



COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Effective August 22, 2022

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WHAT IS NEW IN THIS GUIDANCE

In accordance with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and with guidance from the Mississippi Department of Health, Delta State has adopted the following guidelines as it relates to safety for all members of our community.

1. Update to Guidelines following CDC Update from August 11, 2022

PRINCIPLES GUIDING RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

The primary goals for DSU's response to the pandemic are to keep our Delta State family and our campus safe, protect public health, and maintain the academic mission of Delta State. Delta State University's policies, procedures, and protocols for responding to the pandemic of COVID-19 and its variants are rooted in the safety of our students, staff, and faculty, and of the public with whom we interact. In doing so, the University will be **fully operational** as planned for the opening of the Spring semester on January 10. All classes scheduled to meet **in-person** will meet as planned. Additionally, all programming opportunities at the University will continue as planned including athletic events.

DSU's plans will also be aligned and consistent with local orders and ordinances of the City of Cleveland and Bolivar County, policies and guidelines of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, as well as the Mississippi State Department of Public Health. DSU's plans will also follow recommendations from the federal government and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

As our knowledge and understanding of the COVID-19 virus and its variants continue to evolve, our policies and plans will be updated as more information becomes available.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE DELTA STATE COMMUNITY & GUESTS

All students, faculty, staff, and visitors are expected to adhere to the University's policies related to COVID-19 Protocols outlined in this document. Failure to do so may result in corrective action.

A student's refusal to abide by the protocols will be considered in violation of the Code of Conduct as identified in the Student Handbook (Section 1: Offenses Against the University Community and Section 2: Offenses Disrupting Order or Disregarding Health and Safety) and will be subject to student conduct sanctioning. Questions should be directed to the Office of Student Life at (662) 846-4666.

An employee's refusal to abide by the protocols will be treated as a performance or standard of conduct issue and may result in corrective action per the "Work Performance and Code of Conduct" policy. Questions should be directed to Human Resources at (662) 846-4035.

Any visitor's refusal to abide by the protocols will be asked to comply immediately with these guidelines or be asked to leave the campus. Failure to comply with either of these actions may result in removal from campus by University Police. Questions should be directed to the Vice President for Student Affairs at (662) 846-4153.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CORONAVIRUS

The 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and its variants cause respiratory illness in people and can spread from person-to-person. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus, and secondly, receiving one of the vaccinations and booster/third dosage. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person: between people who are in close contact

with one another (within about 6 feet) and through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.

As the novel coronavirus, known as COVID-19, and its variants have spread globally and in the United States, Delta State University has been and continues to follow the developments closely. We care about the health of the members of the Delta State community and are working hard to keep our campus as safe as possible. If localized outbreaks emerge, tighter restrictions and reduced staffing may be implemented. The university will continue to monitor this situation, and updates will be provided regularly via the university's COVID-19 website www.deltastate.edu/covid19.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS

According to the CDC, people with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported — ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus. People with the following symptoms may have COVID-19 (this list does not include all possible symptoms):

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Feeling ill? Use the CDC's [Symptom Self-Checker](#).

WHAT IS CLOSE CONTACT

The MS State Department of Health defines "close contact" as:

- Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person with or without a mask for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated;
- Someone who is providing care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19;
- Someone having direct physical contact (touched, hugged, or kissed) with someone who has COVID-19;
- Someone who shared eating or drinking utensils with someone who has COVID-19;
- Someone having had someone who has COVID-19 to sneeze, cough, or somehow get respiratory droplets on them.

OTHER COVID-19 RELATED TERMS

The following list of terms have been created to assist the community in understanding certain aspects of the COVID-19 response plan and to help educate members of the community what will be required of them when a term is used.

