

COVID-19 FAQ

Safety Protocol

- Is everyone required to wear an appropriate mask while on campus?
 - Yes, anyone over the age of 2 is required to wear a mask while on campus.
- What is considered an appropriate mask?
 - Masks containing the exhalation vent are not considered appropriate nor effective in stopping the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, Vol State has banned the use of those masks on all campuses and they are not to be worn by students, faculty, staff or visitors while on any campus. All other masks are appropriate as long as they cover both the nose and mouth, are made of material that will not allow airborne particulates to travel through the material and will not allow airborne particulates to escape the mask, as does an exhalation vent, when being worn..
- Are Health Sciences students who have been admitted into their program of choice required to wear a mask while at a clinical site?
 - Yes, any Health Sciences student who has been admitted into their program of choice should follow college protocol concerning wearing a mask and social distancing while at a clinical site since they are representing the college in that setting.
- Can I wear a face shield instead of a mask?
 - No, while face shields are an impactful tool in stopping COVID-19, they are not as effective as masks.
- If I don't have a mask, where can I get one?
 - The screening tables at each location always have some masks on hand. However, we highly recommend that you always carry a spare in case your mask rips or for some reason cannot be worn properly or is lost or misplaced.
- How/where do I eat while on campus?
 - There are some chairs/tables open on campus, but we encourage all to eat their lunch outside when and where possible.
- Who should a student contact if my faculty doesn't wear their mask?
 - Contact the division Dean responsible for the course in which you are enrolled and the faculty is teaching and make them aware of the situation.
- What is the college cleaning protocol?
 - Classrooms are cleaned in between classes; offices and restrooms are cleaned on a regular schedule
- Do I have to tell the college if I test positive for COVID-19?
 - Yes, all students, faculty, and staff are expected to immediately report the results of a positive test as soon as they receive them. Students should contact vpsscovidscreening@volstate.edu and faculty should contact HRcovidscreening@volstate.edu.

Classroom Management

- What if a student refuses to wear a mask in a class?
 - If a student refuses to wear a mask, please dismiss the student from the classroom and encourage them to speak with the ACCESS Center for an accommodation. If they refuse to leave the classroom, contact Campus Police. There will be Pioneers Protecting Pioneers cards in each classroom to give the student which contains the appropriate contact information.
- What if a mask breaks while in a class?
 - There will be a limited supply of masks in each classroom that is in use. However, if the classroom supply has been exhausted and not replenished, students and visitors can make their way to the screening tables and receive a single use mask. Faculty and Staff should speak with their departments to see if there are extra masks in the department, if not, they should stop by a screening table to receive one.
- What if a student states that due to medical reasons they are not required to wear a mask?
 - For any student that believes they need an accommodation to the mask protocol, they will need to contact the ACCESS Center and make an appointment to have their accommodations reviewed.
- What do I do if a student reports to me that they are positive?
 - Faculty who receive a positive report should visit their MyVolState Portal and complete the Online COVID Reporting Form. Also, encourage the student to contact vpsscovidscreening@volstate.edu

Screening & Tracking

- Why do I have to screen in to every building, every time?
 - Screening into each building helps us to be able to contact the appropriate people should we need to reach out for contact tracing. This is done both at the building and in the offices that are open for students.
- Do I need to have a student ID?
 - Students enrolled in on-ground classes are required to have a student ID to access buildings at the campus. Students enrolled virtually or online are encouraged to get a student ID should they need to access the Learning Commons, Library, or other campus resources.
- Where do I obtain a student ID?
 - Students can receive an ID in the Wood Campus Center at Gallatin, or the reception desk at Livingston, Cookeville, or Springfield Campus.
- What if I get to the building before or after the screening check point personnel are at their station?
 - If you get to the building before the screening table is open, please go to the screening table as soon as they open for the day to quickly check in. You do not have to exit the building to do this but do go check-in when the table opens.

Contact Tracing

- How does Contact Tracing work?
 - If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, they are expected to make the college aware. Then the Office of the Vice President for Student Services or the Office of Human Resources will initiate contact tracing for individuals who were not socially distanced from the individual and wearing proper PPE at the time.
- Who conducts our internal contact tracing?
 - 20 staff have completed training and serve on the COVID Contact Team. Additionally, information is shared with the Health Department when necessary to ensure the safety of the community.
- Is it considered a HIPAA violation to report to administration a student being COVID positive if the student reported it to me?
 - No. It is not considered a HIPAA violation to report a COVID positive student to administration once the student has reported it to me. Based on the Governor's Executive Order and to protect public health, one should report a student being COVID positive immediately after the student reports it to you. Not reporting it could result in widespread infection among the campus community.