



MSU Texas Task Force  
**RETURN TO CAMPUS**  
Update for Spring 2021



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## **Summary of Changes from the July 2020 Reopening Taskforce Report**

The MSU Texas Taskforce to Return to Campus report released in July 2020 remains in effect, but the following modifications are added for Spring 2021.

### *Phases and Triggers*

In the months since the pandemic began, additional information about COVID-19 and the critical [lessons learned by institutions of higher education](#) have informed some modifications to the triggers for moving between phases. MSU continuously monitors campus health and operations and cooperates with local public health officials to determine whether changes in phases of operation are warranted. No single measure is used to determine a course of action, but a set of data points based on campus, community, state, and national trends.

One modification will be to use revised [CDC guidance for Institutions of Higher Education \(IHEs\) \(October 4, 2020\)](#) for short-term closure procedures. The use of short-term closures provides time for public health officials to evaluate the situation with University leadership to determine if extended suspension of operations is warranted to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

### *Academics*

The [Academics Subcommittee Report](#) recommends:

- [Phase 3 operations continue through Summer I and Summer II and through Fall 2021](#)
- Any move to Phase 4 for summer should be made by May 1, and for fall should be made July 1. Under Phase 3 operations, the deadline to drop a course with a W will remain the final day of the term.
- Decisions on a face to face or virtual May commencement should be made by February 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Course modalities from the July 2020 report will continue to be used, but faculty should identify the [relative risk level of each modality](#) as defined in the revised CDC guidance. This includes identifying whether a course entails no risk, some risk, medium risk, or higher risk based on class size, level of group activities and social distancing available. These risk levels can aid in tailored recommendations for quarantine/isolation for individuals and classes.
- Faculty should modify their syllabi for Spring 2021 to include more specific guidelines on [expectations for virtual attendance](#).
- Vulnerable [employees](#) and [students](#) should continue to be provided accommodation for Spring 2021. Student technology recommendations should continue to apply for spring.
- Classroom [technology](#) should be reviewed by deans and their colleges to determine rooms that still require technology and potential changes to camera position that will work best for the faculty and students using the classroom.
- Because feedback reveals that some are experiencing online testing fatigue (technical issues, anxiety, lockdown browser challenges, etc.), faculty may want to consider testing students in small face-to-face groups or using assignments as an alternative.

## *Summary of Changes to Taskforce Recommendations*

### *Student Life*

The [Student Life Subcommittee Report](#) recommends:

- Continuing the recommendations it provided in the July 2020 report.
- Creating guidelines for student spectators at athletic events to address social distancing, hygiene, contactless processes, attendance tracking, and face coverings.
- Raising outdoor programming capacity limits from 100 to 150 participants, provided social distancing can be achieved.
- Prohibiting student organization events requiring shared overnight/sleeping spaces.
- Allowing organizations serving a buffet-style meal to permit organizational “hosts” to act as servers.
- Discontinuing plans for a traditional Homecoming or Family Weekend celebration. In lieu of these events involving external audiences, it is recommended that programming efforts focus on spirit activities for the campus community.
- An advisor or acceptable substitute to attend student organization events to monitor compliance with filed [COVID-19 mitigation plans](#).

### *Health and Safety*

The [Health and Safety Subcommittee Report](#) recommends:

- Educating [students](#), [faculty](#), and [staff](#) about minimizing non-critical social contact to a safe “bubble” of fewer than 10 individuals that are interacted with every day.
- Continued mandate for face coverings on campus, to include (from most to least effective): single-use surgical masks, washable multi-layer cloth masks, single layer gaiters. Face masks with exhalation valves should not be worn.
- Upgrading the MSU Safety App to include a time-stamp scannable QR code to demonstrate that the self-screen is current.
- A pre-arrival spring semester information packet.
- No longer requiring international students to physically quarantine on arrival, but instead implementing an electronic quarantine option and testing students arriving from areas defined by Presidential Order as requiring arrival testing.
- Investigating options for testing, to include determining whether ongoing financial support for testing is forthcoming from the federal or state government as of January 1.
- Creating a 24/7 hotline that will provide better guidance regarding questions about COVID-19 exposure, reporting and living with restrictions.
- Enhancing the contact tracing program.
- Planning for vaccine authorization by creating a Vaccine Working Group to plan for ramifications of COVID-19 vaccine in 2021. This will include promotion, acceptance, coordination with stakeholders, storage, tracking, reporting and distribution.

## *Summary of Changes to Taskforce Recommendations*

### *Facilities*

The [Facilities Subcommittee Report](#) recommends:

- [Continuing disinfection efforts](#) and cleaning protocols as outlined in the July 2020 report.
- Continuing use of [existing sneeze guards](#) and identifying any additional needs for physical barriers in campus areas.
- Continuing [occupancy restrictions](#) in classrooms and labs.
- Installing [additional signage](#) on building entrances and collaboration areas to remind occupants to eat in designated areas only, to practice social distancing, and on proper use of E23 disinfectant.