- COVID-19 Exposure** 15 minutes of cumulative contact over a 24-hour period at <6 feet. An infected person can spread COVID-19 up to 2 days before they have symptoms or 2 days prior to positive test if they have no symptoms, therefore, contacts should be identified who were exposed up to 2 days prior to onset or test date accordingly.
- Delta Variant** SARS-CoV-2 B.1.617.2 variant of the COVID-19 and labeled as a "variant of concern" for the United States.
- Fully Vaccinated** Individual who are two weeks removed from having a booster from a single-dose vaccine, like Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine, or their booster and/or 3rd dosage of a 2-dose series vaccine, like the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines.
- Group** Collection of individuals in regular contact or proximity when social distancing of 6 feet or greater has not been strictly maintained. Examples might include sports teams, dorm floors, groups of employees working in the same setting, sorority or fraternity houses, shared living environments, clubs and in-person classes. All members of a group must be quarantined in the event of an outbreak, unless vaccinated.
- Herd Immunity** When most of a population is immune to an infectious disease, providing indirect protection to those who are not immune to the disease.
- Infectious Period** 2 days (48 hours) prior to a symptom onset (or test positivity if no symptoms at the time of diagnosis) and then another 12 days from symptom onset or test positivity (14 days altogether). Infectious periods may be more/less if a variant form of the virus.
- Isolate** To separate a person who is infected with the virus away from people who are not.
- Physical Distancing** Keeping space of at least 6 feet (about 2 arm lengths) between people who are not from your household in both indoor and outdoor spaces. People who are not fully vaccinated should continue to practice physical distancing.
- Omicron Variant** SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.529 variant of the COVID-19 and labeled as a "variant of concern" for the United States.
- Outbreak** Identified if 3 or more individuals within a group of 30 or less (or 10% or more of larger groups) are diagnosed with COVID-19 within a 14-day period.

- Quarantine** To keep someone who might be exposed to or have the virus away from others.
- Subset** A portion of a larger group that with absolute certainty has had no contact with a case OR exposure to any of the identified contacts to that case who may be excluded from quarantine precautions.

VACCINE VERIFICATION PROGRAM

While not mandatory, the University highly encourages all members of the Delta State community to get a COVID-19 vaccination and appropriate booster/third dosage, which is consistent with our values of Integrity and Compassion. Students and employees of Delta State can request a vaccination through the O.W. Reily Student Health Services on campus by emailing healthservices@deltastate.edu.

In an effort to monitor the health and safety of the University, Delta State is asking that employees and students voluntarily submit proof of their vaccination. Delta State will not disclose the vaccination proof (and any other protected health information). The objective is to inform the campus community of the percentage of individuals who have been vaccinated in the student/employee populations and to gauge the University's overall population or herd immunity level.

Employees of the University may voluntarily submit their proof of vaccination at:
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=UAKh63sluUyYFLshZ7TZnfPO0mQU0xVMtytM8CGXZ19UM1pZNFGRFBTUkg5RkFXSDVXUDFOUDNWOS4u>

Students may voluntarily submit their proof of vaccination at:
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=jmRL-KUOeEK8N1BhY8VVrHT4qSiybwpHsAyVtx319etUNzQwWE9CQ0RaU0hXNzZFVFdHVVU5KSFYINi4u>

GUIDELINES FOR ADHERENCE BY DELTA STATE COMMUNITY

In accordance with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and with guidance from the Mississippi Department of Health, Delta State has adopted the following guidelines as it relates to safety for all members of our community.

- 1. You are highly encouraged to get one of the available vaccinations.**
While not mandatory, the University highly encourages all members of the Delta State community to get a COVID-19 vaccination and appropriate booster/third dosage. Students and employees of Delta State can request a vaccination through the O.W. Reily Student Health Services on campus by emailing healthservices@deltastate.edu. Additionally, persons who receive the vaccination will not face more stringent protocols related to quarantine if they are exposed to COVID-19.
- 2. Face coverings are required of everyone for entry into the O.W. Reily Health Center.**
Regardless of vaccination status, all persons must properly wear a face covering for entry into the O.W. Reily Health Center. of infection at this time.

SYMPTOM MONITORING, REPORTING REQUIREMENT, AND CONTACT TRACING

Consistent with COVID-19 guidance from Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) for complying with American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act, and for the safety of the Delta State University community, Delta State requires all employees and students to self-report if he/she/they displays signs or symptoms of COVID-19 illness, has been in "close contact" with someone who has COVID-19 (even if not experiencing symptoms), has tested positive for COVID-19, and/or has returned from international travel in the last 14 days.

Any student who displays signs or symptoms of COVID-19 illness, has been in "close contact" with someone who has COVID-19, has tested positive for COVID-19, and/or has returned from international travel in the last 14 days should isolate in their residence hall room, apartment, or dwelling immediately and contact the Office of Health & Counseling Services at (662) 846-4630 or healthservices@deltastate.edu. The student will need to provide the Office of Health and Counseling documentation of any test results if a test is taken outside of the Office of Health and Counseling Services.

Any employee displaying signs or symptoms of COVID-19 illness, has been in "close contact" with someone who has COVID-19, has tested positive for COVID-19, and/or has returned from international travel in the last 14 days should avoid campus unless instructed otherwise by University officials and contact Human Resources at (662) 846-4035.

