

# **PROTECT THE 'NECKS III**

**[wiu.edu/coronavirus](http://wiu.edu/coronavirus)**



**Western Illinois  
University**

# Protect the 'Necks Pledge

Being a part of the Leatherneck community during challenging times means we strive to protect ourselves, our University, and our communities, especially those who are vulnerable. It is with our fighting Leatherneck spirit that we ask you to pledge to stop the spread of COVID-19.

## I Pledge To:

### **I pledge to protect myself. I will:**

- Carefully consider getting a COVID-19 vaccine and any eligible boosters.
- Monitor myself daily for COVID-19 symptoms.
- Report any symptoms to a medical professional.
- Wash my hands with soap and water and/or use hand sanitizer often.
- Keep informed of WIU updates and procedural changes related to COVID-19.
- Consider getting a flu shot this fall. (Symptoms of influenza and COVID-19 are very similar. This makes it more difficult, time consuming, and expensive for medical professionals to make the correct diagnosis if I become ill.)

### **I pledge to protect my Leatherneck Community. I will:**

- Stay home if I feel ill or if I knowingly have been exposed to someone who tests positive for COVID-19.
- Complete the WIU COVID-19 Self Reporting Form if I become positive with COVID-19.
- Have an appropriate face covering with me at all times when on WIU's campuses, and I will comply when requested to wear a face covering.
- Assist to keep shared common spaces and workstations clean.
- Not assume an individual's vaccination status, exposure, or symptomatic status based on whether or not a face covering is worn.
- Participate in testing and/or quarantine/isolation processes if instructed to do so by the University, McDonough, or Rock Island County health departments, and/or the Illinois Department of Public Health.
- Be positive, attentive, and helpful to anyone around who may need support.

**We will continue the fight the COVID-19 pandemic and rally together to keep one another safe. We are Leathernecks!**

## 2022-2023 Academic Year Operational Requirements, Guidance & Expectations

The COVID-19 pandemic created extraordinary challenges for the world and altered the way institutions of higher education serve students. The Western Illinois University 2022-2023 Protect the 'Necks III Plan provides an overview of crucial requirements, guidance, and expectations as we resume in-person operations beginning Fall 2022. All members of the University community, including visitors, are expected to follow University policies, protocols, and guidelines. Western Illinois University will go by the most up-to-date health and safety guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and other governmental and public health agencies and will adjust protocols and guidelines as necessary.

“Regular” operations presume the State of Illinois remains in Phase 5 at the start of the Fall 2022 semester:

[Restore Illinois Phase 5](#) requires:

- Testing, tracing, and treatment are widely available throughout the state.
- Either a vaccine is developed to prevent additional spread of COVID-19, a treatment option is readily available that ensures health care capacity is no longer a concern, or there are no new cases over a sustained period.
- All sectors of the economy reopen with businesses, schools, and recreation resuming normal operations with new health and hygiene practices permanently in place.
- Large gatherings of all sizes can resume.
- Public health experts' focus is on lessons learned and building out the public health infrastructure needed to meet and overcome future challenges.
- Healthcare equity is made a priority to improve health outcomes and ensure vulnerable communities receive the quality care they deserve.

The Fall 2022 semester will be a time of transition. We envision a traditional residential experience on our Macomb campus, with students receiving face-to-face instruction, as well as some courses offered in alternative formats; students living in the residence halls, University apartments, and off-campus housing; and students actively engaged using University facilities to study, recreate, dine, and engage with fellow students, faculty, and staff. We plan on a traditional campus experience on our Moline campus, with students receiving face-to-face instruction, as well as some courses offered in alternative formats and students actively engaged using University facilities to study, recreate, and engage with fellow students, faculty and staff.

### Protect the 'Necks

- Continue to have a face covering with you in case you get asked to wear it
- If you don't feel well, stay home!
- Wash hands or use sanitizer
- Consider getting the COVID-19 vaccine
- Test regularly for COVID-19



For more info go to  
[wiu.edu/coronavirus](https://wiu.edu/coronavirus)

**W**  
Western Illinois  
University



Find WIU COVID-19 updates at [wiu.edu/coronavirus](https://wiu.edu/coronavirus)

WIU continues to take a proactive approach with the development and modification of COVID-19-related protocols. These are centered on creating realistic protections for individuals, which include free COVID-19 testing on both campuses, hosting COVID-19 vaccination clinics, adjusting building mechanical equipment as necessary, providing face coverings, and other provisions. These cumulative layers will assist in keeping members of the University community safe.

