



Mitchell Technical College COVID Guidelines Spring 2022

January 3, 2022

With the availability of COVID-19 vaccines, and opportunities for students and employees to be vaccinated, Mitchell Technical College will remain open for face-to-face classes and activities for Spring Semester 2022. 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.

- **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.



- **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.

What to do if sick, testing positive for COVID-19, or if you are exposed/close contact to someone who has tested positive.

- **What 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 do if you TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 (ISOLATE):**
 - If you **TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19**, (regardless of vaccination status) you should:
 - Students - notify Scott Fossum (605) 995-7178, scott.fossum@mitchelltech.edu
 - Employees - notify John Heemstra (605) 995-7204, john.heemstra@mitchelltech.edu
 - Isolate/stay home for at least 5 days from the start of symptoms or the date of the COVID-19 test, whichever is earlier.
 - If asymptomatic (no symptoms) without medication on Day 6, you may return to school.
 - Wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- **What do if you have been EXPOSED or are a CLOSE CONTACT of someone with COVID-19:**
 - If you have been boosted
Or
 - Completed both doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months
Or
 - Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months
 - You are considered a Close Contact or Exposed if you were less than 6-feet away from a COVID infected person (someone testing positive) for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
 - You may come to campus if you have no symptoms but must wear a mask around others for 10 days.
 - Test on day 5, if possible (contact Center for Student Success for test kit)
 - If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home.

- **What do if you have been EXPOSED or are a CLOSE CONTACT of someone with COVID-19:**
 - Completed both doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine more than 6 months ago and have not been boosted.
 - Or
 - Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine more than 2 months ago and have not been boosted.
 - Or
 - Are unvaccinated
 - You are considered a Close Contact or Exposed if you were less than 6-feet away from a COVID infected person (someone testing positive) for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
 - Stay home for 5 days.
 - After five days, you may come to school if you have no symptoms but must wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
 - Test on day 5, if possible (contact Center for Student Success for test kit)
 - If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home.

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