COVID-19 Action Plan: Fall 2020
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As we make plans for the fall semester at Delta State, we are giving urgent attention to creating a safe environment for everyone on campus.

Included in this plan are some of the basic protocols and safety measures we will be implementing. This document highlights our key protocols that will be widely distributed and displayed physically and virtually to assist in developing both a set of expectations on everyone’s part, as well as, a culture on campus that accepts and embraces safety measures to minimize exposure to the virus.

In essence, we are planning to have as much in-person classroom instruction as possible, and will deliver it in a hybrid manner – meaning we are prepared at any point to go all online, but to begin, some classes will be taught completely online, while others will be partially taught online. We will teach in-person strategically (not all students will meet every class session in person - strategically designed class settings will be the rule.)

We believe an education of the process and effective communication will be the keys to making sure the desired cultural change acceptance occurs, and we have plans for a positive “campaign” to get the word out in a widespread fashion. Smart planning and management requiring and expecting face coverings, social distancing and crowd limits, frequent hand washing, proper sanitizing, and common sense will serve us all well.
I. HEALTH & SAFETY

A. Health

i. General Information

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, COVID-19 is a disease caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2. The virus is thought to be spread easily and sustainably from person to person, mainly through respiratory droplets. Identifiable symptoms include cough, shortness of breath, fever, new loss of taste or smell, chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea. At present, there is no treatment or vaccine available.

To mitigate spread, we must identify possible cases, isolate positive cases, and conduct contact tracing in collaboration with the Mississippi State Department of Health.

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. Ways the virus is thought to be spread is between people who are in close contact with one another (within 6 feet or less) and through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land on nearby surfaces or in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

All persons on campus must monitor symptoms every day before entering the campus. Everyone should perform a daily symptom self-check. When any of the identifiable symptoms are present, persons should not come to campus or move about the campus and should begin taking their temperature on a regular basis.

As we return to campus, the university is taking precautions to protect our entire community, including all vulnerable individuals. Each member of the Delta State family is expected to commit fully to protecting our community’s collective health and well-being. Appropriate signage has been developed and posted throughout the campus to educate and promote adherence to public health practices, including hand hygiene, physical distancing, proper cough/sneeze etiquette, frequent disinfection of common high traffic areas, symptom assessment, temperature checks, and face mask/coverings in public.

ii. Mandatory COVID-19 Screening and Check

All Delta State students, faculty, staff, and visitors are advised NOT to come to campus if they do not feel well. There will be daily screening for COVID-19 symptoms with temperature checks taken on premises. Prior to entering any campus building, employees and students must complete the electronic screening form.

All persons must put on a face mask/face covering before proceeding onto campus and continue to wear it as necessary, depending on the relevant circumstances of the person’s campus day and the prevailing COVID-19 guidelines. Everyone should adhere to the following guidance from the CDC on how to wear and care for face coverings properly: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/
prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html. Specifically, daily COVID-19 symptom screenings will include a temperature check upon arrival to campus and persons must show completion of self-reported electronic health questionnaire, the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Campus Health Screening. These preventative measures are based on recommendations from the CDC and MSDH.

Anyone who registers a temperature of 100.0° Fahrenheit or higher, and/or answers yes to any of the electronic screening form questions, must go home and follow the mandated protocols, procedures, guidelines, and safeguards. For students, faculty, and staff ineligible that day, the relevant Delta State offices and officials will be notified, applicable paperwork—“Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Workplace Health Screening”—will ensue, and COVID-19 preventative measures will commence, such as, but not limited to, COVID testing, quarantine, contact tracing, and disinfection/cleaning of surfaces. These preventive measures depend on whether the person is diagnosed as symptomatic confirmed positive; symptomatic confirmed negative; asymptomatic confirmed positive; or asymptomatic close contacts of COVID-19 positive cases.

B. Safety

i. Face Mask Policies

All persons on campus including faculty, staff, students, vendors, contractors, suppliers, and visitors are required to wear facemasks while inside campus buildings, including in classrooms and laboratories. Facemasks are also required when outside and when in the presence of others. Wear facemasks when in campus vehicles with multiple individuals.

Face masks should cover the individual’s nose and mouth, and the type of masks should be consistent with CDC guidance. This means the mask must be able to help prevent respiratory droplets from travelling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the face mask coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice. A crocheted or beaded face mask would not be considered sufficient.

