

Oct. 31, 2020

Update for faculty, staff, students

Re: accommodating individuals with positive COVID-19 test results and close contacts

Wellness Center gymnasium set up to accommodate those with COVID-19

To best accommodate the students who live on campus and have tested positive for COVID-19, we are implementing Mayville State's emergency operations plan which establishes that housing be provided in the Wellness Center gymnasium. Cots and bedding are being provided by the American Red Cross. The process of setting up and moving individuals to the Wellness Center will begin this evening and should be complete before the end of the day. Moving positive cases to the Wellness Center will free up available housing space needed for those who are identified as close contacts.

The Wellness Center will be closed until further notice. The main weight room will not be accessible by those in isolation at the Wellness Center. People who are not in isolation or quarantined and wish to use the weight room must enter the facility through the north door which is located near the HPER lab room. Those in isolation will have access to the Wellness Center weight room and aerobic room. All others will not. Any community classes normally held in the Wellness Center are suspended until further notice. Those enrolled in an academic class that is held in the Wellness Center should await direction from the course instructor regarding the alternative meeting location for class.

Because of limited housing available on campus and in the community, there is not much flexibility for appropriately accommodating those with active COVID-19 cases or who are close contacts. We are confident that setting up a centralized location in which they can stay is the best way for us to take good care of our students who are sick. Meals will be delivered and numerous campus personnel are being attentive to all their needs. During this time of need, some Mayville State employees may be stepping into roles that are out of the scope of their regular duties. We appreciate their willingness to help out so that we may keep our faculty, staff, and students safe during these extenuating circumstances.

Close contacts, reporting

Results of the Oct. 27 mass testing event continue to be released. As you are probably aware, the rise in positive cases in North Dakota has challenged the state's contact tracing system. If you think you might be considered a close contact, we ask that you self-identify and take appropriate measures until such time that you might be identified as a close contact and contacted by state officials.

A close contact, as defined by the North Dakota Department of Health, is someone who has been within six feet of someone who tests positive for 15 minutes or more during a 24-hour period while the case is deemed to be infectious (48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms; for asymptomatic cases, 48 hours prior to the date the individual was tested.) Close contacts will need to be quarantined for 14 days from their last exposure to the COVID-19 positive individual, unless both the infected person and close contact were wearing a mask at all times during the exposure. This would exempt the contact from being quarantined.

If you have been identified as having a positive case of COVID-19 or if you are a close contact (self-identified or through notification from state officials), you must fill out the Mayville State reporting form. [Click here to access the form](#). The completed form initiates the process by which students will be

approved for absence from in-person class sessions. Please be sure to follow this important protocol that will help to keep everyone on the same page and to ensure any student absences from class due to COVID-19 are formally approved and communicated accordingly with course instructors.

Lindsey M. Hall, BSN, RN, is Mayville State's COVID-19 Liaison. If you have questions or need further information, please contact Lindsey at lindsey.m.hall@mayvillestate.edu or 901-355-6148.

Many thanks!

We owe a debt of gratitude to all Mayville State faculty and staff who are going above and beyond to help with the accommodations that are keeping the entire campus community safe. Dr. Jeffrey Powell and his staff, Bob Kozojed and his staff, Brian Karolus and his staff, Rob Frederick and his staff, the Wellness Center staff, Katie Richards, Lindsey Hall, Ryan Hall, and Dr. Tami Such are working extremely hard during these challenging times. I hope you will take the time to personally thank them for their efforts. All Mayville State employees are personifying “The School of Personal Service” right now and I could not be more grateful. Thank you!

Thank you to our amazing students who are doing their best to follow the health and safety guidelines and who are understanding of the special circumstances related to the pandemic that are making life more difficult than we’d like. We are thankful to have you as members of the Mayville State family and we are working to mitigate risk for our campus with today’s plans.

Be calm and stay the course.

While this is a challenging time, I want you to know that there is no need to panic. We are currently able to be responsive to all needs associated with the situation and are supporting all who are in need. We will stay the course and continue with full campus operations with support for remote participation within on-campus classes for students and faculty who are in isolation or quarantine, health-permitting.

Your health and safety are of utmost importance as we continue to navigate this situation. Be diligent in taking precautions. Wear your mask, social distance, wash your hands often, clean and disinfect surfaces, and monitor for symptoms. Again, we appreciate all that you do to make Mayville State a special place in this world. We stand tallest at the times of greatest need and we will continue to do that throughout this process.

Sincerely,

Brian Van Horn, President
Mayville State University