

EACC COVID-19 Campus Guide

Fall 2021 – Students

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INTRODUCTION

East Arkansas Community College is committed to protecting students, employees, and visitors to the greatest extent possible during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We seek to provide the best protections and protocols we can. However, there is a risk of exposure for any individual who comes to a facility open to the public. Everyone must take precautions to protect their own health. Currently, the 4 best methods that are recommended to protect yourself are to get vaccinated, cover your face, wash your hands, and remain distanced from others.

Above all, EACC holds paramount the goal of helping students achieve their educational goals. As the Higher Learning Commission said in its evaluation of EACC, our faculty and staff provide “an unparalleled commitment to student success.” We are resolved to continue to exemplify that commitment.

This COVID Campus Safety Guide builds upon the health and safety protocols that EACC began putting into place in May 2020, which have evolved as the pandemic has evolved.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- We will remain focused on our students and our mission at all times.
- We will protect our students, faculty, staff, and visitors as much as possible.
- We will provide flexible and adaptable learning opportunities to accommodate all students.
- We will adjust quickly to meet the demands of the pandemic and the needs of students.
- We will provide inclusive and equitable opportunities to work and learn.

FOUNDATIONAL STRATEGIES

- Face coverings encouraged and provided.
- Distancing required at all times possible.
- Use of protective barriers where risk of exposure is higher or additional protection needed.
- Enhanced and frequent sanitizing and cleaning.
- Cleaning and sanitization products available to all (i.e., sprays, wipes, hand sanitizers).
- Daily self-screening.
- Flexible class attendance to accommodate the intellectual and health needs of all learners.
- COVID-19 testing and vaccines offered free of charge as recommended and as available.
- Compliance with national, state, and local public health laws, regulations, and guidelines.

SOURCES

This guide is based on recommendations from the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), and the Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE).

MAINTAINING OUR INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

EACC supports and celebrates a diverse community of learners and seeks to promote an educational and work environment that is inclusive, responsive, and supportive. We are

committed to maintaining an environment that is free of all forms of discrimination and harassment. For every member of our community to thrive, especially as we struggle with a pandemic, we must foster mutual respect, support, and inclusion.

During this health crisis, where there are many unknowns, taking care of each other is just as important as taking care of ourselves. Making assumptions about or engaging in negative treatment of others based on perceived symptoms, medical conditions or abilities, national origin, racial and ethnic characteristics, socioeconomic status, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or disability hurts our community.

Making assumptions about or engaging in negative treatment of others based on perceived symptoms, medical conditions, or abilities, hurts our community.

Every person's care, compassion, and empathy for each other makes a positive difference. EACC encourages all constituencies to share in cultivating a meaningful learning environment where differences are valued and inclusivity practiced.

FACE COVERINGS

As of the fall 2021 semester, East Arkansas Community College is not adopting a campus-wide "mask mandate" for every person in every situation. However, we are:

- Strongly encouraging everyone to wear masks.
- Allowing some programs, classes, or events to require face coverings when necessary, such as those that occur in rooms where distancing cannot be maintained or where levels of interaction or risk may be greater.
- Respecting all third-party face covering requirements; for example, at clinical sites or for high school students.
- Providing masks to all students, employees, and visitors in various campus locations.
- Some classes, programs, and events may have stricter guidelines and may require face coverings or other enhanced safety practices.
- **If social distancing cannot be maintained, or if large groups are gathering together, or if students, guests, or employees are engaging in any other practices that would increase exposure to COVID, face coverings must be worn.**

VACCINATIONS

Vaccinations are strongly encouraged for all persons on EACC's campus, although not required. Any student who would like assistance in obtaining a vaccination may email Care@eacc.edu.

SELF-SCREENING

EACC students are required to conduct a daily self-screening to assess themselves for symptoms of COVID-19. Each day students must review the screening questions and may not come to campus if the answer to any question is yes. Signage has been placed around

campus reminding employees, students, and visitors of the screening questions and is considered a part of the self-screening process. Each EACC computer requires a verification that the user is able to remain on campus based on the screening questions each time they log in. Students who develop symptoms during the day must leave campus immediately.

