

Putting Learning First is Everyone's Responsibility:

Northwood Technical College's (Northwood Tech) longstanding mission is to put Learning First. As part of Northwood Tech's College community, we all have a role to play in creating the learning environment we seek. The COVID-19 pandemic again demands that each of us demonstrate resilience. We need to be mindful of our personal responsibility in maintaining all learning options and how our decisions impact those around us.

These campus expectations support a respectful environment that promotes measures to reduce risk of widespread illness in our college community. We strive to provide individuals with the opportunity to make decisions in their own best interest, while closely monitoring the public health situation based on information provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). In addition, local public health officials are key partners as we assess policy decisions and the most up to date information.

To support and encourage strategies that reduce risk of illness based on CDC guidance, all Northwood Tech students and employees are expected to follow these guidelines.

Campus Expectations:

Communication is a key tool in reducing the risk of illness and situations leading to on-campus transmission. Student and staff email will continue to be the primary method of communicating COVID-19 related policy updates. Check email regularly to stay informed. On campus electronic signage will provide additional information and reminders so you can do your part to minimize risk. In addition, the Northwood Tech website will provide general information related to the College's response to COVID-19 at www.NorthwoodTech.edu/2021-22/coronavirus. Contact the Northwood Tech Safety Team email safety@northwoodtech.edu if you have a question.

Mask guidance will be provided periodically and when guidelines change. Look for updates from the Northwood Tech Safety Team or President John Will via email and on the digital signs located throughout the campus. Guidance will be based on public health information including transmission risk, hospitalization trends, and campus-based COVID-19 cases.

Physical distancing of six (6) feet is expected where possible.

Daily self-screening prior to arriving on campus is a critical measure in reducing the risk of transmission. **If you feel sick, stay home.** Self-screening requires you to consider two questions:

Question #1: How are you feeling?

If you are experiencing the following symptoms (regardless of vaccination status) you should not come to campus until your symptoms have improved and are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.

- Fever
- Chills
- Cough unrelated to known allergies
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If you check any of the above boxes, you should notify your immediate campus contact(s). Students should notify faculty and employees should notify their supervisor. If symptoms could be COVID-19-related, fill out a self-disclosure form located at <https://www.northwoodtech.edu/2021-22/coronavirus> to receive further direction.

Question #2: Have you tested positive or been potentially exposed to COVID-19?

- I tested positive for COVID in the previous 10 days
- I've been tested for COVID but have not received results
- I'm not fully vaccinated and have had close contact with another person who tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- I'm not fully vaccinated and have travelled internationally or have been in contact with someone who traveled internationally in the last 14 days
- I'm fully vaccinated and have had close contact with another person who tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days.

If you check any of the above boxes, you should notify your immediate campus contact(s). Students should notify faculty and employees should notify their supervisor. If symptoms could be COVID-19-related, fill out a self-disclosure form located at <https://www.northwoodtech.edu/2021-22/coronavirus> to receive further direction.

Safety Team Guidance:

The Northwood Tech Safety Team will provide guidance according to recommendations provided by the CDC or local public health officials. Protocols are designed to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, which is necessary to continue campus operations with minimal disruption. Students and employees who are affected by COVID-19 isolation or quarantine requirements may be referred to other departments or individuals to access services necessary to support ongoing success.

Confirmed Positive COVID-19 Test

A member of the Northwood Tech Safety Team will communicate with students or employees who have tested positive for COVID-19. If you test positive, you must remain off campus until you receive a return to campus communication from the Northwood Tech Safety Team.

Symptomatic and Awaiting COVID-19 Test Results

Students or employees awaiting test results must remain off campus until the test results are received. You may return to campus once you have received a return to campus communication from the Northwood Tech Safety Team.

Close Contact Notification – Unvaccinated or Not Fully Vaccinated/Boosted Individual

Close contacts who are not fully vaccinated/boosted will be required to follow quarantine protocols. Individuals will be allowed to return to campus based on the CDC/local Health Department guidelines when to start and end quarantine. Students and employees possibly exposed to the individual will be notified by a member of the Northwood Tech Safety Team and offered free on-campus or at home testing. HIPAA and FERPA guidelines will be considered in managing communications regarding COVID-19 cases and information.

Close Contact Notification – Fully Vaccinated/Boosted Individual

Fully vaccinated/boosted students and employees with no symptoms may continue to access campus but are required to wear a mask while on campus and should maintain a six (6) feet physical distance at all times. The individual should continue the daily self-screening process for 14 days following the exposure. The CDC recommends being tested between days 3 and 5 following close contact of an infected person.

How to Stay informed Regarding the Latest COVID-19 Guidance:

- ✓ Watch your Northwood Tech email for updates.
- ✓ Go to www.NorthwoodTech.edu/2021-22/coronavirus
- ✓ Monitor signage on campus and adhere to recommendations.
- ✓ Send a question to safety@NorthwoodTech.edu.

