

McPherson College COVID-19 Campus Health and Safety Plan for 2021-2022

OVERVIEW

The following Health and Safety Plan is consistent with guidelines provided by the McPherson County Health Department (MCHD) and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). The plan also follows recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the American College Health Association (ACHA), the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), the Kansas Independent College Association (KICA), and our on-campus medical provider, Partners in Family Care (PIFC). As additional information is gained, this policy may be updated to comply with these guidelines and recommendations.

COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDELINES

The following guidelines shall be followed by all students and employees while on campus:

1. Personal Health and Safety
 - a. Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms daily. The CDC self-checker can be found [here](#).
 - b. Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces.
 - c. Avoid touching your face.
 - d. Sneeze or cough into a tissue or the inside of your elbow.
 - e. Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.
 - f. Stay home if you feel sick and contact your medical provider.
 - g. Disclose to college administration any travel to high-risk areas identified by the KDHE: <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/175/Travel-Exposure-Related-Isolation-Quaran>
2. Campus-Wide Health and Safety
 - a. College-related travel should be consistent with CDC, state, county, and college policies related to the outbreak.
 - b. Make special accommodations for individuals who are members of a vulnerable population (older adults or persons with underlying health conditions).
 - c. Clean and disinfect areas/surfaces/handles as needed.
 - d. Be prepared to disinfect classrooms/labs/housing/cafeteria on short notice.

OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS

In the event of an outbreak of COVID-19, McPherson College is prepared to implement corrective measures aimed at limiting the transmission of the disease. These measures, in their order of application include masks, social distancing, modified mealtimes, reduced gatherings, limited contact sports, remote learning, and dedensification measures in the college's housing units.

MASKS

Masks are recommended at McPherson College but no longer required in most spaces.

Please keep in mind some members of our campus community may be immunocompromised, have young children, or simply prefer masking. Faculty and staff members may continue to require masks in their classrooms or offices, and others must comply with this request. Our on-campus clinic will also require masks for all persons entering that building, no exceptions. Everyone should keep a mask with them at all times and honor requests from those who prefer others wear a mask in their presence.

VACCINATIONS

- McPherson College strongly encourages all faculty, staff, and students be fully vaccinated and up to date. Fully vaccinated is defined as boosted or have completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months or have completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months.

At this time vaccinations are not required for students or employees.

If you would like to be vaccinated, you may call the McPherson County Health Department at 620 241-1753 for an appointment, or you can visit: <https://www.vaccines.gov/> to find a location near you. The vaccinations are free.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

At this time there will be no social distancing or de-densification in any college classroom, lab, administrative office, community space, or athletic facility/activity.

LIBRARY

The library will operate at full capacity with no restrictions.

ATHLETICS

All operations will resume with no restrictions. Increased sanitizing will continue as well as self-monitoring for symptoms

DINING HALL

The cafeteria will operate at full capacity with no serving restrictions.

RESIDENCE HALLS

The residence halls will be fully operational without restrictions.

TESTING

Those up to date with their vaccine and booster who are exposed to someone with COVID-19 do not need to be tested unless they experience COVID-19 symptoms. Any person who experiences COVID-19 symptoms should get a COVID-19 test.

Rapid PCR testing is available at the college's on-campus clinic, located at 1800 E. Gordon. Masks are required for all individuals who seek treatment at the clinic.

PROCEDURES if a STUDENT is EXPERIENCING SYMPTOMS

In the event student/faculty/staff is experiencing symptoms, they should follow these guidelines:

1. Self-quarantine until able to receive a test.
2. Email faculty, letting them know their symptoms and that they will be testing.
3. Test at Partners in Family Care or another testing facility.
4. Comply with isolation orders and contact tracing.

PROCEDURES if a STUDENT has SYMPTOMS DURING CLASS

In the event a student reports symptoms while class is in session, please follow these guidelines:

1. The faculty member will immediately ask the student to leave and go to the campus clinic.

2. If a student is exhibiting medical distress and cannot make it to the clinic on their own, the faculty member should call 911.

PROCEDURES if a STUDENT is ABSENT FROM CLASS and REPORTS SYMPTOMS

In the event a student is absent from class and reports symptoms (verbally or by email, phone, or text) to their faculty member or RA/RD, the person receiving the report should send an email as soon as possible to COVID@mcpherson.edu and forward the report.

ISOLATION and QUARANTINE

Isolation – If someone tests positive for COVID-19 they must isolate for 5 days (isolation starts from onset of symptoms, and if no symptoms, then 5 days from the positive test). If at the end of that time they have been fever-free for 24 hours and symptoms are improving, the positive case may leave isolation but must continue to mask for 5 additional days to minimize the risk of infecting others. Please note isolation could be extended if symptoms persist. If you test positive for COVID-19, with or without symptoms, you will be required to isolate in a college provided room or in your own residence for those not in college housing. As an alternative to isolating in a college provided room, students who can travel in a private vehicle and are within driving distance of their primary place of residence may isolate there. College staff will contact students in isolation each day by phone.