If you see a need for enhanced screening in any area on campus, please email Care@eacc.edu. Every syllabus must include the self-screening questions. If your syllabus does not contain the screening questions, please email Care@eacc.edu.

Daily Self-Screening Questions

Review the following questions every day. Do not come to campus if the answer to any question is yes.

No	Yes	Question
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Within the last 14 days, have you had close contact with someone who is confirmed to have COVID-19? (A generalized definition of close contact is within 6 feet of a positive case for more than 15 minutes.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Have you been diagnosed with or do you believe yourself to have COVID-19?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Do you currently have a fever greater than 100° F, or have you experienced a fever within the last 48 hours?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Have you felt unwell within the last 48 hours with new symptoms of COVID-19 (fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea)?

If "Yes" is checked for any question, do not come to, or remain on, campus.

POSITIVE, EXPOSED, OR SYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS

Anyone testing positive for COVID-19 or being exposed through a clearly defined close contact must follow Arkansas Department of Health Guidelines for quarantine or isolation. Anyone who is clearly sick should not come to, or remain on, campus.

Reporting requirements for Students: Students are required to report testing positive for COVID-19 to the confidential email address Care@eacc.edu OR to the Director of Advising and Counseling (DAC) OR to an academic Vice President (VP).

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, they should provide the following information to the DAC or an academic vice president:

1. Name
2. Date of birth
3. Cell phone or telephone number

Academic Vice Presidents (VPs):
Robert Summers, Vice President for Vocational, Occupational, & Technical Education
 Phone: (870) 633-4480 x 223/231
 Email: rsummers@eacc.edu

Michelle Wilson, Vice President for Transfer Education & Student Success
 Phone: (870) 633-4480 x 204
 Email: rwilson@eacc.edu

Director of Advising and Counseling (DAC):
Errin James
 Phone: (870) 633-4480 x 252
 Email: ejames@eacc.edu

4. Email address
5. Date of symptom onset (if any)
6. Date of positive test
7. Test location
8. Type of test – PCR or rapid
9. Any possible close contacts (PCC) that took place on campus: less than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes.

For students, only the VP or DAC is authorized to collect the COVID-19 information and determine a return-to-campus (RTC) date. In addition, only the VP or DAC is authorized to gather detailed information regarding possible close contacts that may have occurred on campus and to notify PCC. When notifying PCC, the infected student will not be identified by name and their identity will be protected as much as possible.

Arrangements for attendance, assignments, or instruction must be made with each instructor. In making such arrangements, a student is not required to identify as either exposed to, or positive for, COVID-19 (but may if they choose to do so), but should indicate that they are not able to come to campus or complete work for a specified period of time. Documentation of quarantine or illness is not required due to the public health crisis, except in certain unique circumstances. In those special circumstances, a vice president will request that documentation.

TESTING

Testing for COVID-19 is available at health departments, pharmacies, and clinics. The College will assist students in locating a testing site if needed. Those who believe themselves exposed to COVID-19 should not test until 3-5 days after exposure. **Those who have symptoms of any illness should NOT come to campus for any reason.**

I AM A STUDENT. WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19?

1. Notify an academic vice president, OR the Director of Advising and Counseling (DAC), OR email Care@eacc.edu.
2. Begin isolation. Do not come to campus until isolation period ends, and if on campus when test results are received, leave immediately.
3. Answer the phone when the contact tracer calls and follow all instructions. Keep your documentation from ADH as EACC may require a copy.
4. Determine in consultation with VP or DAC a return-to-campus (RTC) date and provide information regarding possible close contacts (PCC). When PCCs are contacted, the student will not be identified by name only that the PCC may have been exposed on campus on a specific date.

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Email: ejames@eacc.edu

5. Instructors of a positive student's on campus classes will be notified, but the student will not be identified as infected with COVID-19, only that they must attend remotely.
6. If a student is enrolled in an on-campus class and needs to make arrangements for assignments, those arrangements should be made directly with an instructor.
7. In requesting special arrangements, a student is not required to identify as COVID-19 positive to instructors, but may if they choose to do so. Documentation of quarantine or illness is not required to be provided to instructors. Certain programs may have a need to request documentation, but this will be handled through an academic vice president.
8. If a positive student in an online class is too ill to complete coursework, they should follow the normal process of working with each faculty member to determine assignment and/or instructional accommodations. The student is not required to disclose that the illness is COVID-19 (but may if they choose to do so), and is not required to provide documentation to the instructor.