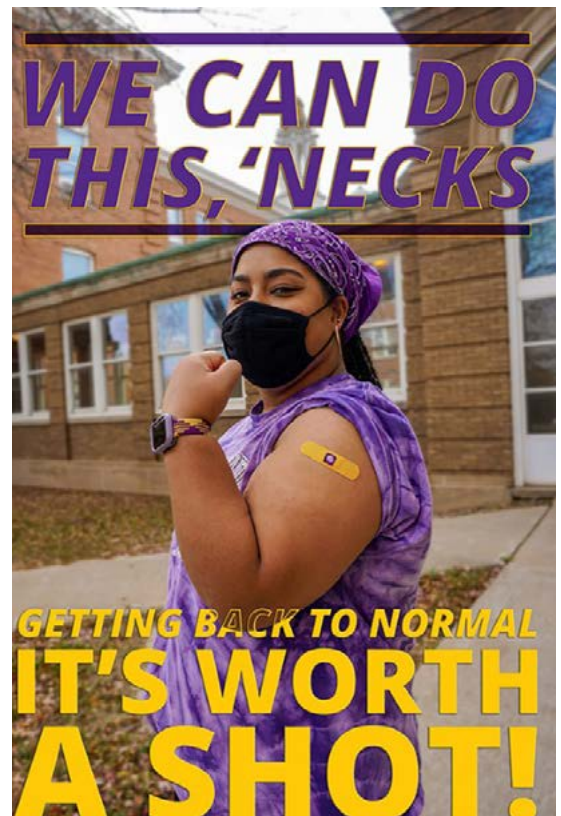
As the COVID-19 pandemic is an ever-changing situation, the protocols and practices outlined in this document are subject to change. WIU will utilize current data, benchmarking, and consultation with local and regional health experts when determining the progress of the institution. Unknown factors such as variant encroachment and/or a rise in positive cases may require the University to reinstate/revise certain protocols such as requiring face coverings, travel restrictions, gathering capacities, event/activities permissions, and visitor/guest admittance.

The University remains committed to following health and safety guidance from the CDC, IDPH, and other governmental and public health agencies and will adjust accordingly. The University will also follow guidance from the Governor and IDPH regarding COVID-19 vaccination requirements and testing.

All members of the Western Illinois University community are expected to help ensure the health and safety of our Leatherneck Community by following all public health guidance.

▶ **1. Western Illinois University supports the following guiding principles:**

- The University strives to remain fully operational for the 2022-2023 academic year, and will provide an engaging and inclusive college experience for all students and maintain a vibrant workforce.
- The University will provide resources for optimum physical and mental health for our University community.
- WIU will adhere to the latest public health protocols established by the [CDC](#), the [McDonough](#) and [Rock Island](#) Health Departments, and [State of Illinois public health authorities](#).
- The University values transparent and open communication, and will continue to deliver timely messaging and communications, through a variety of campus resources, including the COVID-19 webpage ([wiu.edu/coronavirus](http://wiu.edu/coronavirus)).



## ▶ 2. Operating Schedule for 2022-2023 Academic Year

- Move-in begins Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022.
- Fall semester begins Monday, August 22, 2022.
- Spring semester begins Tuesday, January 17, 2023.
- Refer to the academic calendar for additional academic deadlines [wiu.edu/provost/calendar/](http://wiu.edu/provost/calendar/).

## ▶ 3. Health and Well-Being Safeguards

- Students, employees, and visitors are expected to be familiar with, and follow, the protocols and guidelines in place. Failure to do so jeopardizes the University's safety and well-being.
- Access to free testing will be made available by the University.
- The University will monitor COVID-19 conditions locally, regionally, and at national/worldwide levels.
- All students, faculty, staff, and visitors must adhere to CDC and State of Illinois public health guidelines.

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### **COVID-19 Vaccination Information**

#### **Vaccination Defined**

**Fully Vaccinated** is defined as completing a primary series of a COVID-19 vaccine (1 shot of Johnson & Johnson, 2 shots of Moderna, or 2 shots of Pfizer, plus 14 days) following the last shot. In addition to these three common vaccinations within the United States, WIU will acknowledge other vaccines approved through the World Health Organization.