ISOLATION & QUARANTINE

On August 11, 2022, the CDC updated its [guidance on COVID-19](#).

Essential updates from the latest guidance includes, but not limited to:

- Continuing to promote the importance of being [up to date with vaccination](#) to protect people against serious illness, hospitalization, and death. Protection provided by the current vaccine against symptomatic infection and transmission is less than that against severe disease and diminishes over time, especially against the currently circulating variants. For this reason, it is important to stay up to date, especially as new vaccines become available.
- Updating its guidance for people who are not up to date on COVID-19 vaccines on what to do if exposed to someone with COVID-19. This is consistent with the existing guidance for people who are up to date on COVID-19 vaccines.
- Recommending that instead of quarantining if you were exposed to COVID-19, you wear a high-quality mask for 10 days and get tested on day 5.
- Reiterating that regardless of vaccination status, you should isolate from others when you have COVID-19.
 - You should also isolate if you are sick and suspect that you have COVID-19 but do not yet have test results.
 - If your results are positive, follow CDC’s full isolation recommendations.
 - If your results are negative, you can end your isolation.
- Recommending that if you test positive for COVID-19, you stay home for at least 5 days and isolate from others in your home. You are likely most infectious during these first 5 days. Wear a high-quality mask when you must be around others at home and in public.
 - If after 5 days you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication, and your symptoms are improving, or you never had symptoms, you may end isolation after day 5.
 - Regardless of when you end isolation, avoid being around people who are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19 until at least day 11.
 - You should wear a high-quality mask through day 10.
- Recommending that if you had [moderate illness](#) (if you experienced shortness of breath or had difficulty breathing) or [severe illness](#) (you were hospitalized) due to COVID-19 or you have a weakened immune system, you need to isolate through day 10.

- Recommending that if you had **severe illness** or have a weakened immune system, consult your doctor before ending isolation. Ending isolation without a viral test may not be an option for you. If you are unsure if your symptoms are moderate or severe or if you have a weakened immune system, talk to a healthcare provider for further guidance.
- Clarifying that after you have ended isolation, if your COVID-19 symptoms worsen, restart your isolation at day 0. Talk to a healthcare provider if you have questions about your symptoms or when to end isolation.
- Recommending screening testing of asymptomatic people without known exposures will no longer be recommended in most community settings.
- Emphasizing that physical distance is just one component of how to protect yourself and others. It is important to consider the risk in a particular setting, including local COVID-19 Community Levels and the important role of ventilation, when assessing the need to maintain physical distance.

What to Do If You Were Exposed to COVID-19

If you were exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19 or have been told by a healthcare provider or public health authority that you were exposed, here are the steps that you should take, regardless of your vaccination status or if you have had a previous infection. Learn how COVID-19 spreads and the factors that make risk of spread higher or lower.

Start Precautions Immediately

Wear a mask as soon as you find out you were exposed - Start counting from Day 1.

- Day 0 is the day of your last exposure to someone with COVID-19
- Day 1 is the first full day after your last exposure

Continue Precautions 10 Full Days

You can still develop COVID-19 up to 10 days after you have been exposed.

Wear a high-quality mask or respirator (e.g., N95) any time you are around others inside your home or indoors in public.

- Do not go places where you are unable to wear a mask, including travel and public transportation settings.

Take extra precautions if you will be around people who are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19.

Watch for symptoms

- fever (100.4°F or greater)
- cough
- shortness of breath
- other COVID-19 symptoms

If you develop symptoms, get tested, isolate immediately, and stay home until you know your results.

Get Tested on Day 6

Get tested at least 5 full days after your last exposure and test even if you don't develop symptoms.

If you test negative, continue taking precautions through day 10.

If you test positive, isolate immediately and follow steps below.

Isolation and Precautions for People with COVID-19

If You Test Positive for COVID-19	Isolate
Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay home for 5 days.• If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house.• Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days. <p><i>If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.</i></p>

When you have COVID-19, isolation is counted in days, as follows:

If you had no symptoms:

- Day 0 is the day you were tested (not the day you received your positive test result)
- Day 1 is the first full day following the day you were tested
- If you develop symptoms within 10 days of when you were tested, the clock restarts at day 0 on the day of symptom onset

If you had symptoms:

- Day 0 of isolation is the day of symptom onset, regardless of when you tested positive
- Day 1 is the first full day after the day your symptoms started

ISOLATION

If you test positive for COVID-19, stay home for at least 5 days and isolate from others in your home. You are likely most infectious during these first 5 days.

