Inver Hills Community College COVID-19 Stay Safe Guidance

Inver Hills Community College (Inver Hills) is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all members of our campus community. Effective June 30, 2021, MN State Colleges and Universities no longer require a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan; however, we will continue to manage this COVID-19 Stay Safe Guidance plan. We will also continue to monitor recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), federal COVID-19 OSHA standards, and any Executive Orders from MN Governor Tim Walz.

General Stay Safe Guidance

- Masks or face coverings are mandatory on campus, regardless of vaccination status. See the CDC site for face mask guidelines.
- See the below State of Minnesota policy on proof of vaccination and COVID testing requirements for employees and students.
- Inver Hills employees should still remain home if sick, and notify your supervisor. If you think you have COVID symptoms, get tested.
- Inver Hills students should remain home if sick and report symptoms of COVID or a positive COVID test to the Interim Vice President of Student Affairs, Kari Rusch-Curl at 651-450-3887 or at krusch-curl@inverhills.edu.
- Maintain physical distancing of 6’ in common areas.
- Maintain physical distancing of 3’ in classrooms.
- Practice hand hygiene by frequent washing of hands or using hand sanitizer.

Mandatory Face Mask or Face Covering

Under revised CDC guidance, effective August 9, 2021, all individuals on campus must wear a mask regardless of vaccine status except where required by federal, state, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations. See the CDC site for face mask guidelines.

This mitigation measure is in response to the increase of COVID-19 cases, including the Delta variant, especially among the unvaccinated. Dakota County is now at a “high” level of transmission (CDC COVID Data Tracker). We will continue to monitor rates during this mandate and adjust our approach should transmission rates change.

COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination & Testing Management Requirements for Employees

Under a new State of Minnesota policy, all state agency employees, including employees of Minnesota State, are required to either show proof of full COVID-19 vaccination or be tested weekly. As part of the Minnesota State
Inver Hills will comply with the State of Minnesota policy and implement a proof of vaccination requirement for all employees effective September 8, 2021. Under this policy:

- Agency staff who are assigned to work at the workplace (rather than at-home telework), and who wish to access the workplace for more than 10 minutes, or otherwise provide agency services outside of their home must provide proof of their COVID-19 vaccination status.
- All agency staff who are assigned to work at the workplace (rather than at-home telework) or who otherwise provide agency services outside of their home and do not submit proof of full COVID-19 vaccination must undergo mandatory COVID-19 testing at least weekly.
- This policy is subject to change at Minnesota Management and Budget’s (MMB) discretion, including based on public health guidance. Staff members may be subject to additional attestation, vaccination, or testing requirements under agency policy or state or federal law.
- This policy applies to all employees, contractors, vendors, volunteers, interns, and student workers of Minnesota State.
- Additional information regarding proof of vaccination status standards and expectations can be found in the MMB COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination and Testing Policy.
- The Minnesota State System Office will deploy a system-wide technology solution that can track both COVID-19 vaccination attestations as well as weekly testing. More information will be shared when this new technology becomes available.

The single most effective strategy for reducing the spread of COVID-19 is to get vaccinated. If you haven’t been vaccinated yet, find a vaccine.

COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination & Testing Management Requirements for Students

Effective October 4, 2021, Minnesota State will require vaccination attestation for specific student groups or populations that are in settings where there is close and frequent contact with others. Students in the groups below who choose not to provide attestation will need to undergo a COVID test at least once a week.

- Student groups required to provide vaccination attestation:
  - Students participating in intercollegiate athletics consistent with NCAA and Minnesota College Athletic Conference announced vaccine and testing protocols.
  - Students who are required to as directed by clinical or internships sites. These sites may have requirements or mandates that may go beyond the attestation and testing required by Minnesota State for students in other contexts.
  - Colleges and universities can identify additional student extra-curricular group activities where social distancing is not possible and that have close and frequent contact with other students (e.g., intramural/club sports, theater productions, choral groups, etc.), where attestation or testing may be required.

The single most effective strategy for reducing the spread of COVID-19 is to get vaccinated. If you haven’t been vaccinated yet, find a vaccine.

Social Distancing

- Campus classrooms require 3’ of social distancing.
- In other campus locations, 6’ of social distancing should be maintained.
Increased social distancing in classrooms may be implemented as a COVID-19 mitigation effort should COVID-19 cases on campus or in the community continue at the high or substantial level.

Guidance for In-Person Instruction

In line with guidance from the CDC, MDH and Minnesota Office of Higher Education (OHE), programs are permitted to continue instruction during the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak provided:

- Three-feet (3 feet) social distancing is maintained in classrooms; however, contingent on:
  - Levels of circulating virus;
  - High rates of vaccination;
  - Universal masking; and
  - Assigned seating is in place.

- If students need to work in pairs or in small groups, make the pairings consistent for the duration of the in-person coursework to minimize contact with multiple individuals.

- All programs should maintain plans for returning to hybrid approaches or going online if there is an increase of cases on campus that lead to transmission in the classroom.

Faculty Expectations

- Academic Deans will be the primary COVID-19 contact for programs/departments to answer questions and make determinations about any symptoms that may prevent a student from attending in-person.

- Faculty will continue to check in with their dean as they monitor the safety of their classroom or lab environment.

- Deans should communicate clearly to students and faculty about the necessity of following the identified protocols to ensure individual and class health and safety.