Definitions and Detailed Protocols:

Omicron variant of COVID-19

The Omicron variant will likely spread more easily than the original SARS-CoV-2 virus. The first confirmed U.S. case of Omicron was identified December 1, 2021, and it is unknown how easily Omicron spreads compared to the Delta variant.

Delta variant of COVID-19

The Delta variant is highly infectious and is currently the predominant variant of the virus in the United States. The Delta variant is highly contagious, more than 2x as contagious as previous variants. Some data suggest the Delta variant might cause more severe illness than previous variants in unvaccinated people.

Close Contact Definition

The definition of a close contact has not changed. A close contact is defined as someone who was within six (6) feet of an infected person (confirmed tested positive) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

An infected person can spread COVID-19 starting two (2) days prior to onset of symptoms or two (2) days before the positive specimen collection date is used for asymptomatic persons. It is important to note that physical distancing and/or vaccination status does affect the determination of close contact and it may eliminate the need for quarantine protocol.

Individuals that may have been exposed to a positive COVID-19 individual will be notified, even if they may not meet the criteria of a close contact. All close contacts will be notified by the Northwood Tech Safety Team, College Health Nurse, or Department of Health.

Vaccinated/Boosted vs Unvaccinated Definitions

Individuals are considered fully vaccinated/boosted if they:

- Have been boosted
- Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last six (6) months
- Completed the primary series of the J&J vaccine within the last two (2) months

Individuals considered unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated/boosted if they:

- Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over six (6) months ago and are not boosted
- Completed the primary series of J&J over two (2) months ago and are not boosted
- Are unvaccinated

Isolation

Isolation is used to separate individuals infected with COVID-19 from those who are not infected. Infection normally is confirmed through a positive COVID-19 test result or onset of symptoms that can be related to COVID-19 illness.

People who are in isolation should stay home until it's safe for them to be around others. At home, anyone sick or infected should separate from others, stay in a specific "sick room" or area, and use a separate bathroom (if available). Avoid contact with other members of the household and pets. Don't share personal household items, like cups, towels, and utensils. Wear a mask when around other people if able.

Quarantine

During quarantine, individuals should stay home for five (5) days after the last contact with a person who has COVID-19, monitor for symptoms consistent with COVID-19, and if possible, stay away from people you live with, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19. After 5 days individuals should wear a mask around others for an additional five (5) days. Monitor for symptoms for 10 days after exposure. Local public health authorities make the final decisions about how long quarantine should last.

Quarantine guidelines are dependent upon vaccination status.

For fully vaccinated/boosted individuals WITHOUT symptoms:

- Individuals that are fully vaccinated/boosted do not need to quarantine if asymptomatic. Fully vaccinated close contacts should get tested 5 days after exposure, even without the presence of symptoms. Masks must be worn indoors in public for 10 days following exposure. Watch for symptoms until 10 days after exposure. In the event of a positive result, individuals must follow isolation protocols.

For fully vaccinated/boosted individuals WITH symptoms:

- Fully vaccinated individuals experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should isolate and be tested. If possible, stay away from people you live with, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19.

For individuals who have had COVID-19 within the previous three (3) months WITHOUT symptoms:

- Quarantine is not required if an individual has had COVID-19 in the previous three (3) months, have recovered from the illness, AND do not have symptoms of COVID-19. Masks must be worn indoors in public for 10 days following exposure.

For individuals who have had COVID-19 within the previous three (3) months WITH symptoms:

- Individuals experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should quarantine and be tested. If possible, stay away from people you live with, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19.

For unvaccinated individuals or those who do not meet the criteria for fully vaccinated/boosted:

- Individuals should stay home for five (5) days after the last contact with a person who has COVID-19, monitor for symptoms consistent with COVID-19, and if possible, stay away from people you live with, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19. Masks must be worn indoors in public for 10 days following exposure. Continue to monitor for symptoms for 10 days after exposure.

Testing Information

From the Wisconsin Department of Health Services: Antigen tests are a common type of COVID-19 test that provides rapid results in about 15 minutes. While antigen tests deliver fast results, they are not as accurate as other tests. This makes them best suited for patients with symptoms or exposure where the virus is more easily detected. A second test of a different type (i.e., PCR) is sometimes necessary to confirm the antigen test result and should be conducted as soon after the antigen test as possible (always within 48 hours).

The College has purchased rapid antigen and PCR tests. Individuals that want to be tested can contact a College Health Nurse to obtain a test. If an individual has been exposed, they should wait five (5) days before taking the test. The College may test students and staff prior to school sponsored trips.

Revised: January 12, 2022