

SPECIAL BULLETIN: COVID Policies Reminder
08.20.2021

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff:

Peace.

Let me once again take the opportunity to say how happy I am that everyone is back. There is so much excitement in the air right now; it's going to be a blessed year.

I also need to remind everyone that, sadly, COVID is not strictly in our rearview mirror. It is still spreading nationally, in the local area, and among our students, faculty, and staff. In response to increasing cases, some colleges and universities have made changes to their COVID regulations in recent days. Franciscan University is monitoring the situation and continuing with current policies at this point in time. However, I want to emphasize a few points:

1. Our current policy is that students, faculty, staff, and guests are not required to wear face coverings on campus. However, during these first couple of weeks of the year, I encourage those who have not already recovered from COVID or have not been vaccinated to wear face coverings in enclosed indoor spaces such as classrooms. This may help prevent you from contracting COVID and will usually eliminate the need to quarantine if you come into close contact with a person who has contracted COVID. And I hope it goes without saying that no one should be made to feel embarrassed or ashamed about choosing to wear a face covering.
2. Please monitor your symptoms. Those who have COVID symptoms are expected to stay at home or in their room and contact the COVID hotline at 740-283-4500, and you will be directed to complete an intake form on MyFranciscan.
3. Students, faculty, and staff who test positive for COVID are required to isolate, and close contacts will be identified through contact tracing. As mentioned, if you have been vaccinated, have recovered from COVID, or were wearing a mask, you are less likely to have to quarantine if you are a close contact.
4. COVID does not spread readily outdoors, so hang out, eat, socialize, and meet outside as much as you can. Let's enjoy the beautiful weather this fall.

As I shared earlier this week, I know we can come together as a community, keeping our eyes on what matters most: Christ, our studies, and our care for each other. Let's always strive to treat each other with respect and compassion as we move through times that are still uncertain and sometimes frustrating or unsettling.

Blessings,

Father Dave Pivonka, TOR
President
Franciscan University of Steubenville