- Wear a high-quality mask if you must be around others at home and in public.
- Do not go places where you are unable to wear a mask.
- Do not travel.
- Stay home and separate from others as much as possible.
- Use a separate bathroom, if possible.
- Take steps to improve ventilation at home, if possible.
- Don't share personal household items, like cups, towels, and utensils.
- Monitor your symptoms. If you have an emergency warning sign (like trouble breathing), seek emergency medical care immediately.

ENDING ISOLATION

If you had no symptoms:

You may end isolation after day 5.

If you had symptoms:

You may end isolation after day 5 if:

- You are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication)
- Your symptoms are improving

If you still have fever or your other symptoms have not improved, continue to isolate until they improve.

If you had moderate illness (if you experienced shortness of breath or had difficulty breathing), or severe illness (you were hospitalized) due to COVID-19, or you have a weakened immune system, you need to isolate through day 10.

If you had severe illness or have a weakened immune system, consult your doctor before ending isolation. Ending isolation without a viral test may not be an option for you.

If you are unsure if your symptoms are moderate or severe or if you have a weakened immune system, talk to a healthcare provider for further guidance.

Regardless of when you end isolation, avoid being around people who are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19 until at least day 11. Remember to wear a high-quality mask when indoors around others at home and in public and not go places where you are unable to wear a mask until you are able to discontinue masking (see below), including public transportation and travel settings.

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

Removing Your Mask

After you have ended isolation, when you are feeling better (no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and symptoms improving),

- Wear your mask through day 10, or,
- If you have access to antigen tests, you should consider using them. With two sequential negative tests 48 hours apart, you may remove your mask sooner than day 10.

Note: If your antigen test results¹ are positive, you may still be infectious. You should continue wearing a mask and wait at least 48 hours before taking another test. Continue taking antigen tests at least 48 hours apart until you have two sequential negative results. This may mean you need to continue wearing a mask and testing beyond day 10.

After you have ended isolation, if your COVID-19 symptoms recur or worsen, restart your isolation at day 0. Talk to a healthcare provider if you have questions about your symptoms or when to end isolation.

Any student who displays signs or symptoms of COVID-19 illness, has been in “close contact” with someone who has COVID-19, has tested positive for COVID-19, and/or has returned from international travel in the last 14 days should isolate in their residence hall room, apartment, or dwelling immediately and contact the Office of Health & Counseling Services at (662) 846-4630 or healthservices@deltastate.edu. The student will need to provide the Office of Health and Counseling documentation of any test results if a test is taken outside of the Office of Health and Counseling Services.

Any employee displaying signs or symptoms of COVID-19 illness, has been in “close contact” with someone who has COVID-19, has tested positive for COVID-19, and/or has returned from international travel in the last 14 days should avoid campus unless instructed otherwise by University officials and contact Human Resources at (662) 846-4035.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS

The goal of Delta State University is to provide students the best quality education possible in the safest environment possible. To accomplish this goal, Delta State has outlined the following requirements for students in order to reduce exposure while maintaining an in-person learning atmosphere.

1. Plan to arrive in your classroom five to ten minutes early to avoid creating a large group of students when entering the building or the classroom.
2. Upon entering the classroom, take a disinfectant wipe and clean your desk. Disinfectant wipes are provided in each classroom.
3. Do not attend class if you do not feel well or are ill. Email your instructor if you are absent for any reason.
4. Contact the Office of Health & Counseling Services at (662) 846-4630 immediately if you do not feel well. Do not go to class.
5. Online tutoring is now available 24/7 for all students. A link to the tutoring site is in your Canvas page. You can also take advantage of the many resources provided by the Student Success Center, including tutoring and academic counseling.

Roommates and suitemates of residents and roommates of commuters who have been exposed to or tested positive for COVID-19 must quarantine/isolate and undergo the COVID-19 protocols as well.

Should a student become ill, show symptoms of the virus, have the COVID-19 virus, or has come into “close contact” with someone who has tested positive for the virus, it is the responsibility of the student to contact the Office of Health & Counseling Services.

HOUSING & RESIDENCE LIFE QUARANTINE PROTOCOLS

In the event a residential student is determined to be isolated related to COVID-19 exposure to or contraction of the virus or variants, the following protocols are in place for the student and University’s safety. This process has oversight of reassignment, transportation, and relocation of student to designated quarantine space.