### *Campus Culture*

The [Campus Culture Subcommittee Report](#) recommends:

- Recognizing the significant impact of fatigue with complying with COVID-19 restrictions and effects on morale and compliance with campus guidelines.
- Addressing messaging fatigue by working with the Office of Public Information to create an efficient and more visually graphic campaign to emphasize the continued existence of COVID-19, the relevance of CDC guidelines and the ultimate goals of our campus efforts.

## *Trigger for movement between phases*

### **Phases and Triggers**

#### *Phase Definitions*

As in the July 2020 report, each phase describes the campus operations, including access restrictions and instruction modes.

#### **Phase I – Shelter in Place**

Status: All Campus operations are conducted remotely. Access to campus is restricted to critical functions only.

#### **Phase II – Restricted Campus**

Status: Campus operations, where practical, are conducted in-person. Instruction is conducted remotely.

#### **Phase III – Modified Campus**

Status: Campus operations return to predominantly in-person activities with restrictions.

#### **Phase IV – Normal Campus**

Status: Return to normal daily operations in all campus areas with no restrictions.

#### *Considerations for movement between phases*

The transitions from one phase to another are dependent on a wide variety of state, local and university conditions. The decision to move from one phase to another is best made as a thoughtful decision based on the facts, the context, and the insight of stakeholders. However, in the months since the pandemic began, much has been learned about COVID-19. MSU continues to follow expert opinions and CDC guidance documents. The MSU leadership, with recommendations from the Incident Management Team, monitors campus health and operations and cooperates with local public health officials to determine whether changes in phases of operation are warranted. Data points include, but are not limited to,

- daily change in active campus cases;
- proportion of campus active cases to that of the community;
- campus positive test ratio;
- campus isolation bed capacity;
- the status of the community healthcare system.

According to the revised [CDC guidance for Institutions of Higher Education \(IHEs\) \(October 4, 2020\)](#), instances of COVID-19 spread may warrant short-term closure procedures. When such instances are necessary, it is recommended that IHEs “...work with public health officials to determine whether in-person classes need to be cancelled or moved to virtual delivery and/or buildings and facilities need to close”. The use of initial short-term closures provides time for public health officials to evaluate the situation with University leadership to determine if extended suspension of operations is warranted to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Further, the

*Trigger for movement between phases*

campus supports quarantine or isolation of students on or near campus, as sending people with COVID-19 to homes across the county may cause additional community spread.

MSU will cooperate with local officials and continuously evaluate the campus health and operations to make decisions about whether changes in phases of operation are warranted. When deemed necessary, as much notice as possible will be provided to the campus community.

## **Academics Subcommittee Report**

### *Adjusting the academic calendar and determining campus phase*

The University should make an early decision on phase for courses in Summer 2021 and Fall 2021 due to the short timeframe in which the schedule is due and the work required in the Registrar's Office to make changes to this schedule once terms have started.

The subcommittee makes the following recommendation for Summer 2021 and Fall 2021.

#### Summer 2021

- Phase 3 operations for both Summer I and Summer II
- If a change to Phase 4 (regular operations) is considered, a decision about that change should be made no later than May 1. Otherwise, summer terms should be taught as Phase 3.
- Last day to withdraw from summer 2021 classes with W will be adjusted as follows:

<b>Term</b>	<b>Current deadline</b>	<b>Adjusted deadline</b>
Summer I	June 17	June 30
Summer II	July 22	August 4
Summer long term (10 wk)	July 8	August 4

#### Fall 2021

- Fall schedule should be submitted using Phase 3 guidelines and capacities.
- If a change to Phase 4 (regular operations) is considered, a decision about that change should be made no later than July 1.
- If Fall 2021 remains in Phase 3, last day to withdraw from Fall 2021 with W will be adjusted as follows

<b>Term</b>	<b>Current deadline</b>	<b>Adjusted deadline</b>
Fall regular semester	October 25	December 3
Fall part of term A	September 24	October 15
Fall part of term B	November 17	December 3

Decisions about spring commencement ceremonies and whether they will be virtual or face to face should be announced no later than February 15<sup>th</sup> to allow graduates and their families the opportunity to plan travel and accommodations.

### *Adopting several possible course modalities*

As with Fall 2020, MSU will have the goal of the majority of courses to be fully face to face in Spring and Summer 2021. In the event not all students enrolled in a course can fit safely into a classroom, some courses will be taught as hybrid.