Our parameters and protocols are based upon recommended preventive measures issued from the public health community. Follow CDC guidelines to protect yourself and others.

ii. Social Distancing

All persons on campus are expected to maintain appropriate social distancing in order to avoid being exposed to or spreading COVID-19. To that end, the University has implemented social distancing/separation measures.

1. Maintain at least six feet (about 2 arms’ length) from other people at all times.
2. Avoid crowded places and mass gatherings.
3. Avoid close contact with people, especially those who are sick, inside your home or resident hall.
4. Avoid hugging and handshakes.
5. Avoid those who appear to be demonstrating symptoms of COVID-19.
6. Physical spaces (ie.: classrooms, conference rooms, restrooms, break rooms) will continue to be analyzed to determine if additional adjustments for social distancing need to be made.
iii. Personal Sanitation Measures

All persons should maintain good, personal sanitation/hygiene, keep appropriate measures in mind, and encourage others to practice the same.

1. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
3. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, or use the inside of your elbow, and do not spit. Throw used tissues in the trash.
4. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
5. Minimize or avoid sharing personal items and work supplies with others.

iv. Cleaning and Disinfecting of Campus Spaces

The University has implemented significant cleaning and disinfecting measures. Special attention is given to high touch and high traffic areas as we are aware that the virus can be spread if you touch a contaminated surface with the virus and then touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.

1. Frequently touched surfaces and objects in common areas will be cleaned/disinfected throughout the day by Facilities Management custodial staff; these include entry/exit door handles, push plates and crash bars, interior doors, automatic door operators, stair hand rails, elevator buttons, common area tables and countertops, faucets and sinks, flush valves, light switches, public touchscreens, furniture armrests, vending machines, etc.
2. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be installed at all entrances/exits of the building and at the entrances of classrooms/instructional spaces.
3. All classrooms/instructional areas will be provided with disinfectant and hand sanitizer, to be used by individuals to clean frequently used spaces that they need to touch within these spaces (ie., tables, chairs, markers, lecterns, keyboards, equipment, etc.).
4. All office spaces, conference rooms etc., will be provided with disinfectant and hand sanitizer, to be used by individuals to clean frequently used spaces (ie., tables, chairs, desks, copiers, etc.) as needed throughout the day.
5. MERV 13 Pleated Air Filters will be purchased as needed to help capture more particles in the air.
6. Additional cleaning measures will be taken if the University is notified that an individual is/was on campus with a positive diagnosis of COVID-19.
II. ACADEMIC CONTINUITY

The Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) Board of Trustees passed a resolution declaring their intent for all universities to resume traditional in-person classes to the extent possible. Our efforts focus on meeting the spirit of the IHL resolution in the safest manner possible. All faculty, staff, and students are required to wear masks inside the classroom, offices, areas of gathering, and confined spaces that limit required physical distancing. Faculty, staff, and students will stay home or in their residence hall when feeling ill. Students will be allowed to complete their courses online if they become ill or if they have an underlying health condition. Special precautions are made for students who are at an increased risk due to the occupational nature of their studies. All classes meet virtually the first day of the fall semester. Students will use this time to learn how their hybrid course will be organized.

DSU will adopt a hybrid mode of instruction for fall 2020 in order to provide students the best quality education possible, combining aspects of both online and in-person instruction, in the safest environment possible. Hybrid courses reduce the number of students and faculty in a room at the same time, thus helping support the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff.

Each hybrid course will occur primarily online and have regular strategic face-to-face interactions with students and faculty in small groups.

A. Face-to-Face Class Meetings

Face-to-face class meetings will adhere to specific guidelines to ensure the safest environment possible for our students and faculty. The following requirements are to be met for all face-to-face class meetings.

1. No more than 30 students will be allowed in a classroom at the same time.
2. Many classroom locations have changed to accommodate social distancing requirements and to reduce back to back class meetings in the same classroom.
3. Students will disinfect their desks as they enter the classrooms or labs using materials provided for that purpose.
4. Faculty will allow additional time at the end of every class period for dismissal to avoid clustering.

B. International Students

International students unable to travel to the United States are able to complete their courses online.

C. Roberts-LaForge Library, Student Success Center, and Writing Center

Students have virtual access to the Student Success Center, Roberts-LaForge Library, and the Writing Center. Online tutoring is available to all students 24/7 through a special link in their Canvas course page.
III. ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Delta State University will operate under a modified calendar for the Fall 2020 semester as part of efforts to protect the health and safety of the campus community. This calendar reflects the university’s efforts to mitigate the potential spread of the virus, account for other health threats that manifest during the winter (ie., flu) and acknowledge the increased likelihood of travel during the late fall months.