1. Students who live on campus must relocate to a designated isolation space immediately. Residents 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 isolation.
2. Isolations may be any open room in any residence hall. Students who are local compared to other residents may be asked to isolate at their home when the quarantine/isolation location reaches capacity.
3. A representative from the Office of Health & Counseling Services will contact the student daily to request their temperature.
4. Student will be given a weekly menu for placing meal orders in advance. Housing and Residence Life staff will deliver meals 3 times per day.
5. Students will prepare to gather belongings and enough essentials, including clothing, to get through a five (5) isolation.
6. The Office of Health & Counseling Services will send documentation to the student with potential isolation dates, follow-up date with Office of Health & Counseling Services and possible return to class date.
7. The Office of Health & Counseling Services will notify the Director of Housing and Residence Life of the isolation dates.
8. The Office of Health & Counseling Services will notify the Director of Housing and Residence Life when the student has been released from isolation.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPLOYEES

Employees of the University must follow the following protocols should it be determined that the employee is ill/showing symptoms of the virus or has come into "close contact" with someone who has tested positive for the virus. Any employee displaying signs or symptoms of COVID-19 illness, has been in "close contact" with someone who has COVID-19, has tested positive for COVID-19, and/or has returned from international travel in the last 14 days should avoid campus unless instructed otherwise by University officials and contact Human Resources at (662) 846-4035.

1. Proceed to the O.W. Reily Health Center to undergo a COVID-19 Test.
 - a. If the Health Center is unavailable, leave campus immediately. Proceed to the nearest testing site to get tested for COVID-19. or remain at home until cleared to return.
2. Notify their immediate supervisor of the situation.
3. Notify Human Resources at (662) 846-4035 for next steps regarding leave forms and/or work from home orders.
4. Employee throughout process should monitor for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19.

5. Employee must receive approval from Human Resources to return to campus.

Additionally, Human Resources will complete the following on behalf of the employee in the event the employee must remain away from campus.

1. Human Resources will notify the employee's supervisor and vice president of the stay home/quarantine dates, as well as the follow-up date, and will provide instructions to employee's supervisor and vice president regarding confidentiality of employee health information.
2. Human Resources will contact the employee on the follow-up date to conduct a re-screening (if applicable).
3. Human Resources will notify the employee's supervisor and vice president of the employee's ability to return to the workplace and the date the employee is to return to work, if cleared. If the employee is not cleared, HR will notify the employee's supervisor and vice president of their decision and the follow-up date.
4. Human Resources will notify the campus of a positive COVID-19 case on campus, notify the appropriate department, and remind all employees to be proactive and knowledgeable in best practices for prevention of spread and encouraging those not vaccinated to do so.

COVID-19 TESTING

Testing can be done free at the O.W. Reily Student Health Services, Monday through Thursday, 8:00-5:00, for students and employees.

In partnership with Bolivar Medical Center, the university will utilize Cleveland Medical Clinic's After-Hours Center for the testing. The clinic can be reached at (662-579-0136) and is located at 901E. Sunflower Road. Suite 100-1, Cleveland, MS.

Employees are required to report the results of all COVID-19 tests to Human Resources. The anonymity and confidentiality of persons with COVID-19 will be protected during this process.

Students are required to report the results of all COVID-19 tests to the Office of Health & Counseling Services. The anonymity and confidentiality of persons with COVID-19 will be protected during this process.

CONTACT TRACING FOR POSITIVE CASES

To help determine the risk of potential exposure to campus, Human Resources (employees) and the Office of Health & Counseling Services (students) will conduct contact tracing with individuals who test positive for COVID-19. Exposed individuals will be given the name of the individual who tested positive so that their risk can be assessed; however, the actual test result (and any other protected health information) will not be disclosed. The objective is to inform individuals of known exposures and to closely monitor each individual to ensure that any signs of infection are addressed early.

Within 24 hours of the confirmed case, the exposed individual(s) will receive a call to inform them of having had "close contact" with a COVID-19 positive person, apprise them of the

situation, and have them complete the appropriate Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Health Screening form.

Human Resources and the Office of Health & Counseling Services will work jointly to cross-reference students and employees who have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive employee and vice versa.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Delta State University is adhering to the guidelines set forth by the CDC as it relates to International Travel. This includes isolation and testing requirements for employees and students returning from international travel. The CDC has clear guidelines for individuals who are fully vaccinated and non-vaccinated personnel. No one should travel if you were exposed to COVID-19, you are sick, you test positive for COVID-19, or you are waiting for results of a COVID-19 test.