## *Academic Subcommittee Report*

Courses typically scheduled online will remain online. With an early end to the Spring 2021 semester, colleges and departments should pursue options for online courses in the event of more students leaving Wichita Falls and unable to take face to face classes on campus.

In the initial Return to Campus report, the Academics Subcommittee created flow charts for determining three types of course modality (online, hybrid, fully face to face) based on class size, distancing rules and faculty classification as vulnerable populations. The recommendations did not, however, indicate the risks inherent in each course modality. In its [Considerations for Institutions of Higher Education updated October 5, 2020](#), the CDC classifies academic activities according to level of risk, ranging from Lowest Risk to the Highest Risk categories.

The tables on the next two pages utilize these CDC classification of risk categories. We have identified levels of risk associated with different course modalities to allow faculty to communicate that risk to students and faculty and recommended levels of PPE and cleaning as illustrated in Table 1. In Table 2, we recommend adjustments to course activities based on risk classification under quarantine and/or positive cases for a member of class.

### *Adjusting attendance expectations*

Feedback from faculty in all colleges reveals that student engagement in virtual components of classes during Fall 2020 was often very low. Students in some hybrid core courses were found logging on, muting their microphones, keeping their cameras off and then not participating in lecture. This does not meet the spirit of this subcommittee's original guidance to "*credit physical classroom and online attendance equally.*"

Feedback from students reveals frustration with the variability in faculty attendance guidelines and communication of those guidelines. Students would like consistent within-department attendance rules that are articulated clearly and listed in the syllabus. Specifically, faculty should specify attendance guidelines when under quarantine as well as in the event of illness.

We recommend that faculty consider several modifications to syllabi for Spring 2021 and any other courses taught during Phase 3:

- Create and enforce specific guidelines for attendance, including a requirement for cameras and participation during virtual classes.
- Provide students with guidance on appropriate behavior during Zoom and other virtual meetings.

Table 1. Teaching modality, risk level and PPE/Hygiene recommendations

Teaching Mode	Distancing and seating	Shared objects used in class	Example	Risk level	PPE recommendation	Hygiene recommendation
Online only	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fully online courses</li> </ul>	Lowest Risk	N/A	N/A
F2F or Hybrid	>6 ft; distancing assigned seats	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small lecture courses with seating charts</li> <li>No group work</li> </ul>	Some Risk	Face covering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disinfect seating area between classes</li> <li>Hand-washing and sanitizer available in class</li> </ul>
F2F or Hybrid	>6 ft, distancing assigned seats/spaces	Some	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Larger lecture courses with seating charts</li> <li>Infrequent and brief group work</li> <li>Lab/studio/clinical courses with assigned workspaces</li> </ul>	Medium Risk	Face covering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disinfect seating area between classes</li> <li>Hand-washing and sanitizer available in class</li> <li>Disinfect shared equipment after each use</li> </ul>
F2F or Hybrid	May be < 6ft; no assigned seats/spaces	Frequent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lab/studio/clinical courses with common equipment</li> <li>Frequent group work in close contact</li> </ul>	Higher Risk	Face covering additional PPE appropriate for the field (shield, gloves, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disinfect seating area at beginning and end of class</li> <li>Hand-washing and sanitizer available in class</li> <li>Disinfect shared equipment before and after each use</li> <li>Minimize time in close contact through online activities pre/post group work</li> </ul>

Table 2. Adjustments to course activities for individuals and classes based on risk classification

*Academic Subcommittee Report*

<b>Risk level</b>	<b>Individual is quarantined</b>	<b>Individual tests positive</b>	<b>Member of class is told to quarantine</b>	<b>Member of class tests positive</b>
Lowest Risk	Student work continues as normal	Attendance expectations adjusted to accommodate illness	Class continues as normal	Class continues as normal
Some Risk	Student work continues as normal; virtual attendance/participation required	Attendance expectations adjusted to accommodate illness	Class continues as normal	Class continues as normal Students receive notification
Medium Risk	Student work continues as normal; virtual attendance/participation required	Attendance expectations adjusted to accommodate illness	Class continues as normal Students notified if group work was within a few days of quarantine	Class continues as normal Students receive notification Additional disinfection efforts for spaces before they are used.
Higher Risk	Student may be unable to complete class activities; special arrangements for meeting course expectations	Attendance expectations adjusted to accommodate illness	Class continues as normal Students notified if group work was within a few days of quarantine	Temporarily suspend class activities until exposure and contact tracing is determined

## *Academic Subcommittee Report*

### *Accommodating vulnerable students, faculty, and staff*

Vulnerable faculty and students should continue to be provided accommodation for Spring 2021, Summer 2021 and Fall 2021. The recommendations used in the [original subcommittee report](#) should continue to apply.