ISOLATION FOR INDIVIDUALS TESTING POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Calculation length of Isolation

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

NO SYMPTOMS

SCENARIO: I did not have symptoms. I was tested on November 1.

November 1 + 10 days = November 11 is your last day of isolation.

November 12 = return to work/school.

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SYMPTOMS

SCENARIO: I started having symptoms. November 3. I was tested on November 5.

November 3 + 10 days = November 13 is your last day of isolation.

November 14 = return to work/school.

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SYMPTOMS and in HOSPITAL.

SCENARIO: I started having symptoms on November 3. I was tested on November 5, but I went into the hospital on the 7th. I got out of the hospital on the 12th.

November 3 + 20 days = November 23 is your last day of isolation.

November 24 = return to work/school.

10 Days is the current recommended isolation period.

If you test positive for COVID-19 but have NO symptoms, you must isolate until 10 days have passed since your positive test and no symptoms have developed.

If you have COVID-19 with mild symptoms, you must isolate until:

1. 10 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared **AND**
2. You have not had fever of 100.4°F or higher for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine **AND**
3. Your symptoms, such as cough or shortness of breath, are improving .

If you have been hospitalized with severe COVID-19 symptoms, you must isolate until:

1. 20 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared **AND**
2. You have not had fever of 100.4°F or higher for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine **AND**
3. Your symptoms, such as cough or shortness of breath, are improving.

I AM A STUDENT. WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM EXPOSED TO COVID-19 THROUGH A CLOSE CONTACT?

1. Follow most current quarantine protocols.
2. Make arrangements with instructors for alternative class attendance and assignments if necessary.
3. Get tested for COVID-19. At present, ADH advises that close contacts should not be tested until 5 days after exposure.

Reminder: Symptom-free fully vaccinated individuals are not required to quarantine due to exposure, but should wear a mask around others.

What is a close contact? Time and distance are the two most important factors in determining who should quarantine based on exposure to COVID-19. The generalized definition of being a close contact of a person testing positive for COVID-19 is contact for **more than fifteen minutes** within **less than 6 feet** within **48 hours of the date of the positive test or symptom onset**.

Thus, passing someone in the hallway is not considered close contact and would not require quarantine. In a classroom, if students are distanced, quarantine should not be necessary if one student tests positive. If students were not distanced, only those sitting next to the positive person during the infectious period would need to be notified and quarantined.

If proper safety precautions are followed, one positive student is not a reason to quarantine or shut down an entire class or area.

Care must be taken to ensure that a person testing positive for COVID-19 is not made to feel ostracized or discriminated against due to their diagnosis.

QUARANTINE FOR INDIVIDUALS EXPOSED TO COVID-19 THROUGH CLOSE CONTACT

Quarantine Guidelines for COVID-19 Exposure (those who have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for the virus for more than 15 minutes at less than 6 feet) from the Arkansas Department of Health are as follows:

- ❖ **Vaccinated** individuals with an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 **are not required to quarantine** if they:
 - Are fully vaccinated (2 weeks or more has passed since receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or 2 weeks or more has passed since receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine)
 - Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure.
 - Fully vaccinated individuals who do not quarantine should still watch for symptoms of COVID-19 (fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea) for 14 days following an exposure.
 - Individuals who have been vaccinated should continue to follow current guidance to protect themselves and others, including: wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet away from others, avoiding crowds, avoiding poorly ventilated spaces, covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands often, following CDC travel guidance.
- ❖ **Unvaccinated** individuals have 3 quarantine options:
 - Quarantine for 14 days following exposure.
 - Quarantine can end after 10 days without testing if no symptoms have occurred.
 - Quarantine can end after 7 days if no symptoms have occurred and a test returned a negative result. Note that the test sample must have been collected at least 5 days after exposure. Send-off PCR tests are preferred, but rapid PCR or antigen tests are acceptable.

