



## COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS – FALL 2020

*For University of Northwestern families. Updated July 17, 2020.*

We are excited for your arrival on campus! As we work to mitigate the COVID-19 virus on campus and respond to its evolving effects, we have made some changes to how we operate. By implementing safety protocols and procedures that have been significantly shaped by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Minnesota Office of Higher Education (MOHE), and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), we can join together as a community to reduce the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus on our campus. Our knowledge and understanding of the COVID-19 virus continue to evolve. As a result, our policies and plans will be reviewed and revised accordingly as more information becomes available.

As we follow these protocols and procedures, we will exercise wisdom that is shaped by our faith. We trust God's sovereignty as we experience the hazards that are common throughout life. We look forward to the upcoming fall semester full of faith, not allowing fear to paralyze us to inaction.

This document is designed to address needs for our entire on-campus student community. As you read through its contents, please pay close attention to the sections that apply to your individual situation.

### BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

#### *Exhibiting COVID-19 Signs and Symptoms*

We look forward to welcoming you to campus! However, it is imperative that you do not arrive on campus ill. If you are ill, please stay home until you are well. If you have come into contact with someone who has a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the last 14 days, please stay home until 14 days have passed and you are symptom-free. If you must delay your scheduled arrival on campus for health reasons, please contact [arriving@unwsp.edu](mailto:arriving@unwsp.edu) prior to coming to campus.

#### *Testing*

Currently, Northwestern will not require students to be tested before arriving on campus.

#### *What to Bring*

In addition to personal items you would normally consider packing for residential life, all community members should bring the following when coming to campus:

- Face Coverings (required effective July 30)
  - 2 face coverings will be provided for all on-campus residential and traditional undergraduate commuter students. We encourage you to bring more face coverings to reduce the need for frequent laundering.

- 1 face covering will be provided for all adult undergraduate and graduate students attending blended sections on campus.
- Hand Sanitizer (check for recommended ingredients)
- Sanitizing Wipes
- Thermometer (residential students)

A comprehensive list of items to bring, as recommended by Health Services, can be found online at <https://unwsp.edu/uploads/Health-Services/What-to-Bring.pdf>

## ORIENTATION

Orientation for the fall semester will take place primarily in-person, although certain elements—in addition to Moodle instruction—will take place virtually. Students will check in at staggered arrival times and be grouped to reduce gathering sizes and room occupancy.

## RESIDENTIAL STUDENT MOVE-IN

All residential students are asked to limit their move-in assistance to 1-2 other individuals. All individuals are required to wear a face covering while in the residence halls during the move-in process.

New student move-in will take place on Friday, August 21 and Saturday, August 22.

- New students will be assigned a two-hour window for move-in.
- For students that need assistance, student leaders will be available to help new students move in.

Returning student move-in will take place on Monday, August 24, and Tuesday, August 25.

- Returning students will self-select a one-hour window to move in.
- Returning students should coordinate with their roommate(s) to move in at separate times.

## WHEN YOU ARRIVE ON CAMPUS

As we prepare to gather together on campus during this unique time, it is crucial for each member of our community to unite around our love for God and one another. As an organization, we will practice that by exercising wisdom and caution through the following protocols.

## ACADEMICS

### *Face-to-Face Courses*

Face coverings and social distancing:

- All Northwestern community members and guests are required to wear face coverings in all public settings, which includes classrooms. Social distancing will be followed as much as possible. However, maintaining six-foot distancing will not always be possible due to a variety of

factors including the amount of meeting space available on campus and the nature of class requirement (e.g., physical labs).

- To help achieve the goal of social distancing, some classes will take place in larger meeting spaces not traditionally used for instruction (e.g., Nazareth Chapel, Nazareth Great Room, Youderian Missional Center, etc.).

Variations in course formats:

- While the majority of courses will be offered face-to-face, some courses will be offered in virtual or hybrid formats.
  - Virtual courses will not have any in-person components and will include the use of synchronous (real-time) instruction.
  - Hybrid classes will combine in-person instruction with remote learning by dividing students into assigned, rotating groups that alternate between attending the class in-person and virtually. Live instruction will continue to be presented in the classroom but will also be video streamed to students participating remotely.

### *Classroom Protocols*

We expect the following protocols for all in-person classes:

- Seating assignments will be used.
- Eating during classes is prohibited, although students may drink from personal water bottles or cups.
- Students will help clean their desk surfaces in classrooms.

### *Travel*

All student travel related to academic programming, such as Study Abroad, will be evaluated on a location-by-location basis on the ability to proceed.

## CAMPUS STATUS

You are responsible for your health and for avoiding close contact with other individuals when you are sick.

### *Self-Screening*

Students, faculty, and staff should be prepared to daily self-screen/monitor for symptoms of COVID-19, which includes temperature checks, prior to engaging with the community. According to the CDC, the symptoms of COVID-19 that you should self-screen/monitor for are:

- 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

### *Social Distancing*

Spaces on campus are being modified to accommodate six-foot social distancing where possible.

- Some physical barriers are being added to allow person-to-person communication and room functionality, while still maintaining physical distance from community members and visitors.
- In outdoor spaces, such as the campus green or near the Billy Graham Community Life Commons, social distancing is still expected. If socially distanced outdoors, community members are not required to wear a facial covering.
- If social distancing cannot be maintained outdoors, facial coverings are required at all times.

### *Sanitization*

Increased cleaning measures have been implemented to mitigate risk for our community members. New sanitizing and disinfecting products are being reviewed, tested, and implemented by our Facilities staff.

### *Behavioral Signage*

New protocols will be reinforced with strategically-placed signage in an effort to consistently remind our community and guests that the well-being of our campus depends on all of us doing our part. This signage will also include reminders about hygiene practices and wearing face coverings.