**Up-to-Date Vaccinated** is defined as completing a primary series and all boosters that an individual is eligible to receive.

- Western Illinois University does not require or mandate COVID-19 vaccinations; however, WIU expects all members of the University community to receive a COVID-19 vaccine and any subsequent booster(s).
  - o Fully-vaccinated is defined as taking any of the current three vaccine options: Pfizer; Moderna; or Johnson and Johnson, plus 14 days following the last shot. In addition to these three common vaccinations within the United States, WIU will acknowledge other vaccines approved through the [World Health Organization](http://World Health Organization) or any future vaccine that is approved or has emergency use authorization from the FDA, CDC, or the WHO.
  - o Up-to-date COVID-19 vaccinations means that an individual has completed their primary series of shots as noted above and received boosters.

- Western Illinois University is a part of the White House and U.S. Department of Education's [COVID-19 College Vaccine Challenge](#). The challenge is a nationwide initiative to promote vaccinations, end the pandemic, and speed the country's return to more normal operations.
- Vaccination clinics will continue to be held on the Macomb campus throughout the semester (the clinics will include boosters).
- Individuals are encouraged to check the [CDC website](#) for booster information and eligibility.
- Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to submit proof of vaccination through WIU's [online portal](#) or in person. Even those individuals learning or working remotely are encouraged to submit their information.
- If an individual does not want to upload their information, they can show their card in person at the following locations:
  - o WIU-Macomb Students: Beu Health Center
  - o WIU-Macomb Employees: Sherman Hall 321 (Vice President for Student Success)
  - o WIU-QC Students & Employees: Riverfront Hall
- Information Sharing and Storage:
  - o Student information is stored securely in Beu Health Center's health portal, along with other immunization records. This information is only available to health care personnel. Only a student's name is shared electronically in processes as part of a comprehensive running list of all members of the institution who are vaccinated for record and follow-up purposes.
  - o Employee information is stored securely in Google Drive after submission. The uploaded image is confirmed and the file is deleted. Only the employee's name is shared electronically in processes as part of a comprehensive running list of all members of the institution who are vaccinated for record follow-up purposes.
- Submitting booster shot information is not required; however, as individuals receive a booster, they can choose to submit updated information. Individuals can send an updated picture of their COVID-19 vaccination card to the following:

**Students:** [beuhealthcenter@wiu.edu](mailto:beuhealthcenter@wiu.edu)

**Employees:** [rmep@wiu.edu](mailto:rmep@wiu.edu)

**For more information related to the COVID-19 Vaccinations, visit:**

[WIU Vaccination Information](#)

[CDC Vaccination Information](#)



## **COVID-19 Testing Information**

Testing is no longer required for unvaccinated individuals; however, University health and risk management officials encourage continued frequent testing (at least once per week) for all individuals (vaccinated and unvaccinated).



- WIU-Macomb students, faculty, and staff can attend free weekly COVID-19 testing clinics in the University Union Student Organization Center (SOC) (basement level). The University will adjust schedules based on demand and usage.
- WIU-QC campus students, faculty, and staff can obtain a test kit at Riverfront Hall reception.
- Minor students (those under 18) should contact Beu Health Center ([beuhealthcenter@wiu.edu](mailto:beuhealthcenter@wiu.edu)) to get parental permission on file.
- The University COVID-19 testing center is for individuals who are asymptomatic. Students who have COVID-19 symptoms, should contact Beu Health Center (309) 298-1888 or their primary care physician. Employees who experience COVID-19 symptoms should contact their primary care physician.
- Testing is an antigen-based (simple nasal swab) test.
  - o Testing is self-administered. Individuals will have results in approximately 20 minutes.
  - o Testing is limited to current WIU students, faculty, and staff. A current WIU ID is required.
  - o No appointment needed.
  - o No insurance card/proof of insurance needed.
- Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days do not need to test as long as they do not re-develop symptoms. Individuals who re-develop symptoms within three months of having COVID-19 may need to be tested again if there is no other cause identified for their symptoms.

## **WIU Self-Reporting**

With access to COVID-19 home kits, individuals can test at home. The University encourages individuals to utilize home kits to help mitigate transmission. If you take an at-home test with a positive result, the University requests that you self-report by scanning the QR code or by going to the [COVID-19 Self Report Form](#).