- Faculty must wear face coverings, maintain social distancing requirements, and ensure students also follow these requirements.

Confirmed Case of COVID-19

If an employee has tested positive for the virus with medical testing, they should report their situation to their supervisor.

If a student has tested positive for the virus, they should report their situation to the Interim Vice President of Student Affairs, Kari Rusch-Curl at 651-450-3887 or at krusch-curl@inverhills.edu. Students should also contact their faculty members to inform them that you will not be attending class.

When a case has been confirmed, MDH is notified, and they will follow up to see who else might have been exposed and to conduct any necessary contact tracing. The college may need to do their own contact tracing to assess quickly whether an individual in class or in an activity had any close contact with others or when there is a need to quickly assess wrap-around services.

Any employee, student, or guest who is on campus, and reports that they are sick or experiencing symptoms while they are on campus, will be isolated in a dedicated workplace area (e.g., nurse’s office) until they can return home.
Facilities will provide an additional cycle of targeted disinfection to public areas where the person may have visited including community areas, such as point of entry, restrooms, break areas/cafeterias, etc.

Supervisors or college employees will sanitize the immediate workstation or area of the employee, student, or guest who was sent home. If the supervisor or college employee responsible for cleaning is in a high-risk category, facilities will assist.

Quarantine & Isolation Guidelines

For the most up-to-date quarantine and isolation guidelines, as well as other COVID resources, please see the CDC website and MDH website.

Capacity Limitations

Limits on size and capacity restrictions for indoor and outdoor events are currently lifted; however, capacity limit restrictions may be implemented as a COVID-19 mitigation effort should COVID-19 cases on campus or in the community continue to be at the high or substantial level. Social distancing of 6’ in common areas and 3’ in classrooms should be followed and masks are required.

COVID-19 Infection Prevention Protocols

Inver Hills expects all employees, guests, and students to do their part to help combat the spread of COVID-19 by following basic protocols.

- Every person that enters the campus is instructed to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water frequently throughout the day, but especially at the beginning and end of their time on campus, prior to any mealtimes, and after using the toilet.
- If soap and water are not readily available, the use of hand sanitizer will be expected of each person after interactions with other people or objects.
- In addition to wearing a mask, employees, students, and guests should cover their mouth and nose with their sleeve or a tissue when coughing or sneezing and avoid touching their face, in particular their mouth, nose and eyes, with their hands. They should dispose of tissues in the trash and wash or sanitize their hands immediately afterward.

Facilities Management Cleaning & Disinfecting Protocols

Facilities management will ensure that necessary handwashing and/or sanitizer supplies are available and maintained according to CDC and MDH policies.

- Requests for cleaning and disinfecting supplies should be directed through supervisors who will work with the campus Facilities Department.
- Facilities will follow a rigorous and consistent protocol for cleaning the campus. The daily cleaning routine includes all common areas, conference rooms, and used labs and classrooms at the end of each business day.
- When possible, Facilities will sanitize between classes. Where classes are back to back, they will come in after classes to sanitize the classroom.
• Controlled air handlers have been set to bring in more outside air while also maintaining comfort. Air Handlers have had ionizers installed. The ionizers kill bacteria, mold, and viruses.

Shared Cleaning & Disinfecting Responsibility for Classrooms, Labs & Work Areas
Facilities management has cleaning and disinfecting supplies available should faculty want to clean classroom areas, including labs or their own work areas, following an on-campus class. This cleaning would be in addition to the cleaning protocols already being followed by facilities.

Guidance for Campus Space Rental
Organizations wishing to rent space on campus will need to follow the same guidelines and protocols outlined in this Stay Safe Guidance plan. In addition to general campus guest expectations, event organizers (including CECT) will be expected to perform the following:
• The employee responsible for arranging the space rental will have responsibility for ensuring event organizers understand and follow outlined protocols including (masks or face coverings requirements and social distancing protocols).
• Employees will work through their supervisor to ensure cleaning and sanitation supplies from Facilities are provided on site.

COVID-19 Level Alert Dashboard
Per guidance from Minnesota State, we no longer need to reflect the COVID status level alert on campus; however, this could change given an increase in variants and COVID case levels on campus or in the community.

COVID-19 Self-Assessment Health Screening Tool
Effective May 24, 2021, students, employees or visitors no longer need to complete the COVID Health Screening Questionnaire Tool ("green screen"). However, please continue to self-monitor for COVID symptoms and stay home if you are not feeling well and seek medical advice as needed.

Communications
As the COVID-19 situation evolves, campus administration will continue to communicate expectations to students, faculty, staff, vendors and guests.
• Check your college-issued email regularly for email communications.
• Blackboard StarAlert may be used to communicate emergency-related updates or status changes that happen quickly. This may include phone calls, text messages or email messages. Please ensure that your Blackboard StarAlert information is updated by setting or editing your contact preferences.
• Ongoing updates will also be made to the Inver Hills COVID-19 website.
• Campus signs will be posted college entrances regarding social distancing guidelines, required hygiene practices, and face masks requirements.
• Campus signs will also advise employees, students and guests not to enter the workplace if they are experiencing symptoms or have contracted COVID-19.
• For additional information on Campus Emergency and Operation Plans, please see the Safety and Security Emergency Management Plan.

Stay Safe Guidance Revision History

This section will track updates to the Inver Hills Stay Safe Guidance plan.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 20, 2021</td>
<td>Stay Safe Guidance published</td>
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