Current and prospective students should visit the [DSS webpage for COVID-19 student concerns](#). Faculty and Staff should visit the [DSS webpage for COVID-19 employee concerns](#).

### *Helping students and faculty with their technology needs*

Student technology [minimum software and hardware recommendations](#) should continue to apply for spring.

Regarding classroom technology, many faculty have reported several issues in Fall 2020, including:

- Some rooms have yet to be updated, although are in use and need capability for hybrid teaching.
- Cameras are often not positioned so they capture the image needed for students attending remotely.
- Changes to technology are not always communicated when they happen

The Academic Subcommittee recommends that before Spring 2021, the deans work with IT to identify 1) rooms that still require technology, and 2) potential changes to camera position that will work best for the faculty using the classroom. Additionally, the subcommittee asks that any changes made to rooms are communicated to the dean for dissemination to chairs and faculty to avoid any surprises when the rooms are used after those changes.

Feedback from faculty and students reveals that some are experiencing online testing fatigue (technical issues, anxiety, lockdown browser challenges, etc.). Faculty may want to consider testing students in small face-to-face groups or using assignments as an alternative.

## **Student Life Subcommittee Report**

### *Student Recreation & Athletics*

Recreational activities continue with the health and safety measures set forth in the [Governor's Minimum Standard Health Protocols](#) as well as the safety guidelines determined by the University's Taskforce to Reopen Campus. For the Spring 2021 semester:

- Access to the Redwine Student Wellness Center and individual activity areas remains limited to 50 percent of total capacity.
- Users of recreational facilities are required to complete a health screening upon entry involving a temperature scan and short questionnaire.
- Staff members continue to disinfect strength and conditioning equipment and cardio equipment during regular intervals throughout the day; supplies remain available for patrons to disinfect equipment before and after individual use.
- Details regarding COVID-19 precautions are outlined on the Wellness Center [website](#).
- Recreational Sports continue in accordance with gym capacity, Governor's Order, and type of activities that are permitted. Alternative, non-contact sports, tournaments and leagues will be available for student participation.
- Operating procedures align with the current [Governor's Order for Adult Recreational Sports](#).
- Athletic activities continue in accordance with guidance from the NCAA, Lone Star Conference, and health and safety recommendations from local, state and federal health officials.
  - For contact tracing purposes, game day operations will require student spectators to check-in utilizing the CORQ app.
  - Spectator seating arrangements will require revised space plans accounting for social distancing between family units; spectators will not be permitted near student athletes.
  - Cashless transactions for ticket sales and concessions are strongly recommended.

### *Campus Life*

Campus life will continue to adhere to a phased approach in accordance with the health and safety guidelines provided by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We are committed to upholding critical safety measures emphasizing social distancing and the following hygiene efforts:

- COVID mitigation guidelines will be reviewed as part of spring student organization training. Training is designed to assist student leaders in understanding social distancing guidelines, space considerations, event registration processes, and virtual programming opportunities.
- Programs and activities will continue to abide by established programming guidelines.
- An advisor or acceptable substitute will attend student organization events to monitor compliance with filed [COVID-19 mitigation plans](#).

## *Student Life Subcommittee Report*

- Weekend Stampede programming will continue with the following guidelines:
  - All participants must check in; face coverings are required.
  - Activities must be designed to maximize social distancing (e.g. multiple activities spread throughout different areas, same event offered in different areas, etc.).
- New student orientation and parent orientation programming continues to be delivered virtually. Content emphasizes student resources and processes.
- Due to the level of active cases throughout the surrounding community and state, the subcommittee recommends cancelling plans for a postponed/spring Homecoming and Family Weekend celebrations. In lieu of these events involving external audiences, the committee recommends that programming focus on spirit activities for the campus community.

## *University Housing*

Physical safety and well-being remains a priority for on-campus residents. In accordance with guidance from the CDC, Residence Life & Housing has taken following steps:

- Adjustments have been made to the Spring housing move-in process. These include:
  - Continuing the online check-in process to expedite arrival processes.
  - Maintaining a socially distanced spring return over the course of four days.
  - Screening stations in each residential facility.
- Upon return, students will be required to check in at the screening station, complete the health questionnaire on the MSU Safety App, and complete a temperature screening.
- Students who do not pass the screening process will be required to quarantine until further instructions are provided by the Vinson Health Center.
- To promote social distancing, students assigned to residence halls (Pierce, Killingsworth, Legacy or McCullough-Trigg) continue to utilize assigned restrooms within the community.
- Residence hall common spaces will continue to abide by state and local occupancy guidance.
- Social distancing and hand washing signage will be refreshed for the spring semester.
- Restricted guest policies remain in place.
  - No guests in residence hall rooms (Pierce, Killingsworth, Legacy, and McCullough-Trigg).
  - Apartment guest guidelines will be outlined in a community standards agreement for each apartment; maximum number of guests not to exceed one guest per resident at any time.
  - Face coverings required when guests are present.
- Evening and weekend cleaning crews will continue to provide additional support to disinfecting efforts in high-touch areas within residential facilities.
- In the event of a student presenting symptoms of the COVID-19 virus, 12 apartment units (48 beds) remain in place as a self-isolation area. Each apartment includes private bedrooms, bathroom access, a full kitchen, and laundry machines contained within the unit.