## After Submitting a Self-Report:

**Students:** If you need professors notified that your absence is COVID-related, please send an email to [SDSC@wiu.edu](mailto:SDSC@wiu.edu) and **COPY ALL OF YOUR PROFESSORS** asking the SDSC to confirm COVID-19 related absences. SDSC will reply all and confirm.

**Employees:** For information related to time off work as a result of COVID, visit the [WIU Human Resources web-page](#) and select “**COVID-19 Information for Employees,**” and notify your supervisor.

## Free At-Home Test Kits

The U.S. government allows every U.S. residence to receive four free at-home COVID-19 tests. University community members, including those living on campus, are encouraged to request their free at-home antigen-based test kits. Due to delays in shipping, it is suggested ordering the tests at least 2-3 weeks prior to needing them. In addition, some insurance plans will provide free test kits at select pharmacies. Check with your insurance provider and pharmacy, and some health departments may also provide free test kits.

**For more information related to the COVID-19 Testing, please visit:**

[WIU COVID-19 Testing Information](#)

[CDC COVID-19 Testing Information](#)

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## Isolation and Quarantine Defined

**Quarantine** separates and restricts the movement of people who are exposed to a contagious disease to ensure they do not become ill, and if so, are separated from others to reduce the spread of an illness. Individuals in quarantine may have been exposed to a disease and are unaware of the exposure, or they may be ill, but not show symptoms.

**Isolation** separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.

## Quarantine & Isolation Information

- The University has an established plan to assist in the event that a student must be quarantined or isolated (on-campus and off-campus) due to COVID-19.
  - The individual will receive their COVID-19 test results from a self-administered test (either home test kit or at on-campus testing site) or their primary care provider or Beu Health Center.
  - The individual is responsible for self-reporting their positive diagnosis through the WIU COVID-19 Self-Report Form.



- o If Beu Health Center conducted the test with the health center facility, a confidential report will be provided to the WIU Student Development and Success Center (SDSC). This department specializes in working with students in events that involve illness, crisis, and mentoring.
  - o If a student needs further assistance with the notification of instructors, SDSC will help by request of the student.
  - o The student will be instructed to remain in their residence hall room or off-campus apartment or house for the duration of their isolation and only should come out when necessary (with a face covering on).
  - o University Housing and Dining will communicate with on-campus students to inform them of the policies surrounding their isolation.
  - o All individuals will be expected to follow the procedures outlined below and on the University Coronavirus website in full.
- Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 do not need to quarantine or get tested again for up to three months as long as they do not develop symptoms again. Individuals who develop symptoms again within three months of getting COVID-19 may need to be tested again if there is no other cause identified for their symptoms.

### **Symptomatic Individuals:**

- Any member of the University community who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or exhibits symptoms must stay home. Any student, faculty member, or staff member who is sick, or suspects they are getting sick, must stay home and should follow the necessary precautions outlined below:

### **Students Residing On Campus:**

- Step 1:* Stay in your room and perform a home test kit (if available) or contact Beu Health Center (309) 298-1888 or your primary care physician for guidance regarding obtaining a COVID-19 test based on symptoms. If you are able to perform a home test kit and the result is positive, self-report by scanning the QR code above or by going to the COVID-19 Self Report Form.
- Step 2:* Students: If you need professors and instructors notified that your absences are COVID-19 related, please send an email to SDSC@wiu.edu and COPY ALL OF YOUR PROFESSORS asking the SDSC to confirm COVID-19 related absences. SDSC will reply all and confirm.
- Step 3:* The University, along with University Housing and Dining Services, will work with the student, as well as the roommate(s) (if applicable) to remain in their assigned residence hall room for the duration of their quarantine or isolation period. To obtain meals during quarantine and isolation, students will be able to call their respective dining center and will be allowed to pick up meals at the cashier station in lieu of entering the dining facility. After 5 days, the student(s) will take another antigen-based test to determine

if they are still positive (or have become positive). If the result is negative, they will no longer be required to isolate or quarantine, but will be required to wear a face covering for the remaining 4 days of isolation/quarantine. If the test is positive, they will remain in isolation/quarantine for the remaining 4 days. After 10 days of isolation/quarantine, no further testing is required.