Isolation for Students Living on-Campus – Students living on-campus who test positive for COVID-19, will be immediately relocated to an isolation room unless permission is granted to isolate at their home (permanent) residence. The following guidelines will be used:

1. Meals will be delivered daily to the isolation room for those with a meal plan during this time. Special medications and other accommodations will be provided upon request. If you are moved to an isolation room, take whatever supplies you will need for remote learning as you will not be able to return to your normal housing assignment to retrieve them.
2. Isolation ends 5 days from the onset of symptoms (or 5 days from the day of the test if asymptomatic) *and* when the student has been fever-free for 24 hours (without fever reducing medication) and symptoms are improving.

Per guidance from the CDC and local health authorities, up to two students may share an isolation room together provided both are confirmed to be positive cases and both students are agreeable.

Isolation for Students Living off-Campus – All students living off campus are strongly encouraged to have an isolation plan that includes food stores, medical supplies, and transportation.

1. Students living off-campus will be required to isolate themselves in their residence and will be responsible for their own meals, medication, and other needs unless special circumstances arise. Students living off-campus who are on a meal plan may have meals delivered to their house or apartment. The college will contact off-campus students in isolation each day. Per guidance from the CDC and local health authorities, up to two students may share an isolation room together provided both are confirmed to be positive cases. In addition, students sharing a house or apartment may isolate and quarantine together provided all parties use masks and practice social distancing within the living spaces, and each has a separate bedroom.
2. As an alternative to isolating in an off-campus residence, students who can travel in a private vehicle and are within driving distance of their primary place of residence may isolate there.

3. Isolation ends 5 days from the onset of symptoms (or 5 days from the day of the test if asymptomatic) *and* when the student has been fever-free for 24 hours (without fever reducing medication) and symptoms are improving.

Quarantine – Quarantine keeps people who are believed to have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. Anyone in quarantine should separate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their primary care physician or from their state and local health officials. College staff will contact students in quarantine each day by phone. The normal quarantine period is now 5 days but must be followed by 5 days of masking.

Note - If you are fully vaccinated and up to date (see definition under Vaccinations) you do not need to quarantine if exposed but you should wear a mask around others for 10 days.

Quarantine for Students Living on-Campus – If a student living on-campus is required to quarantine, the following guidelines should be used:

1. Symptomatic Cases – Those showing symptoms whether they are a close contact will be placed in dedicated single-bed quarantine room on-campus while they wait for test results or until they have completed their quarantine period. The only exception is when the primary care physician determines the symptoms are not COVID related and there is no known contact with a positive case. If you are moved to a quarantine room, take supplies for remote learning with you as you will not be able to return to your normal housing assignment to retrieve them.
2. Asymptomatic Cases – Those who are asymptomatic and in quarantine because they were identified as a close contact may quarantine in their assigned dorm room with their roommate provided:
 - Both students are agreeable.
 - Both students understand that if either of the two develops symptoms, the other student's quarantine starts over.
 - If a student subsequently tests positive for COVID-19, quarantine will start over for the roommate and the positive student will go into isolation.

Meals may be delivered daily to the quarantine room during this time. Special medications and other accommodations will be provided upon request. College staff will contact students in quarantine each day by phone.

As an alternative to quarantining in their dorm room, students who can travel in a private vehicle and are within driving distance of their primary place of residence may quarantine there.

Quarantine for Students Living off-Campus – All students living off campus are strongly encouraged to have a quarantine plan that includes food stores, medical supplies, and transportation.

Students living off-campus will be required to quarantine in their residence and will be responsible for their own meals, medication, and other needs unless special circumstance arise. Students living off-campus who are on a meal plan may have meals delivered to their house or apartment.

Per guidance from the CDC and local health authorities, students sharing a house or apartment may isolate and quarantine together provided all parties use masks and practice social distancing within the living spaces, and each has a separate bedroom.

As an alternative to quarantining in an off-campus residence, students who can travel in a private vehicle and are within driving distance of their primary place of residence may quarantine there.

CONTACT TRACING

In the event contact tracing is required, the offices of student affairs, athletics, and facilities management will assist the McPherson County Health Department with contact tracing investigation on campus to identify affected individuals and break the chain of transmission. All McPherson College students and employees are expected to support the investigation, which will include:

1. Interviews
2. Requests for phone numbers, emails, and home addresses.
3. Requests for class schedules and other supporting documentation.