## Dining

Mustangs Dining has created a comprehensive plan designed to adjust service as needed to protect the health and safety of all dining guests. For the spring semester:

- Social distancing and de-densifying efforts will be maintained.
- Grab-and-go meal options will continue to be offered in the Legacy Market and Mesquite Dining to provide choices for students who prefer to avoid lines during peak dining times.
- Overflow seating areas will be maintained in the Clark Student Center. Outdoor seating is also available, weather permitting.
- Self-serve food stations, bars, and condiment areas have been removed or adjusted; all food items will continue to be served directly to the customer.
- During peak meal periods, additional staff have been designated to sanitize tables and chair backs in dining areas.
- Residential students in quarantine or self-isolation may order meals through Campus Dining; meals are delivered to a student's room through a contactless process.

## **Health and Safety Subcommittee Report**

This plan is based on the information and situation available as of November 15, 2020. As was true in the summer and fall, and is still, it should be emphasized that understanding is incomplete and the available science and lived situation are continually evolving. The recommendations made in the July 2020 Health and Safety Subcommittee Report continue to be in place, but we revise and expand these recommendations below.

### *Students*

- General
  - Social distancing is the single most effective measure to limit contagion. Most importantly, minimize non-critical social contact by restricting activity to the essentials. Your safe "bubble" is fewer than 10 individuals that you interact with every day. When engaged in important activities that expose you to people outside your bubble, remain as far away from others as possible. The minimum acceptable distance is 6 feet.
  - You are required to wear a washable cloth mask/face covering on campus. A mask is a flexible cloth or surgical mask that covers your face and nose. There are several styles of masks worn; from most to least effective, they include:
    - Single use surgical masks
    - Washable multi-layer cloth masks
    - Single layer gaitersFace masks with exhalation valves increase risk to others and should not be worn.
- Pre-Arrival
  - A pre-arrival Spring Semester information packet will be distributed to emphasize elements of the MSU pandemic management plan that are effective, including, but not limited to:
    - Social distancing and bubble education
    - Mask wearing
    - COVID self-quarantine process
- Screen on Arrival
  - Students should be familiar with the MSU Safety App COVID-19 self-screen. They will be encouraged to complete the self-screen questions in an honest, open, and reflective manner every morning before arriving on campus. The app will be upgraded to include a time-stamp scannable QR code to demonstrate that the self-screen is current. This option will be communicated to the students and faculty as an option to use as they see fit.
  - Students returning to campus housing will be encouraged to undergo COVID-19 testing if they:
    - Have symptoms
    - Have concerns
    - Wish surveillance testing



- It is presently unknown if there will be ongoing financial support for testing from the federal or state government. Symptomatic students who present for testing will be quarantined pending results. Any student receiving positive results will be isolated per public health recommendations.
- Residence Life & Housing are constructing plans to enhance health and safety during move-in.
- International students will not be physically quarantined on arrival; however, social distancing will be emphasized and they will undergo an electronic quarantine during which they will be required to review the COVID-19 safety app daily. International students arriving from areas defined by Presidential Order will also be screened for active viral protein shedding using point-of-care-testing available at the Vinson Health Center.
- COVID-19 Surveillance
  - Students are encouraged to complete the self-screen questions in an open and reflective manner daily. Students will be strongly encouraged to take and record their temperature daily before leaving their residence.
  - Students are encouraged to restrict activities and movement to minimize contacts outside their bubble.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
  - Students must supply their own washable cloth face masks/face coverings.
  - Face shields are encouraged to augment cough protection. Discretion regarding the use of PPE while in low traffic, private, controlled circumstances is left to the individual.
- Anticipatory Guidance
  - If a student is concerned that they may have a close contact with COVID-19, or that they have symptoms that are concerning for COVID-19, they should immediately self-quarantine, and contact local health care (Vinson Health Center, personal physician, or the health department). Do not arrive unannounced; call ahead for instructions.
  - Self-quarantine for suspected COVID-19 should be reported promptly through the online [self-report form](#) and continued until instructed otherwise. It is fundamental to our student academic success and campus safety that COVID-19 quarantine or isolation be reported through the provided mechanism.
  - If indicated, students with symptoms concerning for COVID-19 may be tested at the Vinson Health Center.
    - Students with symptoms may schedule an appointment for evaluation by the physician.
      - If findings merit immediate evaluation, point-of-care-testing is available. If point-of-care-testing is negative, a confirmation test will be sent to a reference lab.
      - The gross cost for this process is approximately \$200. The CARES Act expires December 30th; it is unclear presently what out-of-pocket costs a student will bear. Symptomatic students also have

the option of reference lab testing for COVID-19 without seeing the physician.