### **Students Residing Off Campus:**

- Step 1:* Stay in your room and perform a home test kit (if available) or contact Beu Health Center (309) 298-1888 or your primary care physician for guidance regarding obtaining a COVID-19 test based on symptoms. If you are able to perform a home test kit and the result is positive, self-report by scanning the QR code above or by going to the COVID-19 Self Report Form.
- Step 2:* Students: If you need professors and instructors notified that your absence is COVID-19 related, please send an email to [SDSC@wiu.edu](mailto:SDSC@wiu.edu) and COPY ALL OF YOUR PROFESSORS asking the SDSC to confirm COVID-19 related absences. SDSC will reply all and confirm.
- Step 3:* The student, as well as the roommate(s) (if applicable), must remain in their off-campus residence for the duration of their quarantine or isolation period. After 5 days, the student(s) will take another antigen-based test to determine if they are still positive (or have become positive). If a test is needed, the individual can contact Beu Health Center at [beuhealthcenter@wiu.edu](mailto:beuhealthcenter@wiu.edu) or (309) 298-1888 (recommended 2-3 hours before arrival) and the test will be distributed outside of the health center in a designated pick up box. If the result is negative, they will no longer be required to isolate or quarantine, but will be required to wear a face covering for the remaining 4 days of isolation/quarantine. If the test is positive, they will remain in isolation for the remaining 4 days. After 10 days of isolation/quarantine, no further testing is required.

### **Employees:**

- Step 1:* Stay home and perform a home test kit (if available) or contact your primary care physician for guidance regarding obtaining a COVID-19 test based on symptoms. If you are able to perform a home test kit and the result is positive, self-report by scanning the QR code above or by going to the COVID-19 Self Report Form.
- Step 2:* Employees: For information related to work time off, visit the WIU Human Resources webpage and select "COVID-19 Information for Employees," and notify your supervisor.
- Step 3:* The employee should remain in their off-campus residence for the duration of their quarantine or isolation period. After 5 days, the employee will take another antigen-based test to determine if they are still positive (or have become positive). If a test is needed, the individual can contact Beu Health Center at [beuhealthcenter@wiu.edu](mailto:beuhealthcenter@wiu.edu) or (309) 298-1888 (recommended 2-3 hours before arrival) and the test will be distributed outside of the health center in a designated pick up box. If the result is negative, they will no longer be required to isolate or quarantine, but will be required to wear a face covering for the remaining 4 days of isolation/quarantine. If the test is positive, they will remain in isolation for the remaining 4 days. After 10 days of isolation/quarantine, no further testing is required.


### Calculating Quarantine

The date of your exposure is considered day 0. **Day 1 is the first full day after your last contact with a person who has had COVID-19.**

<p><b>IF YOU</b> Were exposed to COVID-19 and are <b>NOT up-to-date</b> (primary series and boosted) on COVID-19 vaccinations</p>	<p><b>Quarantine YES</b></p> <p><b>Quarantine for 5 full days</b></p> <p>Wear a well-fitted mask if you must be around others in your home.</p> <p><b>Get tested</b> After day 5, complete an antigen test. If negative, end quarantine. If positive, continue quarantine until day 10</p>	<p><b>Watch for symptoms</b></p> <p>Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.</p> <p><b>If you develop symptoms</b> <u>Isolate</u> immediately and get tested. Continue to stay home until you know the results. Wear a well-fitted mask around others.</p>	<p><b>Take precautions until day 10</b></p> <p><b>Wear a mask</b> Wear a well-fitted mask for 10 full days any time you are around others inside your home or in public. Do not go to places where you are unable to wear a mask.</p> <p><b>Avoid travel</b></p> <p><b>Avoid being around people who are at high risk</b></p>
<p><b>IF YOU</b> Were exposed to COVID-19 and are <b>up-to-date</b> (primary series and boosted) on COVID-19 vaccinations</p>	<p><b>Quarantine NO</b></p> <p><b>No quarantine</b> You do not need to stay home <b>unless</b> you develop symptoms</p> <p><b>Get tested</b> After day 5, individuals should complete a test.</p>	<p><b>Watch for symptoms</b></p> <p>Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.</p> <p><b>If you develop symptoms</b> <u>Isolate</u> immediately and get tested. Continue to stay home until you know the results. Wear a well-fitted mask around others.</p>	<p><b>Take precautions until day 10</b></p> <p><b>Wear a mask</b> Wear a well-fitted mask for 10 full days any time you are around others inside your home or in public. Do not go to places where you are unable to wear a mask.</p> <p><b>Avoid travel</b></p> <p><b>Avoid being around people who are at high risk</b></p>
<p><b>IF YOU</b> Were exposed to COVID-19 and are fully vaccinated (primary series-no booster) and have previously had COVID-19</p>	<p><b>Quarantine: NO</b></p> <p>Wear a well-fitted mask if you must be around others in your home.</p> <p><b>Get Tested</b> After day 5, individuals should complete an antigen test.</p>	<p><b>Watch for symptoms</b></p> <p>Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone COVID-19.</p> <p><b>If you develop symptoms</b> <u>Isolate</u> immediately and get tested. Continue to stay home until you know your results. Wear a well fitted mask around others.</p>	<p><b>Take precautions until day 10</b></p> <p><b>Wear a mask</b> Wear a well-fitted mask for 10 full days any time you are around others inside your home or in public. Do not go to places where you are unable to wear a mask.</p> <p><b>Avoid travel</b></p> <p><b>Avoid being around people who are at high risk</b></p>
<p><b>IF YOU</b> were exposed to COVID-19 and had confirmed COVID-19 within the past 90 days (you tested positive using a viral test)</p>	<p><b>Quarantine NO</b></p> <p><b>No quarantine</b> You do not need to stay home <b>unless</b> you develop symptoms.</p>	<p><b>Watch for symptoms</b></p> <p>Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.</p> <p><b>If you develop symptoms</b> <u>Isolate</u> immediately and get tested. Continue to stay home until you know the results. Wear a well-fitted mask around others.</p>	<p><b>Take precautions until day 10</b></p> <p><b>Wear a mask</b> Wear a well-fitted mask for 10 full days any time you are around others inside your home or in public. Do not go to places where you are unable to wear a mask.</p> <p><b>Avoid travel</b></p> <p><b>Avoid being around people who are at high risk</b></p>

