



Memo: COVID-19 Campus Plan

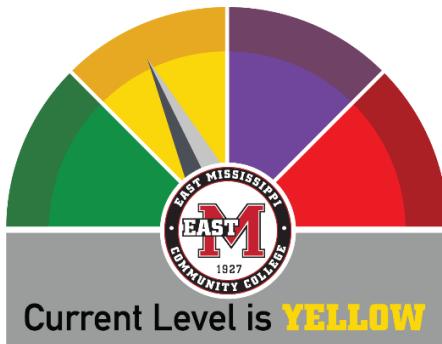
Date: August 9, 2021

To: EMCC Faculty, Staff, and Students

From: Scott Alsobrooks, Ph.D.

East Mississippi Community College returned to normal operations effective August 2, 2021. Existing capacity limitations related to COVID-19 campus facilities were removed. All meeting rooms, classrooms, open facilities, on-campus events, and auditoriums can resume 100% capacity. **However, please be reminded that we did implement a mask mandate which requires a mask or an appropriate face covering to be worn in all EMCC buildings at this time.**

I would also like to introduce faculty, staff, and students to a new way we plan to communicate COVID-19 information to our EMCC community as it changes. Moving forward, EMCC will utilize the following operational system to inform our campus community of its COVID-19 level of operations.



Green COVID-19 Level of Emergency Operation

Green is the lowest level of emergency operation. This level encourages handwashing and proper hygiene, as well as proper cleaning of personal work areas.

- Masks are optional but encouraged indoors and in close contact with others
- Increased handwashing protocols are encouraged
- Increased cleaning of personal work areas and classroom space
- Self-evaluation of symptoms
- Required reporting of possible contacts and confirmed COVID-19 infections to Nurse Amy Ivy ([click here](#))

Yellow COVID-19 Level of Emergency Operation

Yellow represents an enhanced threat. This level encourages social distancing and masks for close contact moments.

- Recommended social distancing, when possible
- Increased handwashing protocols are recommended
- Masks required indoors at all EMCC facilities
- Remove self-serve options in all dining facilities
- Recommend virtual meetings for all employee activity, when social distancing can't be implemented
- Recommended modified campus events to include enhanced COVID-19 safety protocols
- Enhanced cleaning of all surfaces and facilities is required
- Required reporting of possible contacts and confirmed COVID-19 infections to Nurse Amy Ivy ([click here](#))

Purple COVID-19 Level of Emergency Operation

Purple represents a heightened COVID-19 threat. This level requires social distancing, masks for all indoor facilities, altered classroom and employee working patterns, modified dining areas, and limited access to campus for students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

- Social distancing is required for all indoor and outdoor activities
- Masks required indoors at all EMCC facilities
- Enhanced cleaning of all surfaces and facilities
- On-campus housing visitation is suspended
- Health Screening Stations in operation on all campuses
- Implement the use of health screening
- Modified learning models implemented (virtual or hybrid)
- Modified employee work schedules (virtual or hybrid)
- Limited in-person on-campus events
- All sporting events will operate according to the MACCC guidelines
- To-go option only at all dining facilities
- Limited public access to campus facilities
- Required reporting of possible contacts and confirmed COVID-19 infections to Nurse Amy Ivy ([click here](#))

Red COVID-19 Level of Emergency Operation

Red represents the highest level of COVID-19 threat. Level Red would require all in-person operations to stop.

- All campus access would be stopped until further notice
- All on-campus housing residents would be required to vacate campus housing
- The virtual learning model would be implemented for all courses

- Virtual work from home would be in place for designated employees
- Monitored entrance and exit to campus
- Required reporting of possible contacts and confirmed COVID-19 infections to Nurse Amy Ivy ([click here](#))

In addition to the above operational levels, all local, state, and federal guidelines will be implemented as directed.

The EMCC COVID-19 Campus Plan has been developed to enable EMCC students and employees to return to a college environment that is as normal as possible, while still taking precautions to keep our students, employees, and visitors safe and healthy. We want to ensure that everyone who comes in contact with EMCC understands their roles and responsibilities. With input from a wide array of employees from across the college, medical and health professionals, and guidance from state authorities, we understand that this plan will remain fluid and will be an on-going work in process. As we learn more about COVID-19, and as recommended practices and procedures evolve, the East Mississippi Community College COVID-19 Campus Plan may also change and evolve.

Below are guidelines you should be aware of as we move forward.

1. Vaccinations are readily available throughout the state of Mississippi. Accordingly, EMCC encourages students, faculty, and staff to get the COVID-19 vaccination through a healthcare provider of your choice. The MSDH website says: Vaccination offers excellent protection against illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. **All persons aged 12 or older who live or work in Mississippi are eligible for vaccination.** Vaccines are readily available across our communities, and you can find a vaccine by visiting www.vaccines.gov. Local health clinics, physicians, pharmacies, and providers also offer COVID-19 vaccination.
2. We encourage EMCC faculty, staff, and students to get vaccinated at a provider of your choice. We will host free vaccination clinics on campus during the fall semester for those who could not do so. Nurse Amy Ivy will be conducting COVID-19 testing. Nurse Ivy will disseminate testing information via email.
3. Due to the rapid increase in delta variant cases and outbreaks, combined with the low overall vaccination rates, **EMCC has implemented a mask mandate and a mask should be worn when indoors at any EMCC indoor facility.**
4. Maintain proactive personal health practices, including washing hands frequently with soap and water or hand sanitizer, especially after touching often used items or surfaces; refraining from touching your face; sneezing or coughing into a tissue or the inside of your elbow; and disinfecting frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.
5. Guidance for exposure as of July 2021 (CDC) for fully vaccinated and unvaccinated:

If you are fully vaccinated, and it has been 2 or more weeks since your final dose in the vaccine series, and you've been around someone who has COVID-19 ([close contact](#)), **you should get tested 3-5 days after your exposure, even if you don't have symptoms and you should wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.** Employees and students who are otherwise exposed or test positive for COVID-19 are required to quarantine (for exposure) or isolate (for positive tests).

Fully vaccinated people with COVID-19 symptoms

Although the risk that fully vaccinated people could become infected with COVID-19 is low, any fully vaccinated person who experiences symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, and tested for SARS-CoV-2 if indicated. The symptomatic fully vaccinated person should inform their healthcare provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.

Fully vaccinated people with no COVID-like symptoms following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19

Fully vaccinated people should be tested 3-5 days following a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result. They should isolate if they test positive. Fully vaccinated people who live in a household with someone who is immunosuppressed, at increased risk of severe disease, or unvaccinated (including children <12 years of age) could also consider masking at home for 14 days following a known exposure or until they receive a negative test result. Most fully vaccinated people with no COVID-like symptoms do not need to quarantine or be restricted from work following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, if they follow the testing and masking recommendation above.

Fully vaccinated people should monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure.

Fully vaccinated people with no COVID-19-like symptoms and no known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19

It is recommended that fully vaccinated people with no COVID-19-like symptoms and no known exposure should be exempted from routine screening testing programs, if feasible.

Quarantine and Isolation

Quarantine if you have been in [close contact](#) (within 6 feet of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone who has COVID-19, unless you have been [fully vaccinated](#). **People who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have symptoms. However, fully vaccinated people should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they don't have symptoms and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.**

For Anyone Who Has Been Around a Person with COVID-19

Anyone who has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 should stay home for 14 days after their last exposure to that person.

However, anyone who has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 and who meets the following criteria does NOT need to stay home.

- Someone who has been fully vaccinated and shows no symptoms of COVID-19. However, fully vaccinated people should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they don't have symptoms and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.

Or

- Someone who has COVID-19 illness within the previous 3 months and
- Has recovered and
- Remains without COVID-19 symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath)

What counts as close contact?

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them)
- You shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you.

Stay home and monitor your health if you have been in close contact

- Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19.
- Watch for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19
- If possible, stay away from others, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19

After quarantine

- Watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure.
- If you have symptoms, immediately self-isolate and contact your local public health authority or healthcare provider.

You may be able to shorten your quarantine

- Your local public health authorities make the final decisions about how long quarantine should last, based on local conditions and needs. Follow the recommendations of your local public health department if you need to quarantine.
- Options they will consider include stopping quarantine

After day 10 without testing

After day 7 after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later)

For those who have tested positive, you must follow these guidelines.

Isolation

Isolation is used to separate people infected with COVID-19 from those who are not infected.

People who are in isolation should stay home until it's safe for them to be around others. At home, anyone sick or infected should separate from others, stay in a specific "sick room" or area, and use a separate bathroom (if available).

For those who **tested positive with symptoms**, you can be with others after

- At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared and
- At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication and
- Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.

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

For those who **tested positive without symptoms**, you can be with others after

- 10 days have passed since the date you had your positive test
- If you develop symptoms after testing positive, follow the guidance above for "I think or know I had COVID, and I had symptoms."

6. Unless traveling to an area with travel restrictions, all COVID-19 traveling restrictions may return to normal. Individuals should be aware of conditions that exist at their destination as well as their mode of transportation. **If more than one person is traveling in an EMCC vehicle, a mask should be worn.**
7. EMCC will continue to have temperature stations, sanitization stations, masks, and other resources available to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Those who want or need a mask and additional supplies may contact your respective dean of student's office.
8. Students are expected to attend all classes, labs, and clinical as prescribed. Students are solely responsible for keeping up with their attendance. Because of the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic and other unknowns, students should stay up-to-date with their attendance and assignments. If you can't attend class, communicate with your instructors as soon as possible. If circumstances require an absence, then students should note that all absences are either excused or unexcused.
 - Excused absences are those incurred when students miss class due to:
 - a. personal illness;

- b. immediate family illness;
- b. death in the family;
- c. inclement weather;
- d. officially representing the college;
- e. serving on jury duty;
- f. participating in military activities;
- g. fulfilling approved legal requirements.

- All other reasons for missing class are considered unexcused, including, but not limited to, transportation problems, work, or vacation. These situations are why students are allowed a certain number of unexcused absences, and these should not be wasted.
- An instructor reserves the right to verify the validity of an excuse submitted by a student, for example, a doctor's excuse, legal notes, etc. This documentation must be presented to the instructor at the class meeting following the absence. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence.

NOTE: We will continue to monitor information from the National Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Mississippi State Department of Health and comply with issued mandates, when feasible.