FALL 2022 COVID-19 PROTOCOL
Updated August 17, 2022

Requirements for Students and Employees on Campus

College personnel have worked to identify specific measures to help ensure the safety of students, faculty, and staff. All are required to follow this protocol or may be subject to disciplinary action.

Disclaimer

All measures listed in this protocol are subject to change at any time due to state or health agency updates on the COVID-19 pandemic.

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HEALTH & SAFETY

Directives from the Governor's Office and Public Health Agencies
Coastal Alabama Community College will continue to observe directives from the Governor's Office, the guidance issued by Public Health Agencies (e.g. CDC, ADPH) and public health conditions locally in administering instruction and activities.

Personal Responsibility:
While Coastal Alabama Community College strives to protect its students and employees, it is the personal responsibility of these individuals to do their part to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Reporting accurate information, getting the vaccine and/or getting tested regularly for COVID-19, and practicing cleanliness to the greatest extent are critical in minimizing the spread of the virus. All individuals must follow the guidelines set forth in this protocol.

Cleaning and Disinfecting:
Coastal Alabama Community College outsources custodial services. Those companies have provided the College with their disinfection practices to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Chemicals being used to disinfect are on the Environmental Protection Agencies' approved disinfectants list. Cleaning strategies will be followed based on the CDC's guidance.

Communications Plan:
The College will use the Coastal News and Coastal Student News platforms to send notifications and updates to all faculty, staff and students. Notifications sent through the Coastal News and Coastal Student News groups generate e-mails to the individuals' College e-mail accounts. Additionally, the College will continue to update the COVID-19 website with updates and will share updates on the College's official social media accounts, as needed.

Public Information
The College has a COVID-19 webpage dedicated to updates on the virus and College operations.

Facial Coverings/Masks:
Facial coverings/masks are not required for Fall 2022. For certain programs, facial coverings may be encouraged and/or required based on policies of the College's partners (i.e. clinical sites for allied health programs). For athletics, guidelines for facial coverings/masks are issued from the Alabama Community College Conference.

Supply Acquisition:
The College has purchased and will maintain a supply of cleaning products and sanitizer for instructor, staff, and student use to distribute as needed. These supplies will be ordered by the Facilities Office.

Other PPE relevant to a particular program will be acquired and stocked normally by each program director.

Notifications:
Students should notify instructors immediately if they have been exposed or have tested positive for COVID-19. Employees should notify their supervisor(s) immediately if they have been exposed or have tested positive for COVID-19.

VACCINATIONS

Vaccination is the leading prevention strategy to protect individuals from the COVID-19 disease. The COVID-19 vaccine significantly reduces the potential of severe illness, hospitalizations, and death. According to the CDC, COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are safe and effective.

Pursuant to state law, the Alabama Community College System and its colleges will not mandate the COVID-19 vaccine as a condition of attendance or employment, but vaccinations and booster shots are strongly encouraged for all students, faculty, and staff.

On July 26, 2021, the Alabama Attorney General issued a Public Notice summarizing Alabama law relating to COVID-19 vaccination requirements and proof of vaccination requirements as set out in Act 2021-493. The Public Notice makes clear that no government, school, or business in Alabama may demand that a constituent, student, or customer, respectively, be vaccinated for COVID-19 or show proof of his or her vaccination for COVID-19.

A student may be asked if they have been vaccinated for COVID-19 and asked to provide proof of their vaccination. However, a student may not be REQUIRED to report their COVID-19 vaccination status or to provide proof of their vaccination. Exceptions to this may exist in allied health programs where partnering facilities may require vaccination status before students are allowed into such facilities.

COVID-19 EXPOSURE AND ISOLATION

Persons who were exposed to COVID-19 should begin wearing a mask immediately upon notice of exposure. Masks should be worn for 10 days.

Watch for symptoms, such as fever (100.4 degrees or greater), cough, and shortness of breath. If you develop symptoms, isolate immediately and get tested. Remain isolated until test results are complete.

- Regardless of if you are/aren't experiencing symptoms, get tested at least 5 full days after your last exposure.
- **If you test negative**, continue to wear the mask for the 10 full days from the date of exposure.
- **If you test positive**, isolate immediately. Stay home for at least 5 days and isolate from others in your home. You may end isolation after day 5, but continue to wear a mask for the 5 additional days.
- **If you had symptoms and a positive COVID-19 test**, you may end isolation after day 5 if you are fever-free for 24 hours and if your symptoms are improving, but continue to wear a mask for the 5 additional days. After you have ended isolation, if your COVID-19 symptoms recur or worsen, restart your isolation at day 0.

Day 0 is the day of your last exposure to someone with COVID-19. Day 1 is the first full day after your last exposure.

SHOWING SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 ON CAMPUS

Persons arriving to campus with signs or symptoms of COVID-19:
Should a faculty/staff or student arrive to campus exhibiting signs or symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g. fever, cough, and shortness of breath), the College will ask the person to leave campus and consult a healthcare provider and/or do a COVID-19 test before returning to campus.

EMPLOYEE PROTOCOLS

LEAVE

Employees who must be out of the office due to COVID-19 exposure or confirmed cases must use his/her own leave for the time missed out of the office.

TELEWORKING/REMOTE WORK

Any employee who was exposed or tests positive for COVID-19 should notify their supervisor(s) immediately. The supervisor will then provide instructions for the employee based on the situation.

Any employee who is COVID-19 positive or has symptoms of COVID-19 shall not come to work and shall isolate as recommended by the CDC. Refer to the previous page regarding when isolation can end based on the person's test results. Employees shall take sick leave or other appropriate leave in these cases and strictly adhere to the College's leave policies.

There are certain essential jobs and functions that may require the College to seek remote work from an employee who is taking leave related to COVID-19 reasons. If the College needs remote assistance during an employee's COVID-19 leave period, the College will initiate contact with the employee on leave to see if the employee is willing and able to assist remotely. If the isolating employee remotely assists during his/her leave period as requested by the College, the employee will be temporarily approved for that specific remote work, which was requested by the College, and paid for such work. The president approves all instances regarding telework or remote work. Any requests to approve a teleworking plan must be submitted to the president via the appropriate supervisor.