### Calculating Isolation

Day 0 is the day that you took a COVID-19 viral test. **Day 1 is the first full day after your test specimen was collected.**

<p><b>IF YOU</b> Tested positive for COVID-19 or have symptoms, regardless of vaccination status</p>	<p><b>Isolation: YES</b></p> <p><b>Stay home for 5 full days</b> and <u>isolate</u> from others.</p> <p>Wear a well-fitted mask if you must be around others in your home.</p> <p> <b>Get Tested</b> After day 5, complete an antigen test. If negative, end isolation. If positive, continue isolation until day 10.</p>	<p><b>Ending isolation if you had symptoms</b> <u>End isolation after 5 full days</u> if you are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and your symptoms are improving.</p> <p><b>Ending isolation if you did NOT have symptoms</b> <u>End isolation after at least 5 full days</u> after your positive test.</p> <p><b>If you were severely ill with COVID-19</b> You should isolate for at least 10 days. <u>Consult your doctor before ending isolation.</u></p>	<p><b>Take precautions until day 10</b></p> <p><b>Wear a mask</b> Wear a well-fitted mask for 10 full days any time you are around others inside your home or in public. Do not go to places where you are unable to wear a mask.</p> <p><b>Avoid travel</b></p> <p><b>Avoid being around people who are at high risk</b></p>
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**For more information related to the COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation, please visit:**

[WIU COVID-19 Quarantine & Isolation Information](#)

[CDC COVID-19 Quarantine & Isolation Information](#)

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### **Online Coronavirus Symptom Self-Checker**

The CDC Coronavirus Self-Checker is an interactive clinical assessment tool that will assist individuals ages 13 and older, and parents and caregivers of children ages 2 to 12 on deciding when to seek testing or medical care if they suspect they or someone they know has contracted COVID-19 or has come into close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

**To access the CDC online Coronavirus Symptom Self-Checker, [click here](#).**

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### **Face Coverings Information**