• Classes will begin on **Monday, Aug. 17**.
• The last day of classes will be **Wednesday, Nov. 18**.
• Final exams will be **Thursday, Nov. 19 through Saturday, Nov. 21** and **Monday, Nov. 23**.
• Fall Commencement will be virtual and held on **Tuesday, Nov. 24**.

For more details, visit the [Registrar’s Office](#) website.

IV. CAMPUS LIFE

Recognizing how important the opportunities for engagement and campus involvement are to the collegiate experience and mission, the university has diligently planned for a fall semester considering the needs and concerns of our community while remaining flexible to the changing public health guidance at the federal, state, and local levels.

Student Affairs has developed creative ways to support the students’ holistic wellness. Campus programming will be offered in three formats:

- Fully virtual offerings utilizing Zoom and/or other digital platforms
- Hybrid offerings incorporating some components virtually and others in-person
- In-person offerings that adhere to social distancing and public safety guidelines

Student services — which includes advising, the Student Success Center, the Campus Counseling Center, the Student Health Center, and others — will be fully operational in accordance with health and safety standards.

Programs and services such as Fraternity and Sorority recruitment, Student Union programming, student organization activities, Career Services, and others all will be available this fall with appropriate protocols to mitigate virus spread.

The university will continue to review and evaluate our offerings, and we encourage you to routinely visit our student affairs website. In addition, we encourage you to visit departmental websites frequently to obtain up-to-date information.

A. **Residence Hall Protocol**

   The more an individual interacts with others, and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread. Delta State University has implemented the following requirements to slow the risk
of the COVID-19 spread in non-residential and residential settings on campus.

1. All residence halls will utilize one entrance.
2. Temperature checks will be conducted each time a student enters or exits the residence hall.
3. COVID-19 protocols and expected standards of behavior will be posted in the residence halls.
4. Face masks are required at all times in the residence halls when outside of assigned room.
5. Residence hall lounges and kitchens will be closed.
6. Residence hall visitation for off campus visitors is prohibited.
7. Residence hall visitation is limited to only those students who reside on campus.
8. All residence halls will have a curfew to ensure the body temperature of all in-and-out traffic is monitored. Curfew will be extended on Friday and Saturday evenings.

i. Single Room Upgrades

1. Students who qualify for CARES funds (and can document a medical need to reside in a single room due to COVID-19 vulnerability) may request funding to cover upgrading to a single room.
2. Housing and Residence Life staff are reaching out to those who meet Title IV specifications notifying them that they can apply for a CARES grant to upgrade to a single room.

B. Quarantine and Isolation

Residential students who have COVID-19 or are suspected to have COVID-19 will be isolated from their peers and will not remain in their assigned residence hall during this isolation. Meals from the dining hall will be delivered to students in isolation/quarantine.

International students who reside on campus in the fall must quarantine for two weeks prior to reporting to campus.

C. Move-In Day 2020

Move-In Day 2020 will be held August 14-16:

- August 14, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM: Freshmen
- August 15, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM: Juniors
- August 16, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM: Sophomores, Seniors, Graduate Students

Each student will be allowed to have two individuals to help with move in and getting settled. There will be no off-campus groups or athletic teams assisting with move-in this year. Students and guests must wear masks and gloves and will be subject to a temperature check. Water will be provided. Welcome bags will be placed in resident rooms prior to the students’ arrival.

Residents will have temperature checks when entering and exiting the residence hall. They must complete the screening document daily. All common spaces and lounge areas will be closed.
D. Visitors, Vendors, and Contractors
Delta State University is implementing the following visitor, vendor, and contractor restrictions until further notice. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the University is continuing to promote social distancing and limiting visitors of any kind to campus. Visitors are required to adhere to the health and safety protocols put forth by the university: i.e., social distancing, wearing a face covering, temperature screening, etc.

E. H.L. Nowell Student Union
All furniture in the H.L. Nowell Student Union Lounge areas will be reorganized to meet social distancing requirements. All who enter the Student Union will undergo a temperature screening. Masks must be worn in the H.L. Nowell Student Union Food Court areas to make purchases.

F. Campus Programming
All campus programming will adhere to the following as a measure of abiding by CDC guidelines for safety.