For assistance in determining isolation and quarantine dates and when it is okay to return to campus, students should contact their academic VP or the DAC.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What if I live with a COVID-19 positive person? If you live with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, the person should isolate themselves in the household away from others. The date of last contact will be the date the positive individual went into isolation. If you cannot be isolated from the ill person, the last date of contact will be the last date of the infected person's isolation.

What if my child tests positive or is placed on quarantine or their school moves to remote learning? If you are the custodial parent of a minor child and the child is required to isolate or quarantine, or their school or daycare is temporarily disrupted due to closure or remote learning, you will be accommodated as much as possible.

Instructors are required to prepare remote learning options for just such an emergency. Students may talk to their instructors or ask for help from an academic vice president or the DAC in talking with instructors or they may email care@eacc.edu.

What if another student reports to me that they tested positive? If a person reports on someone else's health rather than their own, and you wish to report it, please contact the DAC or academic VP. Do not notify others.

What should a student do who develops symptoms of COVID-19 while on campus?

Anyone who becomes ill on campus should leave immediately. This holds true for all illnesses, but is especially important if you develop symptoms associated with COVID-19.

What happens if a student develops symptoms of COVID-19 or another illness while on campus? Instructors or staff will advise the student to leave if on campus, or to stay home if not, and to contact the DAC or VP. If you encounter an ill person, do not engage with them for more than 15 minutes. Stay 6 feet away. Let your instructor or the DAC know as soon as you can do so without calling negative attention to the student. Do not make the student feel ostracized or discriminated against for his health. Do not share the information with other students.

Reminder: Just because a person is ill, does not mean they have COVID-19. It is important that everyone is careful in how they address a situation in which someone gets sick on campus. Inciting panic or ostracism is not acceptable.

At all times we should be aware that making assumptions about or engaging in negative treatment of others based on perceived symptoms, medical conditions or abilities, national origin, racial and ethnic characteristics, socioeconomic status, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or disability is considered discrimination and harassment.

When a person has tested positive for COVID-19, the areas in which the person has been during an infectious period will be sanitized.

What should I do if another student notifies me that they were exposed? Refer them to the DAC or an academic VP.

What if I am a close contact of someone who is a close contact of someone with COVID-19? (For example: my friend was exposed to COVID-19.) This is called a secondary contact. ADH does not recommend anything other than monitoring of symptoms.

Will faculty allow me to make-up class or coursework missed due to COVID-19 exposure or illness? Students in on-campus classes will be allowed to switch between face-to-face and virtual learning if necessary due to health concerns or personal and family responsibilities. Students should be aware that some programs have stricter requirements than others due to the nature of the academic program, i.e., clinical or lab requirements.

All faculty are required to be prepared to deliver instruction both in class and remotely in order to accommodate students who may be ill or under quarantine or who are the custodial parent for a minor child who is ill or under quarantine.

Students should make arrangements for missed classes with each faculty member. Students are not required to provide a healthcare provider's excuse to faculty. This policy is to encourage ill students to stay home and to accommodate parents who are coping with school and daycare issues due to COVID. If you need assistance in contacting a faculty member to discuss ways to attend remotely or make up work, please email Care@eacc.edu, or contact Mr. Errin James or an academic vice president.

The methods that instructors use to effectively accommodate multiple means of attendance will vary from course to course, but common teaching strategies include:

- Teaching remote students synchronously using Zoom so the student or faculty member may attend from home.
- Recording class lectures during live classes and lab demonstrations and posting those immediately following class to Blackboard or YouTube.
- Pre-recording instructional content for asynchronous delivery.
- Teaching class in-person with a mix of students attending either remotely or in-person.
- Teaching class remotely with students attending either remotely or in person.

To ensure that students know what is available to them in a health or childcare crisis or emergency, **every syllabus must provide the following information in detail:**

- Alternate methods of attendance for quarantined or ill students, or students who have childcare disruptions due to COVID-19.
- Alternate methods of instruction in the case of a quarantined or ill faculty member.
- Course procedures and instruction in the event of a campus shut down.

If your syllabus does not contain this information, please email Care@eacc.edu or contact an academic vice president.

EACC is committed to upholding high standards in instruction and student satisfaction. Instructors have been provided with appropriate tools and support to deliver high-quality courses using technology, course design, and pedagogy that are appropriate for their learning objectives.