- CDC recommends that all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, wear a well-fitted mask indoors in public areas when COVID-19 community levels are high or, for those who are at higher risk for severe illness, when COVID-19 community levels are medium.
- Western Illinois University requires face coverings to be worn in select areas (Beu Health Center and the University COVID-19 Testing Site) and at the request of individuals when meeting in the personal work or living spaces of those individuals.
- Face coverings may be required in other campus sites following guidance from governing regulatory agencies.
- Faculty may determine if they require face coverings in their classrooms and must communicate accordingly. It is recommended that this expectation is included within their class syllabus.
- Individuals are expected to comply with requests to wear a face covering in the University's designated locations, a classroom or office space and are subject to being asked to leave and/or conduct/disciplinary referral.
- Individuals wishing to require face coverings in their personal work or living spaces, can download and print signage [here](#).
- Face coverings remain required for individuals who are exposed to others with COVID-19, test positive for COVID-19, or develop COVID-19 symptoms.
- Individuals should keep on their person a CDC-approved face covering available to wear when requested.
- A face shield is not a suitable substitute. Face shields can be worn as additional protection in conjunction with a face covering but do not meet the face covering requirement.
- Individuals who prefer to continue to wear a face covering are welcome and encouraged to do so. Members of the Leatherneck community should not assume an individual's vaccination status, exposure, or symptomatic status based on whether or not a face covering is worn.

- Face covering distribution locations will be available on both campuses. The objective of these locations is to serve as a backup location in each building in case a face covering rips, tears, or is accidentally forgotten. Distribution sites are limited on the quantity of face coverings they receive, so individuals are expected to have a face covering available when on campus.

**For more information related to face coverings please visit:**

[WIU Face Covering Information](#)

[CDC Face Covering Information](#)

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**Mental Health Resources:**

The University recognizes the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on mental health and encourages individuals needing assistance to seek aid from the University Counseling Center and other available mental health resources.

[WIU Counseling Center](#)

[CDC COVID-19 Mental Health Information](#)

**Leatherneck Care Referral:**

Western Illinois University is committed to the emotional and physical well-being of all students, as well as their academic success. The Division of Student Success offers an easy-to-use tool to share non-emergency concerns that are potential barriers to success. In conjunction with this system, if an individual learns that a person needs assistance due to illness related to COVID-19, they can submit a Leatherneck Care Referral.

To learn more information or to submit a Leatherneck Care Referral, please reference the [Student Development and Success Center website](#).

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**Seasonal Flu Vaccine:**

WIU strongly encourages all members of the University community to receive the seasonal flu vaccine in Fall 2022. More information related to free, on-campus flu vaccine clinics will be released at a later date.

The seasonal flu vaccine is designed to prevent infections with influenza viruses, which are different from COVID-19. While the flu vaccine will not prevent a COVID-19 infection, it will help our University community better respond by helping to prevent a potential seasonal flu outbreak, which could divert resources needed to respond to COVID-19.

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## **Campus Facilities & Environment Safeguards**

### **Classroom and Instructional Spaces:**

- Classroom and instructional spaces will go back to 100% capacity for the Fall 2022 semester.
  - Cleaning wipes and hand sanitizer will continue to be readily available.
  - If desired, faculty can request a podium shield by sending a request to Facilities Management through their respective building representative.
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### **Department/Area Control Plans:**

- For the 2022-2023 academic year, the University requests that offices, departments, and areas review their control plans and update based on new University protocols, as well as protocols or recommendations provided by their respective area(s) of expertise, professional organizations or agency requirements.
  - Control plans are not required to be submitted to University Risk Management, but should be used to help coordinate and plan within their respective area(s).
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### **Cleaning and Sanitizing:**

- Public area cleaning and disinfection will be performed every normal business day.
- Disinfecting supplies will be placed in the classrooms to allow students and faculty to disinfect their space.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be placed throughout both campuses in common area locations.
- Occupants of offices and workstations are encouraged to disinfect high-touch areas before starting work and after completing the workday.

### **Reception Desks and Transaction Counters:**

In most locations where there is a reception or transaction location, a plastic shield will remain in place and/or be installed as an additional pre-caution for not only COVID-19, but to mitigate the spread of other airborne viruses.

### **Communal Spaces:**

- Departments/offices are expected to wipe all high-touch surfaces, including tables, refrigerator handles, coffee machines, etc. on a regular and frequent basis.
- Areas needing cleaning supplies or guidance on cleaning should contact Building Services at (309) 298-1834 or facilities@wiu.edu.

### **Computer Labs:**

- Computer labs will be open on both campuses.

