.
- Do not delay in seeking medical assistance if you are displaying symptoms.

Will I be required to wear a mask on the BCC campus?

Masks are encouraged indoors whether vaccinated or unvaccinated. Some areas of the campus are requiring masks (look for signage). This will help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and the new Omicron variant, which is proving to be more contagious than the original strains of the coronavirus. Thank you for keeping our campus and community healthy and safe.

Should I assess myself for COVID-19 symptoms every morning before reporting to class?

Absolutely! Assess yourself each morning to determine if you may be experiencing any symptoms consistent with COVID-19. These symptoms include cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell. If you are experiencing any such symptoms, please contact your doctor or healthcare professional and do not report to campus. Inform your instructor your circumstances so you can work together to stay current in the class.

What if I feel sick?

Following CDC guidance, if you are sick, stay home. Students can work with instructors to develop make-up plans for any coursework missed. If you start to feel ill on campus, leave campus promptly and seek medical attention to determine if the symptoms are related to COVID-19.

What do I do if I am displaying symptoms consistent with COVID-19?

For the safety of everyone on campus, as well as the greater community, a student who is displaying COVID-19 symptoms should seek guidance from a medical care provider, and instructions on when it will be safe to return to campus.

If a student is displaying symptoms but does not wish to seek medical treatment, CDC guidelines would be followed which state that a student may return to the campus once the following conditions are met:

1. At least 5 full days since symptoms first appeared (day 0 is the first day of symptoms), **and**
2. Wear a well fitted mask when in public for an additional 5 days, **and**
3. At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication, **and**
4. Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving*

**Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation*

Note that these recommendations **do not** apply to people with severe COVID-19 or with weakened immune systems (immunocompromised).

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/isolation.html>

What will happen if I, as a student, test positive for COVID-19?

Students who test positive for COVID-19 should contact the President's Office to inform of the test result. Email Dr. Amanda Lee, alee@bladencc.edu or call 910.879.5502. The President's Office will coordinate appropriate notifications as directed and advised by the local health department. You should follow your doctor or

healthcare professional's guidance as to when to return to class. Please keep your instructor informed to help evaluate your options regarding your class status.

Must I submit to a health screening when I arrive on campus?

We are encouraging students to conduct self-assessments each morning. Our approach may change based on the science and data. While you may not be screened today, there may come a time in our response that we move to that level. Certain areas on campus require screening before reporting to class or other class related activities on or off campus. If so, you will be informed by your instructor.

Am I required to have a COVID-19 vaccination to be a student at BCC?

As a general rule, students are encouraged to get the COVID-19 vaccination but not required. Some programs require students and faculty to be vaccinated.

I am a student and I have a classmate displaying symptoms of COVID-19. What steps should I take to address this situation?

First thing is to remain calm. Ask the instructor if you may have a private conversation to communicate your concern to the instructor. Please be assured it will be addressed promptly and investigated thoroughly, all while maintaining respect for your classmate's privacy and confidentiality.

I am high risk for severe illness with COVID-19. What should I do?

COVID-19 vaccinations are highly recommended. Your health and well-being are important to us. Based on currently available information and clinical expertise, older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Based on what the CDC has published, those who are at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:

- People 65 years and older
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions
- People who are immunocompromised
- People with severe obesity (body mass index of 40 or higher)
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease

For more information, visit this link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>

What should I do if I have been exposed to COVID-19?

It is our goal to work with each situation individually and assist everyone to the best of our ability to enjoy a safe and healthy experience on our campus. If the exposure occurs in a classroom setting, all individuals in the classroom will be considered exposed unless everyone in the class has been social distancing.

Campus exposure

The assumption is that we are being exposed throughout the day; therefore, being vaccinated and wearing our masks are our best actions for staying healthy. Once the president's office is aware of a positive case on campus, we contact the instructors of the student to encourage everyone potentially exposed to monitor themselves for symptoms. We also look at other exposure locations from the positive case to inform those areas to monitor for symptoms.

Adults

If you have been vaccinated, it is recommended that you wear a mask while in class for ten days and should monitor yourself for symptoms.

If you are not vaccinated, it is recommended that you make arrangements to quarantine. When quarantining, you should reach out to all of your instructors and inform them of your exposure and need to be off campus. The quarantine period is seven days with a negative test after five days OR ten days without any symptoms.

High School Students

If you are a high school student and you have been wearing your mask as required while in class, you may remain in class and should monitor yourself for symptoms. If you are not feeling well, do not come to class. Your school nurse can provide you with additional guidance if you have any questions.

Are there any resources available to help me with stress and anxiety related to this Pandemic?

Although there may be additional resources in Bladen County or in a surrounding county, we would encourage you to reach out to the resources provided for you below as follows:

- [Bladen Community College - Student Outreach Services \(SOS\)](#) – 1.800.633.3353
- [Bladen County Health Department](#) – 910.862.6900
- [Eastpointe](#) – 1.800.913.6109