

West Liberty University Faculty/Staff COVID-19 guidance for fall 2022 semester

West Liberty University (WLU) has closely monitored data related to COVID-19 over the summer months. The good news is West Virginia has not seen any sustained significant increases in severe outcomes.

Through what we have learned over the last few years, all of us are in a better position to make individual decisions about how to protect ourselves and others.

Five key areas to be aware include:

- testing, vaccines and reporting procedures;
- mask requirements;
- social distancing and isolation procedures;
- classroom seating charts; and
- pandemic information/resources website.

The University will continue to monitor public health data and re-evaluate campus guidelines, if necessary.

Vaccination

WLU strongly encourages, but does not require, everyone to stay optimally protected against COVID-19 by getting their primary vaccine series, and staying up-to-date with a booster dose if they are [eligible to receive one](#).

To determine when they are eligible, and due for a booster shot (or any COVID-19 shot)-- West Virginians are encouraged to use the *WV COVID-19 Vaccination Due Date Calculator*, a free online tool that helps anyone figure out when they may become due for a COVID-19 shot. Access the calculator by visiting the site at vaccinate.wv.gov.

Vaccines are available through a variety of local health departments and private sector pharmacies.

Employees are not required to verify or update their vaccination status with the University.

Those in Health Sciences involved in patient care are required, however, to follow separate guidelines— such as clinical provider's policies; and those related to COVID-19— including as vaccinations, masks and PPE.

Testing, reporting and isolation

WLU will not require testing prior to attendance on campus; however, employees are encouraged to take advantage of self-antigen testing or community testing opportunities before, and during, the semester begins.

COVID-19 tests are available at local health departments, pharmacies, and through the federal government's website, covidtests.gov, which allows people to sign up for free COVID-19 tests; and tests will be conveniently shipped directly to the individual's household.

Employees are not required to report positive test results to the University, but they are expected to follow [CDC guidelines for isolation](#) and notify close contacts.

Masks, classrooms and research

Masks are not required on WLU campuses but are always encouraged and welcomed. The University will stock dispensers with disposable masks and hand sanitizer.

If a person contracts COVID-19, they must [isolate for five days and wear a mask for an additional five days](#) while in the classroom or other indoor spaces.

While faculty and advisors may not require masks, they may share that they prefer masks to be worn in their classrooms and/or offices. Virtual options for non-class office meetings are also available for those not comfortable meeting without a mask.

Faculty are not required to create seating charts this semester.

For personal safety, and the safety of others, employees should not ignore [symptoms of COVID-19](#). Those with any COVID-19 symptoms should not physically report to campus for work or class.

Pandemic information, resources

WLU will no longer maintain a University-specific COVID-19 dashboard since data is available through the [West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources](#).

Questions related to COVID-19 and WLU's health and safety protocols may be directed to the Health and Safety Specialist or Human Resources.

For the most recent CDC update on August 11, 2022:

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/p0811-covid-guidance.html>