- Staff members will assist in disinfecting; however, individuals will be asked to help by disinfecting before and after they use a specific station.
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### **Ventilation & Air Conditioning Systems:**

- The University's buildings are equipped with a variety of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. Most recirculating air systems are equipped with MERV 8 filters, with some buildings accommodating higher efficiency filters. WIU Mechanical Maintenance continues to replace filters in building systems that accommodate MERV13 filter ratings.
  - Facilities Maintenance continues to replace HEPA rated filters that according to space square footage have been placed in classroom settings where MERV13 filtration is not available. Facilities Management personnel will assess the need for such devices in campus locations.
  - When possible, maintenance personnel will recalibrate and adjust systems to maximize outside air flow in all buildings, while at the same time continuing to control temperatures to ensure comfort. It is recommended that windows are not opened in classroom spaces, so that buildings can be properly and efficiently climate-controlled.
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## **Campus Life & Events**

### **Residence Hall Operations:**

Residence halls will operate at standard occupancy. Adjustments in operations will be in effect to assist with the safety of students and hall staff. Adjustments to residence hall operations include:

- All students living in the residence halls will receive a small bottle of disinfectant and access to a free face covering upon check-in. It is recommended that students bring additional sanitizer, face coverings, cleaning wipes/supplies, and a thermometer.
- Residence hall restrooms will receive daily cleaning and disinfecting, every normal business day. Staff will be available for spot cleaning, restocking, and disinfection on non-business days. There will also be disinfection supplies in the restrooms for residents to use as needed.
- Assigned roommates will be considered a "household" for purposes of quarantining/isolation processes.
- Students who need accommodations should contact Disability Resources in the Student Development and Success Center (SDSC) at SDSC@wiu.edu or (309) 298-1884.

### **Campus Dining:**

Campus Dining Centers are adjusting their facilities and offerings in accordance with food service industry best practices. At this time, dining centers will continue to offer carryout food container options.

## **Events & Activities:**

Western Illinois University is committed to providing engaging experiences this upcoming year, including hosting an array of events and activities. To ensure that WIU is monitoring events and providing a safe experience, event protocols have been established to help aid in planning and protection.

- The University strongly encourages events and programs occur in an outdoor setting as much as possible (especially during the first two weeks of the semester).
  - Event coordinators should be mindful that some members of the University community may be hesitant to participate in face-to-face/in-person activities and events. When applicable/feasible, a virtual component should be made available to ensure maximum participation for all.
  - Concerts, comedians, lecturers, and other visiting performers are permitted on campus, but must follow all on-campus protocols and procedures. The event host is responsible for informing attendees of these procedures. Failure to comply with these procedures could result in the event host being sanctioned.
  - Any rental of a University facility must follow the on-campus protocols and procedures. It is the responsibility of the event host to inform all attendees of these procedures. Failure to comply with these procedures could result in the event host being fined.
  - Sanctioned University events hosted at an off-campus facility has the responsibility of following campus protocols in addition to any protocols the selected venue has in effect.
  - Some events may require attendance tracking (name/phone number/email) in the event participants need to be contact traced by the respective health department. The Scheduling and Events Services Office will provide guidance, card swipes, and other tools needed to successfully accomplish these tasks. It will be the event host's responsibility to perform the necessary precautions as provided by the Scheduling and Events Services Office.
  - Event coordinators may request face coverings be worn at their event.
  - All individuals should be aware that these protocols and procedures could change based on compliance and directions from the health department.
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## **Leatherneck Athletics:**

- Western Illinois University Intercollegiate Athletics will host competitions as regularly scheduled, following all the protocols outlined by WIU, the NCAA, The Summit League, and the Missouri Valley Football Conference.

## **Commencement Ceremonies:**

- At this time, the formal in-person December 2022 Commencement Exercises are planned to be held in Western Hall as regularly scheduled.

- At this time, the formal in-person May 2023 Commencement Exercises are planned to be held in Western Hall and Quad-Cities TaxSlayer Center as regularly scheduled.

## Travel

At this time, the University has reverted to travel policies that were in place prior to the pandemic. Travel requires only standard approvals that that were in place pre-pandemic (before March 2020). WIU community members who are traveling (personal or for business) are encouraged to review and follow the [CDC guidance on travel](#).

**International Travel:** Some countries may have vaccination and/or testing requirements before you are able enter a country. Check the [COVID-19 regulations of your destination](#) prior to arrival as well as the [CDC guidance on international travel advisories](#).

**Domestic Travel:** Travelers are expected to review and follow the [CDC guidance for domestic travel](#).

**Travel for Study Abroad:** Students are encouraged to review the latest updates and resources through the [Office of Study Abroad and Outreach](#).

**For more information related to traveling, visit [CDC COVID-19 Travel Information](#).**

