



Community Update 1.5.22

Dean Of Students, Coe College <dos@coe.edu>

Wed, Jan 5, 2022 at 3:29 PM

Reply-To: dos@coe.edu

To: All Students <allstudents@coe.edu>

Dear Kohawks,

As shared last week, based on the Linn County and campus information available at this point, we will open the spring term utilizing the same policies and processes that were in place as the fall term ended. As always, we remain prepared to make any necessary adjustments to these plans in order to protect our community and preserve the Coe experience to the fullest extent possible.

See below for important updates and reminders.

Testing updates

- We request and recommend that all students, faculty and staff, regardless of vaccination status, plan to get tested before returning to campus. The college has the capacity to house limited numbers of students in quarantine spaces, so please help us start the term safely by testing before returning to campus and stay home if you test positive and notify covid@coe.edu for additional information regarding arrival and academic support, if it is needed. Home testing is available to you through [Test Iowa](#) and [Hy-Vee](#), as well as [many other locations](#).
 - **For vaccinated individuals**, this is highly recommended but is not required.
 - **For students who have not registered full vaccination status**, in addition to the recommendation for testing before leaving home, you have received a link to register for testing on **Sunday, January 9th. You are not able to attend class, participate in any college activities or work on campus until a negative test is received.** Faculty and staff will receive an email from dos@coe.edu on Sunday evening with a list of students who are not released to attend class following the completion of the testing clinic on Sunday evening.
- Throughout the term, testing for close contacts and symptomatic community members is available through this [test request form](#). We will be able to offer testing much more widely than in fall term, both rapid antigen and PCR (lab test), for community members who wish to test for any reason. More information will follow from Health Services next week.

Vaccination and Booster Information

- Currently, the CDC defines fully vaccinated as having received the 2 dose series of Pfizer or Moderna, or 1 dose of J&J. However, the CDC and public health experts are strengthening their recommendation on boosters. In addition, if the CDC updates their definition, a booster dose will be required to be considered fully vaccinated. Please take a moment to voluntarily register your vaccine or update your booster record [here](#). *Note: If you are updating the form with your booster, you'll get a notice that you already completed the form and you'll choose to edit your response.*
- The college is hosting a Pfizer vaccine and booster clinic on Monday, January 10th. You can register for an appointment [here](#). **Registration will close Saturday, January 8th.**
 - Individuals who received Pfizer as their primary series may receive a booster shot 5 months after completing their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series. The booster interval recommendation for

people who received the J&J vaccine (2 months) or the Moderna vaccine (6 months), has not changed.

Masking

- Given the current benchmarks in Linn County and on campus, the same masking policy will apply to the start of spring as in the fall. Masking is required in all academic spaces and events, as well as additional spaces where staff have indicated higher risk exists. Please see [the map](#) for updated spaces where masking is required.
- To start the year, the college will provide an N95 mask to faculty, staff, and students who wish to request one. Note that these masks are not designed to be worn for more than a few times without proper care or reuse, and at this time quantities are limited so you may wish to source additional masks on your own. If you would like to request an N95 mask please complete this [google form](#), and these will be distributed next week with additional information on proper fit and care.

Academic Accommodation updates

- If a student meets the criteria for quarantine or isolation per the contact tracing protocols, faculty are required to set up reasonable alternative arrangements for student learning. Students will be responsible for completing the work in these situations as they are for all coursework. Individual faculty will determine the arrangements depending on the nature of the class.

Request for limiting in-person events and gatherings

- At this point we are not putting into place any additional restrictions or policies regarding social interaction. However, in these first few weeks of the term, which has historically been when the campus is the most vulnerable, we encourage you to limit participation in large gatherings. For events or programs that can be easily held virtually and that will not impede academic progress, we encourage you to consider those options.

CDC Guidelines

The CDC has updated [guidelines](#) for quarantine and isolation and the college will follow the recommendations. Please review [Coe 's process](#) for reporting positive test results, close contacts and illness symptoms.

Please reply with questions and stay safe and healthy, Kohawks!

~ ~ ~

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