



## Mitchell Technical College COVID Guidelines Fall 2021

August 16, 2021

With the availability of COVID-19 vaccines, and opportunities for students and employees to be vaccinated, Mitchell Technical College will be open for face-to-face classes and activities for Fall Semester 2021. We plan to operate mostly at our pre-pandemic levels and we will continue our emphasis on cleaning/sanitation as well as 24/7 HVAC air circulation.

The Mitchell Tech COVID planning team will review the status of COVID-19 in the community as well as updated guidance from the CDC, SD Department of Health, and local health care advisors and make changes to these guidelines as the situation warrants.

Key COVID-19 guidelines are outlined below:

- **COVID-19 Vaccinations**
  - The COVID-19 vaccine is not required by Mitchell Technical College. However, it is strongly encouraged that all employees and students be fully vaccinated by the start of the semester to ensure we can maintain on-campus activities throughout the year.
  - Although MTC does not require the COVID-19 vaccine, it should be noted that some students and employees participating in off-site experiential learning opportunities, such as clinicals or internships, may need the COVID-19 vaccine to participate. Further information will be provided directly to students and employees in applicable programs.
  - Information about where to obtain a COVID-19 vaccine is available through the SD Department of Health website at [COVID-19 Vaccine Providers](#).
  - Vaccine information is available through the CDC including [Myths and Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
  
- **Wearing masks/face coverings:**
  - Masks currently are not required on the MTC campus.
  - Masks are optional and certainly allowed for anyone choosing to wear a mask on campus. Please respect the privacy of those wearing a mask by not asking why they are wearing one.
  
- **What to do if you get sick:**
  - If you are **SICK** and not vaccinated, or have not had COVID-19 within the last three months, you should:
    - Contact your supervisor or instructors if you will not be coming to campus.
    - Wear a mask, wash/sanitize hands often, and cover coughs and sneezes
    - Clean high-touch surface areas after use
    - Review the 2021 COVID-19 Daily Self-Checklist
    - If symptoms persist or worsen, seek medical attention.

- **What to do if you are DIAGNOSED WITH COVID-19**
  - If you are **DIAGNOSED WITH COVID-19**, (regardless of vaccination status) you should:
    - Students - notify Scott Fossum (605) 995-7178, [scott.fossum@mitchelltech.edu](mailto:scott.fossum@mitchelltech.edu)
    - Employees - notify John Heemstra (605) 995-7204, [john.heemstra@mitchelltech.edu](mailto:john.heemstra@mitchelltech.edu)
    - Isolate for at least 10 days from the start of symptoms or the date of the COVID-19 test, whichever is earlier.
    - If asymptomatic without medication on Day 11, you may return to school.
  
- **What to do if you are a CLOSE CONTACT of someone with COVID-19:**
  - If you are a **CLOSE CONTACT** and not vaccinated or have not had COVID-19 within the last three months, you should:
    - Quarantine for 10 days from last contact with the person with COVID-19.
    - If asymptomatic without medication on Day 11, you can return to school.
  
  - **OR**
    - Quarantine for 7 days from the last contact with the person who has COVID-19 **and** if you test negative on Day 5 of the quarantine or later
    - Free at-home test kit can be ordered through the SD Department of Health at <https://learn.vaulthealth.com/southdakota/>
    - If asymptomatic without medication on Day 8, you can return to school.
  
  - If you are a **CLOSE CONTACT** of someone with COVID-19 and you are fully vaccinated, you should:
    - Get tested 3-5 days after the date of your exposure.
    - Wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days after exposure or until a negative test result
  
- **Hygiene and Handwashing**
  - Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible.
  - Use hand sanitizer when entering buildings, classrooms, or labs. Hand sanitizer stations will be placed throughout campus buildings, classrooms, and labs.
  - Disinfectant spray or wipes will be used to clean shared tools or equipment between use.
  
- **Student Lounge and Fitness Room,**
  - Follow the cleaning instructions posted.
  
- **Food Service**
  - Follow the cleaning instructions posted in the Muth Electric Commons.



- Events and campus activities
  - Activities and visitors will be allowed on campus, and they will be expected to follow MTC guidelines in place at that time.

Questions or concerns regarding this plan: Contact John Heemstra, [john.heemstra@mitchelltech.edu](mailto:john.heemstra@mitchelltech.edu) or Scott Fossum, [scott.fossum@mitchelltech.edu](mailto:scott.fossum@mitchelltech.edu)