NONCOMPLIANCE

Failure to comply with safety guidelines places our campus community at risk. Every member of our campus community is empowered to request compliance with the protocols and guidance set forth here and in other College communications. Those who encounter noncompliance may notify Care@eacc.edu or the DAC. Repeated or serious noncompliance may result in suspension, expulsion, or other disciplinary action.

PERSONAL SAFETY PRACTICES

We are each responsible for our own health. There are four primary tools to avoid contracting COVID-19: face covering, hand washing, vaccination, and social distancing. These four

strategies are each imperfect, but if used in combination, are the best way to remain COVID-free. EACC urges everyone to engage in as many of these safety practices as they can.

All areas of the College are open for their intended use, and the general public is welcome. Distancing between persons is required at all times possible, and masks and sanitizer are provided. Safe practices should be observed by all.

Face coverings are encouraged for all faculty, staff, students, and guests. Masks are available to everyone free of charge. Although not required in every circumstance, if people are engaged in activities that prevent distancing or that increase risk of exposure to COVID-19, face coverings are required.

Since people can spread the virus before they know they are sick, it is important that we stay away from others when possible, even if we have no symptoms. At EACC, **distancing** between individuals will be maintained as much as possible.

Everyone should **wash their hands** often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Wash or sanitize your hands every time you enter or exit a building, or touch equipment or supplies others may have used.

According to the CDC, **gloves** are not necessary for general use and do not replace hand washing. Washing hands is considered the best practice for common tasks. However, if you would like gloves, EACC has some available for your use.

While regular, daily **cleaning** of common areas will be completed by custodial staff, everyone is responsible for sanitizing their personal work and learning environments including equipment that they use. When a person has tested positive for COVID-19, the areas in which the person has been during an infectious period will be sanitized.

Physical **barriers**, such as plexiglass, may be installed in high traffic areas or in areas where it is difficult for individuals to remain at least 6 feet apart or for those who feel they are at special risk. If you need any additional protections, such as face shields or a barrier, please contact the DAC or Care@eacc.edu.

STUDENT SERVICES

All **student services** are available in person and virtually. All testing services, including Accuplacer and CLEP, are available remotely and in person. Academic advising may be done in person, over the phone, via email, or through Zoom. Students who need testing, advising, or registration assistance may contact Mr. Errin James, Director of Advising and Counseling, ejames@eacc.edu or 870-633-4480 ext. 252, or they may email Care@eacc.edu

EACC is concerned about the mental and emotional stress caused by the pandemic. The College offers **Therapy Assist Online (TAO)** to all students. TAO is confidential and free. Information is available online or by emailing Care@eacc.edu or contacting the DAC.

The **Bookstore** is open, and books can be purchased through the MyEACC student portal and picked up at a drive-through pick-up time.

Full-time students may purchase a **laptop** in the bookstore for \$150 through a cost-sharing program. EACC has acquired laptops and hotspots to lend to students in need. Two student success programs -- Student Support Services and the Career Pathways Initiative -- also have **technology** to loan.

Student **transportation** has resumed. Ms. Samantha Sharp, Dean of Student Services, ssharp@eacc.edu, or care@eacc.edu can assist students who need transportation.

CLASSES

Although class sizes are not limited, EACC will have smaller classes in larger rooms as much as feasible. Cleaning and disinfecting will be concentrated in areas where the most people are present. **All students and faculty are responsible for maintaining as much distance between students in class as possible.** All students are strongly encouraged to wear masks as often as possible. Some classes or events may require the use of face coverings or other additional protective measures due to their size or limited space. Everyone is required to comply if they are requested by College staff or faculty acting in their official capacity to cover their face or distance themselves from another.

LIST OF CONTACTS

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Finally –

Thank you for your support as we navigate COVID Year 2. If you have suggestions to improve EACC's response to COVID, please let us know through Care@eacc.edu or reach out to me directly. We want to serve you better.

This is our first pandemic. We are all doing the best we can. Please accept my sincere thanks for being an EACC student. We want you to achieve your best life.

– **Dr. Cathie Cline, President, East Arkansas Community College**
ccline@eacc.edu