Guidelines can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel-during-covid19.html>

Employees returning from international travel should contact Human Resources to initiate the CDC protocols. Students returning from international travel should contact the Office of Health & Counseling Services.

PERSONAL SAFETY PRACTICES

Delta State University wishes to keep all members of our community informed and safe during these unprecedented times. Persons may choose to utilize these personal safety practice.

A. Face Masks/Cloth Face Coverings

Face masks or face coverings are recommended to be worn by all employees working on campus when in the presence of others and in all public settings (e.g., common work spaces, meeting rooms, classrooms, etc.). Neck Gaiters and Face Shields can be worn as well.

B. Wear your masks properly.

If wearing a mask, one is encouraged to follow the [guidance from the CDC](#) on how to wear and care for face coverings properly.

C. Social Distancing

Keeping space between you and others is one of the best tools we have to avoid being exposed to the COVID-19 virus and slowing its spread. Since people can spread the virus before they know they are sick, it is important to stay away from others when possible, even if you have no symptoms. Social distancing is important for everyone, especially to help protect people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

Everyone should follow these social distancing practices:

- 1) Social distance from other people at all times.
- 2) Adjust physical work locations to assure social distancing can be maintained.
- 3) Avoid mass gatherings.

Delta State University will follow state and local guidelines regarding the limitations surrounding indoor gatherings, outdoor gatherings, and arena attendance.

D. Hand washing

Everyone should wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after being in a public place, or after blowing their nose, coughing, sneezing, or touching their face. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands with the sanitizer and rub your hands together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, and wash your hands after touching your face.

E. Gloves

Healthcare workers and others in high-risk areas should use gloves as part of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), but according to the CDC, gloves are not necessary for general use and do not replace good hand hygiene. Anyone will be allowed to wear their personal gloves, if desired, but the University will not furnish gloves. Washing your hands often is considered the best practice for common everyday tasks.

F. Goggles/Face Shields

Individuals do not need to wear goggles or face shields as part of general activity on campus. Good hand-cleaning hygiene and avoiding touching your face are generally sufficient for non-healthcare environments.

G. Personal Disinfection

While custodial crews will continue to clean administrative, educational, and public spaces based on CDC guidelines, everyone should take additional care to wipe down commonly used surfaces.

H. Coughing/Sneezing Hygiene

If you are in a private setting and do not have on your cloth face covering, remember to always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, or use the inside of your elbow. Throw used tissues in the trash. Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

I. Flu Shot

Delta State University urges everyone to obtain a flu shot so as to reduce flu as a potential source of symptoms that would confuse COVID-19 diagnosis.

J. Facility Cleaning and Disinfection for Positive Cases

If it has been five days or less since the person with confirmed COVID-19 visited or used the facility, Facilities Management will:

- Close off areas visited by the ill person.
- Open outside doors and windows and use ventilating fans to increase air circulation in the area.
- Clean and disinfect all areas such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, and shared electronic equipment used by the ill person, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces.

COUNSELING SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Students in need of counseling and testing services may request them via the booking link: <https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/CounselingTesting@deltastate.edu/bookings/>

Students may also request counseling services via email at counselingandtesting@deltastate.edu.

Counseling sessions will be offered via Zoom and/or telephone.

CAMPUS-WIDE PROGRAMMING & ACTIVITIES

All campus-wide activities, academic and non-academic, must adhere to the health and safety protocols outlined in this document. Event organizers must ensure all protocols outlined in this document are followed. Failure to follow these protocols may result in corrective action against the organizer and/or organization.

THE WHAT IF'S OF AN OUTBREAK

Outbreaks represent serious risk to the identified group and the broader community. There are several potential responses to an outbreak that can be taken. When the outbreak threshold* is reached in a defined group, the risk of exposure is significantly raised for the rest of the group; there may be as many unidentified cases already present in the group setting. The best way to prevent further transmission is to isolate those already known to be cases and quarantine those individuals within a group setting to reduce the risk of further spread from as of yet unrecognized cases. Congregate settings such as dormitories with shared spaces can dramatically increase the risk of transmission. Transmission is more likely between people who live together or share spaces (including bathrooms).

Isolation and quarantine will be based off the recommendations provided by the Center for Disease Control.

MASK REQUIREMENT IN CERTAIN OFFICES

Masks are still required of everyone upon entry to the O.W. Reily Health Center and the Speech and Hearing Clinic.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

For information on frequently asked questions regarding the COVID-19 virus and its variants, please visit the Center for Disease Controls website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>.