1. Use larger venues.
2. Provide multiple showings (when possible)
3. Provide live streams of events
4. Offer programming in multiple locations.
5. Offer virtual programming
6. Require reservations for certain events
7. Extend hours of programming to accommodate large numbers
8. Require masks

G. Student Organizations
All student organizations must adhere to the health and safety protocols and gathering capacities stipulated by the governor’s Executive Order. Organization advisors must sign an acknowledgement that they will follow all institutional COVID-19 health and safety protocols (face masks, social distancing and maximum gathering capacity) and that they, or an advisor designee, will be present for all programming activities held on or off campus.

i. Sororities and Fraternities

1. Panhellenic Formal New Member Recruitment will continue with a hybrid model. Potential new members will reside on campus during the duration of recruitment, but they will only interact with their Recruitment Counselor and their assigned group, which will be limited to eight people. Potential new members will only interact with chapter members in-person during the last round of recruitment, Preference Night, and on Bid Day.
2. Housing and Residence Life plans to conduct check in for the Formal New Member Recruitment (sororities) in the same manner as the traditional Move In Day check in process. Students will be limited to two helpers during their move-in.
a. Move-in day – August 8 at 10:00 a.m. in Foundation Hall or Brumby Castle Hall
b. The potential new members who do not live in the New Member Recruitment hall will be permitted to move their belongings into a temporary room and their Fall room.
c. Potential new members and their helpers must be screened upon arrival.
d. Face coverings/face masks are required throughout the duration of the move in process by potential new members and their helpers.

3. Chapters will not be permitted to host social events in chapter facilities and/or chapter rooms. Residence hall staff in Cain-Tatum Hall, Fugler-Hammett Hall, and Lawler-Harkins Hall will monitor for non-compliance.

4. Chapters will be able to host off-campus events; however:
   a. They must adhere to current state and local executive orders and public health advice regarding hosting events safely.
   b. Student Life must receive a schedule of dates and times of all off campus events.
   c. An advisor must be present for all events
   d. Recruitment activities will be discontinued if any organizations are found to be in non-compliance of the written agreement.

H. Dining Services
At the beginning of the semester, Sodexo will operate under phase I protocols, restricted: all meals will be to-go. After the first few weeks, protocols will be reevaluated to determine if Sodexo can move to Phase II, relaxed. See the below chart for more details. Young-Mauldin will be closed to the community, open only to students, faculty and staff.

A micro-strategy will be determined by the specific needs of the campus. The menu portfolio has been engineered for modularity so that it can be tailored to optimize the guest experience, regardless of the service model changes that the “new normal” may bring to campus life. The Phases for Reopening is described below.

1. Phase 1 - (Restricted) Dining Room is closed to seating. The menu is pre-packaged TO GO and served by Staff.
2. Phase 2 - (Relaxed) Dining Room is staged for social distancing. Pre-packaged menu items can be self-served.
3. Phase 3 - (New Normal) Dining Room is open for full service. Implemented Social Distancing.

I. Retail Locations
As you visit around town, you will find specific guidance posted for retail locations. Signs will indicate that if you have no mask, there will be no entrance. There will be a required directional flow in the building and social distancing. Other requirements may be in place. Tables will be set up according to MSDH guidelines.

Plastic shields will be placed around cashier stations and work areas where needed. Sanitizing times will be put in place to assure proper cleanliness. All staff members will wear masks.
J. Catering
All catering will follow the guidelines required by local, state, and federal agencies which ensures COVID-19 precautions will be followed. A special notice to the public is that all staff members will wear masks.

K. Concessions
All concession areas will follow the guidelines required by local, state, and federal agencies which ensures COVID-19 precautions will be followed. Additionally, specific food-handling practices will be in place and plastic shields will be placed around cashier stations and work areas where needed. A special notice to the public is that all staff members will wear masks.

L. Bologna Performing Arts Center (BPAC)
The Bologna Performing Arts Center will be open for operation and follow the prescribed guidelines strictly. A list below describes health and safety measures specific to this venue as it relates to the performance center.

1. All employees are screened for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to beginning work.
2. All high-touch surfaces (door handles, counters) are cleaned at least every 2 hours.
3. Facilities Management is scheduled to clean the auditorium between events and film screenings.
4. Signage is posted around the building and in theater regarding patron expectations.
5. Social distancing waiting spots are marked at Concessions, Restrooms, and Ticket Office.
6. Every other row is closed to prevent patron seating.
7. Patrons observe social distancing inside theater by skipping 4 seats between parties.
8. Seating capacity is limited to less than 50%.
9. Volunteers (BPAC Ambassadors) and part-time employees receive training on the above.
10. Patrons are required to wear face coverings while inside the building.
11. Patrons may take their masks off to eat or drink, but masks must be put back on as soon as possible.
12. Patrons will observe social distancing of 6’ at all points of ingress/egress and in any lines
13. Seating inside the theater will be limited to 50% capacity with social distancing between parties (with groups of four, this is 331 total seats)
14. Hand sanitizer is available at all points of entry and exit, as well as in concessions areas.