*Staff and Faculty*

- General
  - Social distancing is the single most effective measure to limit contagion. Most importantly, minimize non-critical social contact by restricting activity to the essentials. Your safe "bubble" is fewer than 10 individuals that you interact with every day. When engaged in important activities that expose you to people outside your bubble, remain as far away from others as possible. The minimum acceptable distance is 6 feet.
  - You are required to wear a washable cloth mask/face covering on campus. A mask is a flexible cloth or surgical mask that covers your face and nose. There are several styles of masks worn; from most to least effective, they include:
    - Single use surgical masks
    - Washable multi-layer cloth masks
    - Single layer gaitersFace masks with exhalation valves increase risk to others and should not be worn.
  - Lecturing in class poses particular challenges; it is preferable to:
    - model and emphasize to students the importance of self-screening and personal responsibility
    - ensure the environment is settled with appropriate social distancing
    - enhance clarity; it is reasonable to remove the mask and wear a face shield or stay behind a clear barrier while lecturing.
    - put the mask/face covering back on when class ends and participants get up to leave
  - It is advisable to augment MSU resources by bringing hand sanitizer and cleaning wipes for personal use.
- Pre-arrival
  - Staff and faculty reporting to work on campus have previously completed COVID-19 re-boarding training and oriented to the MSU Safety App COVID-19 self-screen. They will be encouraged to complete the self-screen questions in an open and reflective manner every morning before arriving on campus. The option to self-assess with the CDC Coronavirus Self-Checker survey on the CDC website is included in the MSU Safety App.

## *Health and Safety Subcommittee Report*

- COVID-19 Surveillance
  - Should staff or faculty have any concern about close contact exposure or symptoms of COVID-19, they should immediately self-quarantine. Follow the advice of your healthcare source and public health and keep Human Resources informed of your work status.
  - Faculty will be notified of students in quarantine or isolation as soon as practicable. In effectively organized classrooms, student quarantine does not constitute enhanced risk of exposure to the faculty or students in the class.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
  - Face shields are encouraged to augment cough protection. Discretion regarding the use of PPE while in low traffic, private, controlled circumstances is left to the individual.

### *FAQ's*

- How do I protect myself?

Non-pharmaceutical interventions are things that can be done that don't involve medical care, and that you can do to reduce your risk of infection from COVID-19. Some measures are more effective than others; none are perfect. Although none of these measures offer a guarantee that you won't get COVID19, each one will reduce the chance of infection. Using all measures consistently will minimize your chances of contributing to the problem or getting sick yourself. They include, from most to least effective:

- Staying away from sick people; this also implies that if you are sick, stay home.
- Going out as little as possible.
- Minimizing the number of people you come into contact with.
- When you are around other people, stay at least 6 feet away.
- Wash your hands frequently, and never touch your face with un-washed hands.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Clean frequently touched surfaces
- Wear a mask/face covering – masks/face covering s are source control; they don't prevent you from getting sick, they reduce the amount of virus or germ you spread when you are sick. Do it for the community.

Protect yourself – the simple math of pandemic risk is the more people you come into contact with, the more likely you are to be exposed. Outside of your bubble of people you must interact with on a daily basis, keep to yourself. When vaccines are released, it will be because they are safer than the disease. Get the vaccine.

- What if I'm exposed and need testing?

If you believe you have experienced a close contact exposure, report to your primary source of health care. This may be your personal physician or it may be the Vinson Health Center; if you don't have a primary source of health care, contact the health department. The recommendations will likely be:

