

Wheeling University Updated COVID for Spring Semester 2022

As we eagerly await the return of our students, Wheeling University wants to share adjustments made to its COVID-19 protocols for the Spring semester. Wheeling University remains committed to the health and well-being of our entire campus community. To do that, we are continuing many of the COVID-19 mitigation strategies used throughout the fall semester. In addition, we are aware of the fast-spreading Omicron variant and will continue to monitor its effects.

Our COVID-19 plan is based on recent guidelines and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (WV HEPC), and consultation with the Ohio County Health Department.

December 22, 2021, every West Virginia college and university was informed by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission that all campus-based individuals are to be COVID-19 tested at the start of the Spring 2022 semester, regardless of vaccination status. Therefore, the university will provide rapid QuickVue SARS Antigen Tests on **Sunday, January 9, starting at 9 am and ending at 4 pm at the McDonough Center**. You will need to enter through the side entrance of the Auxiliary Gym to proceed to testing (signs will be posted). After you have completed testing, you will then be directed to enter the main area of the McDonough Center to be cleared through all other campus offices (financial aid, registrars, student accounts, security, and IT).

The testing process should last no longer than 15 minutes and is required for all students. If you test positive, further instruction will be given, and quarantine will be considered, so please be prepared. You will also complete a PCR lab test to confirm positive results. **As a reminder, this is mandatory for all undergrad, graduate, and physical therapy students.**

If you are sick or experiencing any COVID-19 related symptoms, DO NOT come to campus. Also, note that the campus is still under a mask mandate in all campus buildings.

We also would like to update our vaccination records, so please complete the survey below:

[Vaccine Survey](#)

If there are any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Office of Student Services at 304-243-2350

COVID 19

- We will continue to offer in-person instruction for the spring semester when classes resume on January 10.
- Masks are required inside all buildings. The only exemptions are when you work alone in your office, while actively eating and drinking, or in your residence hall room.
- If you are having symptoms of COVID-19 or other illnesses, please do not come to campus.

Report your symptoms or exposure. Anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, even if they have been vaccinated, should seek medical attention and be tested for COVID-19. Anyone testing positive should report their test results to Vice President Andrew Lewis of Student Services at alewis@wheeling.edu. You should not come return to campus until authorized to do so by Vice President Lewis of Student Services.

Vaccines and Booster

- We are not requiring the vaccine or booster but are urging all community members to receive their vaccines and booster but will not generally require them. However, we do want to know if you are vaccinated and if you have received a vaccine booster.

If you are fully vaccinated and have not reported your status to the university, please do so [Vaccine Survey](#)

If you have received a COVID-19 booster and have not reported it to the university, please do so [Vaccine Survey](#)

COVID-19 Positive:

- You must quarantine for 5 days. Student Services will determine the length of that quarantine for you based on your symptoms at the end of the 5 days.
- Students will have access to remote learning. This will be coordinated through the Student Services and Academic Affairs offices.
- Students living in on-campus housing who test positive will be moved to new accommodations set aside for quarantine. Students will be looked after by Student Services, who will arrange for meal delivery and other needs.

Covid-19 Close Contacts:

- If you are vaccinated and experiencing NO symptoms, you will NOT have to quarantine. However, wear a mask for 10 days following exposure.

- If you are vaccinated and DO HAVE symptoms, you will need to quarantine for a minimum of 5 days.
- If you are unvaccinated, you will need to quarantine for 5 days. Student Services will determine the length of that quarantine for you based on your symptoms at the end of the 5 days.
- Students living in on-campus housing who are identified as "close contacts" and in need of quarantine may be moved to new accommodations set aside for isolation and quarantine.
- For clarity, a "close contact" is someone who has been within six feet of a COVID-positive individual for 15 minutes or longer, with or without a mask.

Student-Athletes

- The Wheeling University Athletic Department will follow MEC and NCAA COVID guidelines as we return to play for the 2022 Spring semester. Consult with your coach and the Athletic Department for rules specific to your sport.

Additional Information

Whether student, staff, or faculty: **If you are sick or having symptoms of COVID-19 or any illness, please stay home.** This was a good practice in the past academic year, and it will continue to serve us well.

- There are currently no gathering limits to events on campus. However, with gatherings, we encourage those who are unvaccinated to continue practicing social distancing and wearing a mask to limit possible exposure to yourself and others.
- There are no visitor restrictions.
- Continue to practice healthy COVID mitigation efforts: Wear your mask, keep your distance and avoid congregate settings.

We will continue to send messages to your email and will post them at <https://wheeling.edu/coronavirus/>

If you have a question or a comment, you can submit it at covidquestions@wheeling.edu