M. Jimmy R. Williams Bookstore, Barnes and Noble College Booksellers
The campus bookstore will adhere to the health and safety protocols and gathering capacities stipulated by the governor’s Executive Order.

N. Sexual Harassment Statement
In accordance with Title IX, Delta State University is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment free from sexual and gender-based discrimination, harassment, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual intimidation, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or any other behavior that is non-consensual or has the purpose or effect of coercing a person or persons. For questions or concerns about Title IX, please visit http://www.deltastate.edu/policies/policy/university-policies/employment/employee-responsibilities-and-standards/sexual-harassment/ or contact Deidra Byas, Title IX Coordinator at (662)846-4690 or email titleix@deltastate.edu.
V. ATHLETICS

The Gulf South Conference will postpone competition in basketball, football, and soccer until at least January 1. These sports are identified as high contact risk sports by the NCAA and are subject to significant testing requirements for all student-athletes and “inner bubble” personnel.

Cross Country and Golf competition will be permitted during the fall semester with the GSC Cross Country Championship date potentially moved to better accommodate the calendar. Designated as low contact risk and medium contact risk, these sports feature more manageable testing and monitoring requirements per NCAA medical guidance as well as limited competition opportunities.

The conference will continue to monitor the situation and will be prepared to make any further decisions in conjunction with the NCAA and GSC member institutions. Visit www.gostatesmen.com for updated information.

A. Game Day Operations
Athletics Department has begun working on a Game Day Operations plan that is encouraged by the NCAA and GSC. The following guidelines will be followed in preparation for Game Day until further instructed by the federal, state, local, institution, or NCAA:

1. All COVID-19 safeguards, including utilization of one entry point and one exit point per building, social distancing, face masks, hand sanitizers, daily temperature screenings, cleaning of surfaces after each use, occupancy capacity, etc. will be in place.
2. The use of the Athletic Building will be by appointment only. Locker rooms closed until further notice.
3. Use of other Athletic Facilities by appointment only.
4. All persons must go through screening check at Chadwick-Dickson.

VI. CAMPUS EVENTS

In-person events on campus and off-campus events sponsored by the university will comply with current executive and local orders and guidelines of Governor Tate Reeves’s reopening plan, as well as public health recommendations:

Social distancing will be an important factor at all campus events. For all indoor social gatherings and activities the maximum number of participants will depend upon current executive and local orders. For all outdoor social gatherings and activities, the maximum number of participants will depend upon current executive and local orders.

These limitations shall not apply to students in classrooms and gatherings in facilities governed by other capacity limitations. As a reminder, face coverings must be worn indoors and outdoors (when unable to maintain a minimum of six feet of separation from other individuals not in the same household) when attending public events.

These parameters apply to ALL university events.
Please consult the University's COVID-19 website http://www.deltastate.edu/academic-affairs/delta-state-universitys-response-to-coronavirus/ for more information on the University's response to this pandemic. In addition, other general resources include:

2. https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus

COVID-19 Health and Safety Measures for Campus Operations and Programming

**HEALTH & SAFETY**
- Hand sanitizer stations located throughout campus
- Masks provided for all students, faculty, and staff
- Students provided with refillable hand sanitizer key rings
- Required viewing of health and safety training video
- COVID-19 protocols distributed to all students via email and DSU social media

**IN THE CLASSROOM**
- In-person classes
- Classroom setup adheres to social distancing requirements
- Masks required
- Classrooms and common areas regularly sanitized
- Fall semester ends at Thanksgiving break

**HOUSING**
- One main entrance for each residence hall will be staffed during open hours
- Temperature checks conducted when students enter and exit the residence hall
- Lounge and kitchen areas closed
- Visitation discouraged. Permitted for campus residents only.
- Building curfews to monitor all in-and-out traffic

**CAFETERIA & FOOD COURT**
- Cafeteria
  - One main entrance
  - Temperature reading required to enter
  - Setup adheres to social distancing requirements
  - To-go section
  - Buffet closed
  - Students may use an app for placing advance orders
- Food court
  - Mask required for service

**PROGRAMMING**
- Masks and social distancing required
- Virtual programming
- Live streams for large events
- Programming offered in multiple locations to minimize crowds

Questions? Email Robin Douglas at rdouglas@deltastate.edu.