- o Reassurance – your exposure was not close contact
- o Quarantine – your exposure was significant, and you should quarantine yourself and watch for symptoms. This means go home, and don't go out. If you don't have friends or family to assist, contact MSU Student Affairs or Human Resources as is most appropriate for assistance. If you quarantine for 10 days without developing symptoms, you are unlikely to transmit COVID-19 and may return to regular duties, class, or work. A 10 day quarantine is the local standard at the time this document is created, but local conditions may require a change to more or less strict standards.
- o Testing – if you had a close exposure and you have symptoms, you will likely be tested. If you have symptoms and it is not clear why, you will likely be tested.
  - o Sometimes, surveillance testing for groups is available.
  - o There are two broad categories of tests: point-of-care-testing and reference lab testing.
    - Point-of-care-testing typically takes 15 minutes, and if the result is positive, it confirms you do have COVID-19. Unfortunately, the point-of-care-testing is not as reliable for demonstrating conclusively that you don't have COVID-19, and must be followed by a reference lab test.
    - Reference lab testing is very sensitive and specific meaning you can rely on both positive and negative results. Unfortunately, while everybody that tests positive is shedding parts of the virus, it is not clear if you are contagious.
  - o Testing should be done in consultation with a physician's guidance. If you have a positive test and symptoms, you have COVID-19 and will be isolated. The one exception to this is documentation of a prior COVID-19 infection in the past 90 days. If you have a negative test, it does not end quarantine.
- How are all these terms defined?
  - o Quarantine – removing yourself from direct contact with others because of the potential close contact with COVID-19 or un-evaluated symptoms of illness. It is unlikely you will be tested unless you have symptoms. Ending self-quarantine has specific parameters defined by the Wichita Falls – Wichita County Public Health District.
  - o Isolation – removing yourself from direct contact with others because of test confirmed COVID-19 disease. Ending self-isolation has specific parameters defined by the Wichita Falls – Wichita County Public Health District.
  - o Close contact – being within 6 feet of someone with confirmed COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes. The CDC has broadened this definition to mean consecutive or intermittent exposures that add up to 15 minutes. Household members are

presumed to have close contact if one household member tests positive. Students sharing a residential housing unit are presumptive close contacts.

- Minimal exposure – having been in the vicinity of a person or several people with confirmed COVID-19, but not within 6 feet or more briefly than 15 minutes; having been in the vicinity of an asymptomatic individual subsequently confirmed to have COVID-19 more than two days later.

If a member of the campus community tests positive for COVID-19, or has been in close contact with someone that tests positive for COVID-19, that individual should immediately complete the appropriate [COVID-19 self-report form](#) and self-quarantine.

If you have concerning symptoms, seek medical advice. That source of advice may be: the Health Department, your personal healthcare provider, or the Vinson Health Center. If you are required to self-quarantine or self-isolate due to a possible COVID-19 exposure or are confirmed to have COVID-19, you may be asked to temporarily vacate your campus housing and move to a different on-campus location or return to your permanent residence to complete self-isolation until the guidelines for ending self-quarantine or self-isolation are met.

- How do I maintain a safe environment?

The physical facility personnel have instituted augmented cleaning procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank them, they are protecting you from an unseen foe. It is wise to defend yourself as well; bring cleaning supplies and keep your space cleaned and sanitized, especially high touch surfaces.

- How do I avoid contaminating myself?

Wash your hands frequently. Wash after touching any surface. Wash before touching your face. Thorough hand washing should apply soap, water, and rubbing to all surfaces of the hands, and should take at least 20 seconds.

Hand sanitizer is an expedient alternative when soap and water are not readily available.

- Are masks/face coverings required?

Yes, the campus community requires masks/face coverings in most areas on campus. The best option is a washable multi-layer cloth mask. Gaiters are widely used, but not as effective. Valve masks are hazardous to others.

- What plans are in place for campus community members who test positive for COVID-19?

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 are instructed to self-report using the [appropriate online form](#). If you need healthcare or advice, call your source of healthcare. COVID-19 is a reportable illness; public health will track confirmed cases. Students may be asked to temporarily vacate your campus housing and return to your permanent residence or move to residential housing dedicated

## *Health and Safety Subcommittee Report*

to safe and supported isolation. Isolation and quarantine requirements are defined by the Wichita Falls-Wichita County Health Department.

- What should I do if someone I know – a classmate, friend or instructor – tests positive?

Assess the degree of contact. Define if it meets close contact criteria, and if it is close contact, start self-quarantine. If you are confused or have questions, call your source for health care.

- What are the university plans should another outbreak occur?

The university will follow state and federal guidance to response to changes at the state and federal level. In the event a local outbreak compromises the university's ability to continue face to face operations, leadership will consider changes to local operations. Fixed triggers to initiate large changes in operations and mission are inadvisable and unrealistic when dealing with a rapidly evolving natural phenomenon. The campus community will be notified of any changes to academic instruction and campus operations.

### *Additional Recommendations*

#### Hotline

A hotline available 24/7 should be established. This will provide comfort when needed and decrease inappropriate self-reporting. This hotline may be entire and internal operation, an external operation (e.g., the United Regional Health Care System's hotline), or a blended model with night call directed towards external sources.

