



BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

2021 Spring - BACK TO CAMPUS FAQs

STUDENTS

PREVENTION

While Blue Mountain College is taking measures to protect the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff, individuals can take personal measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by adhering to the following recommendations:

- Wear a mask in public places.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Do not go to class, work, the dining hall, or other gatherings if you are sick.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- [Wash hands](#) often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer.

If I have questions about COVID-19 with whom do I speak?

Contact the College's COVID-19 Response Coordinator at covid19@bmc.edu, or call 662-685-4771 (Ext. 111).

What should students who think they have been exposed to COVID-19 do?

Students must complete the symptom tracking survey - Full Measure at the start of each day. The survey is sent daily via a text message.

Students will be asked to show the status of their pass at the beginning of each class and upon entering the dining hall. Students living in the residence halls must show their pass to their resident director prior to moving back into the dorm at the beginning of the semester. If the results of Full Measure indicate possible exposure to the COVID-19 virus, students must contact the COVID-19 Response Coordinator immediately for instructions.

Should students contact their professors before they contact the COVID-19 Response Coordinator?

No. Students should contact the COVID-19 Response Coordinator for instructions.

What Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available to students?

Students will be provided with a mask. Hand sanitizer stations have been placed throughout the campus. Students are responsible for maintaining their personal PPE. Students will be expected to wear masks, to use hand sanitizer, and to practice physical/social distancing in the classroom. **Face shields and Neck Gaiters are not substitutes for masks.**

Will temperature checks be available?

In order to provide tools necessary to help prevent and detect the spread of COVID-19 on the BMC campus, no-touch temperature check stations have been distributed throughout the college campus.

What steps are being taken to sanitize/disinfect facilities and equipment?

The College has developed a plan for cleaning and disinfecting to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19. The plan includes identification of high traffic areas that require heightened disinfection (i.e., doorknobs, common areas, desks, light switches, handrails, etc.). Housekeeping staff schedules have been altered, and materials procured, to allow classroom/common areas to be disinfected throughout the day. Sanitizing wipes, disinfectant sprays, and hand sanitizers are available across campus. Plans will be altered based on guidance and circumstances. Faculty and students are responsible for cleaning/sanitizing personal workspaces.

Will physical/social distancing be observed?

Physical/social distancing will be implemented in all college facilities whenever possible.



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How will social distancing be achieved in classrooms?

Class size is limited to 50% of the seating capacity of the classroom. Seating charts will be used in classrooms in order to aid in contact tracing.

What are the PPE requirements?

Students are expected to wear face coverings at all times in public settings (i.e., hallways, classrooms, labs, dining hall area, auditoriums, etc.). Masks are not a substitute for physical/social distancing. Masks are not required in one's own residence hall room, suite, study room or in public outdoor settings where physical distancing requirements are met.

Are different types of PPE available for different disciplines?

Appropriate safety measures are being implemented for courses involving labs, music, and theatre. Additional requirements for labs and studio arts include: after labs all equipment must be sanitized; communal supplies are not allowed; lab simulations should be considered instead of actually performing the lab. Physical distancing of 6 ft must be maintained in all cases. In the performing arts, faculty must be innovative; all students in voice must wear face shields during lessons. Faculty must shorten times in contact when possible; physical distancing is most important.

What if I am uncomfortable being in a classroom? Can I switch to online?

It is a possibility; however, a student's request will need to be evaluated on a case by case basis. The student should contact the instructor of the course, the instructor will consult with the department chair, and the department chair will then consult with the Provost. The determining factors will be the student's major, the type of class, availability, and approval from the Provost. Example: Pre-professional classes will be difficult to accommodate because of required lab work.

What is the purpose of the health pledge?

The purpose of the health pledge is a commitment by students of Blue Mountain College to follow the guidelines set up to ensure the health and well-being of the BMC community on and off the campus.

Who can answer questions about housing?

The Office of Student Services can answer questions regarding residential housing. Contact Philip Ritchey, Dean of Students, at 662.685.4771 (Ext. 144) or by email at pritchey@bmc.edu.

What happens if someone in my residence hall gets COVID-19?

Students testing positive for COVID-19 will be moved from the residence hall to a designated quarantine location. The College's cleaning service will step in immediately to do a thorough cleaning to disinfect.

If I have to go into quarantine or isolation, can I continue with my classes online?

Yes. A plan will be designed for individual cases according to student needs and courses.

If I need to be tested, who pays for it?

A student who is symptomatic and is tested for COVID-19 must file it on his or her personal insurance. A student who is not symptomatic and is tested will be responsible for the cost. The COVID-19 Response Coordinator will assist students in locating free testing sites.

What is the protocol for an international student who has been out of the country?

International students will quarantine upon arrival on campus.



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Will intramurals be offered?

Yes. Intramural and student activities will be offered when social distancing can be achieved. Guidelines for safe participation are under development.

How will athletes conduct practice?

All athletic plans will adhere to National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and Southern States Athletic Conference guidelines. Individual sports will have protocols in place to allow student-athletes to perform, while following state and federal guidelines. Individual coaches will be in contact with players and provide guidelines and information.

How will the dining hall be configured to promote safety?

Blue Mountain College and MMI Dining have measures in place to ensure food safety and a safe dining experience. Proper distancing will be required and checked. Staggered eating times, grab and go options, pre-packaged items, staff-served stations, etc. will be available. Outdoor dining has been provided.

Are we still having chapel? How many are required?

Yes. Students can miss two chapels with no penalties. Chapel services will be recorded and posted on the Chapel Canvas page by 2 p.m. each Monday. All students are required to watch the videos and respond to related questions by Thursday night at 11:59 p.m. This will count for chapel attendance.

What is the difference between quarantine and isolation?

Check out the [Center for Disease Control](https://www.cdc.gov) (CDC) website.