

**COVID-19 UPDATE FOR SPRING SEMESTER**  
**01.22.2021**

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Dear Faculty & Staff:

We are all hoping for a swift end to the pandemic....but we are not quite there yet! As we begin the new semester (and hopefully our last semester dealing with COVID-19) it is essential that we do our best to finish strong. Getting as far as we did in the Fall semester was an amazing feat and a testament to your dedication, hard work, and creativity. Our continued vigilance in these matters will bolster our ability to finish the spring semester and mitigate potential disruptions to classes, activities, and staffing.

Please remember to follow the University's [Workplace Protocols](#). In summary:

- Continue to monitor yourself for symptoms and take your temperature every day. Do not report to work with symptoms of COVID-19 or any other communicable disease. Consult with your physician regarding symptoms and potential testing. Follow your doctor's orders regarding testing, self-isolation and/or quarantine
- Report confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 to the Office of Human Resources (\*6398 or [hr@franciscan.edu](mailto:hr@franciscan.edu)) so that the University can take prudent action, based on the individual circumstances, to mitigate and contain the potential spread on campus.
- Wear a facial covering when you are indoors unless you are working alone in your assigned work area. Wear a facial covering outside if you are unable to maintain six (6) feet of distancing.
- Maintain six feet of social distancing to the greatest extent possible.

Please see the attached COVID-19 [Emergency Paid Leave Policy](#) which has been updated to extend through this semester.

We recently provided a [communication](#) regarding the availability of vaccinations. Interested individuals may [sign up](#) with the Jefferson County Health Department to be put on their waiting list. We do not have any additional information to share at this time regarding the availability or timing of vaccinations through this venue.

We also wanted to share some information pertaining to COVID testing available on campus for faculty and staff:

- **Asymptomatic Testing:** The Biology Department is offering free rt-PCR based COVID-19 testing three days each week for students, staff, and faculty who are not experiencing COVID symptoms. The testing will use a nasal turbinate swab (it is like using a q tip to clean your nostril), which is less uncomfortable than a nasal pharyngeal swab, and can even be self-administered. Testing will be available on **Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm** in the tent outside Sts. Cosmas and Damian Hall. Signups are not required for the asymptomatic testing this semester. However you will be required to complete a screening consent form. Only individuals who test positive will be informed of testing results, and they will be contacted within 24 hours after the test. Those that test positive will be required to follow the University's COVID-19 isolation protocols.

If you have questions about the asymptomatic testing procedure, please contact COVID case/lab coordinators at [covid@franciscan.edu](mailto:covid@franciscan.edu) or text 740-232-9734.

- **Symptomatic Testing:** Any staff or faculty member who is experiencing COVID symptoms should contact Human Resources @ 740-283-6398 for guidance on scheduling a COVID test on campus. Individuals with symptoms of COVID will also need to complete the COVID-19 Initial Intake Form prior to testing. The Intake Form is located on the Coronavirus tab in MyFranciscan (must be logged in to access):  
[https://myfranciscan.franciscan.edu/ICS/Corona\\_Virus/](https://myfranciscan.franciscan.edu/ICS/Corona_Virus/)

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have you have any questions or concerns.

Peace and blessings,  
Brenan

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