#### Enhance the contact tracing program

Identify students, faculty, or staff who are motivated and community oriented who will increase the number of people tracking individuals in isolation and quarantine. Provide the program director (Tiffany Kosse – VHC office manager) two graduate student assistants to review case submissions, make assignments, and follow-up on atypical cases, lost to follow-up cases, and expedite closure such that reported campus statistics more accurately reflect reality.

#### Vaccine

It is likely one or more vaccines will be authorized for use in the United States in late December 2020. We recommend that a cross-sectional task force (staff, faculty, students, medical) be established to plan for ramifications of COVID-19 vaccine: promotion, acceptance, coordination with stakeholders, storage, tracking, reporting, and distribution.

## **Facilities Subcommittee Report**

### *Campus (E&G) Disinfection Efforts:*

Disinfection will continue as recommended in July 2020, with the following general guidelines:

- Use of E23 and paper towels, allowing product to stay on a surface a minimum of 1-2 minutes, followed by the removal of the residual disinfectant.
- Emphasis on high touch point surfaces include the following locations: door handles, door crash bars, light switches, faucets, and flush valves.
- Altering custodial shifts and tasks where possible, and providing custodial staff with personal protective equipment including gloves, goggles, and masks.
- Providing disinfectant and towels in classrooms so students and instructors are able to disinfect their seating area during the class change time. Instructors/faculty should contact Debby Watson at X4228 to request refills or generate a work order.
- Signage containing a simplified version of these cleaning procedures has been placed in each classroom/lab.
- Custodians have follow revised cleaning responsibilities with priority for classrooms, corridors and common spaces. Offices and porches will be cleaned less frequently or by request via work order or by contacting Debby Watson at X4228.
- Trashcans are emptied from individual offices once a week instead of twice a week. Custodians leave extra trash bags in offices so personnel can discard their office trash in common area receptacles if the need arises or if they prefer not to have the custodians in their office.
- Disinfection of office suites beyond Custodial efforts noted above is the responsibility of the occupants.

Hand sanitizer will continue to be provided in classrooms and building entrances. Water fountains continue to be turned off and covered; bottle filling stations remain operational.

### *Plexiglas/Sneeze Guards Use:*

Approximately 75 sneeze guards have been installed at all locations requiring them. Additional needs should be communicated to Facilities. More options are available, including:

- Countertop: [Allied Composite Plastics](#) 972-241-0762, ¼" thick Plexiglas, sizes available include 18"x18", 18" (tall) x 30" (wide), 24"x24", 24"x36", 24"x48", or 24"x60".
- Hung from above: [Office Depot Hanging Adjustable Cashier Shields](#)
- Retractable: [Expressions Displays & Flags](#), 800-824-8984, retractable clear protective screen (31.5" x 80"), ORIG31SC.

### *Occupancy Reductions in Classrooms, Labs, Lounges, and Corridors:*

Occupancy in classrooms/labs to achieve 6' social distancing requirements remain in effect. Available seating has been identified with "Sit Here" stickers to achieve the necessary distance requirements.

## *Facilities Subcommittee Report*

### *Building Signage Recommendations:*

- Signage has been installed to reflect:
  - Social distancing (informational and floor signs)
  - Entrance and exit
  - Hand sanitizing stations
  - Elevator occupancy limits
  - in corridors and stairwells instructing occupants to “stay 6’ apart.”
- New signage to be installed will emphasis:
  - Eating in designated areas only.
  - Proper use of the E23 disinfectant signage.
- Additional signage needs should be communicated to Facilities.



## **Campus Culture Subcommittee Report**

The fall semester messaging utilized students, faculty, and staff to convey the message of washing hands, keeping at least 6 feet apart, and wearing face covering correctly at all times on campus. While the final product conveyed the message the campus culture initiative will shift with the assistance of the Office of Public Information to create a more visually graphic campaign, which is considerably more efficient and more modern in its design/imagery. The messaging is crisp and focuses on emphasizing that:

- COVID is still here
- The original CDC guidelines still apply
- The end game is to end the pandemic.

While other messages may be created and implemented throughout Spring 2021, below is the current message codified by the Office of Public Information:

### **Script:**

Unfortunately, COVID-19 is still here.  
But at MSU Texas we are making responsible choices.  
It is in our Mustangs Spirit to come together and work as a team.  
Each with our own style...  
(Wear mask, gaiter, scarf)  
...we are following guidelines on our campus  
(Watch distance)  
(Wash hands)  
(Enhanced sanitization)  
(Cleaning desks)  
to do our part to end this pandemic.  
(Spirit Always Bold)

The current timeline is to design in December, with messaging to begin the week before classes begin.

In addition to the messaging above, Student Government Association President Shelbi Stogdill (along with other representatives from SGA) suggested that handouts at key locations around campus would help further awareness and advocacy for following guidelines. Ms. Stogdill is taking the lead regarding these handouts.