### *Campus Dining*

Dining is a major part of campus life at Northwestern. Some adjustments to the dining experience will be made to reduce risk, while still facilitating the opportunity for a great dining experience. We continue to explore various options.

- Dining Staff will be pre-screened prior to each shift. Staff will be masked.
- Self-service stations will be reduced. Let the Bon Appetit staff serve you!
- An increased number of to-go and individually packaged items will be offered.
- Campus dining tables and chairs will be reconfigured to provide more distance for guests. Some clear barriers may be installed at tables to provide additional protection.
- Traffic flow will be marked on floors to take the guesswork out of how to social distance in line.
- The Eagle's Nest will be open additional hours to allow students to disperse between dining areas.
- Students will scan their own ID/dining cards at the registers.

## STUDENT LIFE

### *Chapel & Spiritual Formation*

Northwestern views chapel as an integral part of the student experience as a place to gather, grow, and worship as a community. Capacity restrictions and social distancing measures require the following temporary changes to the chapel structure:

- Plans are being developed to provide an in-person chapel experience on a rotation. Rotating groups will be designated and scheduled to attend specific Monday, Wednesday, or Friday chapels. In all cases, assigned seating will be used.
  - As fully integrated members of our community, PSEO on-campus students are not required to attend chapel. However, these students will be assigned to a specific rotation to ensure an in-person chapel opportunity.
- All chapels from Knight Hall will be live streamed to enable all students to participate. This combination of both in-person and virtual chapel experiences being offered this fall will also enable students who need to self-quarantine or isolate to maintain their connection to the chapel experience.
- In-person alternative chapels will continue to be offered on Wednesdays and Thursdays in select spaces on campus. More information related to the chapel experience will be announced in the near future.

### *Student Events*

All proposed on-campus, in-person student events must be evaluated to determine if they can be held with minimized risk. Events should be held virtually, outdoors, or in indoor spaces that allow social distancing. If an event cannot happen with minimized risk, it will not be authorized. All student club or organization events must be pre-approved by the Office of Student Life. Other student events must be pre-approved by their sponsoring office (e.g., Academics, Athletics, Music, Theatre).

## RESIDENCE LIFE

- Individuals who are not current UNW students, faculty, or staff members are not allowed in the residence halls.
- Residential units will be filled to their normal occupancy. Precautions continue to be considered within each residence hall to better mitigate health and safety concerns.
- Students will maintain a minimum of six feet of space, head-to-head based on sleeping configurations and desk spaces. Beds that are bunked with students sleeping in opposite directions are sufficient for spacing.
- Students are required to wear a face covering in all common areas of the residence halls including lounges, laundry rooms, and hallways. Face coverings do not need to be worn in a student's own residential unit (i.e., dorm room, Moyer Hall quad, Pittman North, and Ramseyer apartments). If authorized visitors (UNW students or staff) are in the room, face coverings are strongly recommended.

## HEALTH SERVICES

### *Facility Information*

- Health Services will be open during the following times:  
Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (*Closed on holidays and weekends*)
- Students will be seen by appointment only. Whenever possible, visits will be conducted by telemedicine.

- Appointments for students experiencing non-respiratory and non-COVID symptoms will be hosted in the mornings at our Nazareth Hall site.
- UNW Health Services intends to provide testing for all traditional students as needed.
- Students requiring testing or a physical examination will be seen, by appointment only, at our respiratory clinic site (2955 Centre Pointe Dr., Roseville). Transportation to this site will be available by reservation if students are unable to transport themselves.

#### *Symptomatic or Positive Diagnosis of COVID-19*

- If residents who live within 250 miles of the St. Paul campus encounter symptoms or a confirmed case of COVID-19, they will be expected to isolate or quarantine at their home.
- Residents who live beyond 250 miles who have encountered symptoms or a confirmed case will be encouraged to isolate or quarantine off campus. A limited number of rooms are available on campus for students who do not have other quarantine options.
  - Student services, such as meals (via the student's meal plan), health check-ins, and trash removal will be coordinated for those who need to stay on campus. Further details, such as whom to contact in the event of a confirmed case, will be communicated at a later date.
- Students and parents are asked to discuss a plan and be prepared to have a space for isolation or quarantine off campus if the need arises.

## **MORE INFORMATION**

While this document provides a summary of our proactive measures, a more detailed list can be found online at [unwsp.edu/fall-return-to-campus](http://unwsp.edu/fall-return-to-campus). That webpage will continue to be updated as additional information becomes known.

## **LEGAL DISCLAIMER**

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is highly contagious and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. As a result, federal, state, and local governments and health agencies recommend social distancing, face masks, frequent hand cleaning, good sneezing and coughing hygiene, and staying home when sick. In addition, they have, in many locations, prohibited the congregation of groups of people. UNW aims to deliver its mission while protecting the health and safety of our students and minimizing the potential spread of COVID-19 within our community. To do this, Northwestern has implemented a number of changes for the fall 2020 semester. These changes will be in effect unless and until otherwise communicated to the Northwestern community.

Although Northwestern has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, Northwestern cannot guarantee that any student or other member of our community will not become infected with COVID-19. By participating in classes involving in-person instruction, residing on campus in

a communal environment, or participating in other on-campus activities with community members, you understand the risks of exposure to individuals who have contracted COVID-19 and contracting COVID-19, which may in some instances lead to severe illness or death. You also understand that the risk of being exposed to or contracting COVID-19 cannot be eliminated in any community environment, and you acknowledge and voluntarily assume the risk that you may be exposed to COVID-19 on campus and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death.