

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR REOPENING

As we return to campus from the holiday break, we want to ensure that the University continues to operate in a safe and healthy manner during this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic period. Please review the protocols below for the Spring Semester 2022 for students and employees. If you are a student and have any remaining questions, please coordinate with student affairs officials, and if you are an employee, please consult the appropriate supervisory personnel. The University will continue to incorporate best practices and guidelines issued by federal and state health experts.

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR STUDENTS

Move-in Date – Move-in for students begins January 20, 2022 for new students and January 21, 2022 for returning students.

Classes Start – Classes will start on Monday, January 24, 2022.

Safer in Place Policy – The University will resume its Safer in Place Policy. During the first two weeks of the Spring 2022 academic semester, the Safer in Place Policy will be implemented for residential students. The first two weeks of instruction will be online. The University will not hold, sponsor, or conduct any in-person student activities during this two-week period. The University may further suspend in-person student activities if warranted.

COVID-19 Testing – Students living on campus are encouraged and expected to get tested prior to returning to campus. Upon returning to campus, testing will be available for all students seven days a week at the Student Health Center. This also includes commuter students. Again, students are encouraged to get tested. The University will initiate an aggressive testing process for the Spring semester.

Positive COVID-19 test results – Students who test positive for COVID-19 shall immediately notify the Division of Student Affairs. The Division will coordinate with the student on developing an individualized safety plan, which may include quarantine or isolation.

Vaccinations and Booster Shot – Students are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated and receive the booster shot. Vaccination and booster shots will be administered in the campus center in conjunction with the student's return to campus beginning January 24, 2022.

Face Coverings (Masks) – To protect and ensure the health and safety of the campus community, students are expected to continue to wear masks at all times while in any indoor facility, including classrooms. Students are encouraged to wear masks for outside activities.

Course Delivery – Classes will be held via online delivery during the ten-day Safer in Place period. Following the ten-day period, the University will shift to in-person classes, but will continue to evaluate the method of course delivery as the semester proceeds. This may include in-person, remote/online delivery, and a hybrid format.

Athletics – Student Athletes shall confer with Athletic Department staff on NCAA regulations governing COVID-19 protocols. Attendance at athletic events will be limited in accordance with federal, state, and local guidance.

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR EMPLOYEES

Operations – The University resumed in-person operations on January 3, 2022, with faculty returning to campus on January 18, 2022.

COVID-19 Testing – Employees are encouraged to get tested prior to returning to campus, especially if they have traveled out of town or have been in other elevated COVID-19 exposure environments. Testing will be available for employees seven days a week at the Student Health Center.

Positive COVID-19 Test Results – Employees who test positive for COVID-19 should immediately notify their supervisor who will follow the prescribed process of notifying the Office of Emergency Management or Human Resources. In addition, the employee may also notify these units. In any case, these offices will coordinate with the employee and the employee's supervisor in developing a health and safety plan.

Quarantine Options – Employees who have recently traveled or have been in elevated COVID-19 exposure situations shall coordinate with their immediate supervisor on quarantine options during the first week of the resumption of University operations.

Vaccinations and Booster Shot – Employees are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated and receive the booster shot. Vaccination and booster shots will be administered in the campus center beginning January 24, 2022.

Face Coverings (Masks) – To protect and ensure the health and safety of the campus community, employees are expected to continue to wear masks at all times while in any indoor facility, including classrooms. Employees are encouraged to wear masks for outside activities as well.

Operational Changes – The University will continue to evaluate federal, state, and local guidance pertaining to health and safety, and may revise these protocols based on the receipt and evaluation of additional information.