



Florida Gulf Coast University Fall 2021 COVID-19 Plan

PROTECTING THE NEST



APPROVED BY CABINET ON 8/11/21

University Objectives for COVID-19 Response

- Protect the health, safety, and well-being of our students, faculty, staff, and community
- Ensure delivery of high-quality coursework/programs which lead to high-quality degrees
- Sustain our core superstructure and infrastructure

To effectively meet the stated objectives, Florida Gulf Coast University is following applicable Executive Orders and closely consulting guidelines issued by federal, state, county, and local entities.

A Healthy Campus Environment

FGCU will seek to mitigate risk for the campus and community through:

- A robust vaccination campaign
- Infection prevention and control strategies guided by the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) and/or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- A campus COVID-19 education campaign to influence positive health behaviors
- Increasing awareness of personal responsibility for hand hygiene, sanitization and health practices
- Continued daily health screening and surveillance capabilities
- A sound infection prevention and control strategy
- Employee workplace strategy based on current federal, state, and local guidelines and circumstances
- Accommodations for vulnerable populations

A Healthy Community Environment

Engage campus-based and visiting community partners to understand and mutually support health and sanitation goals. Includes entities engaged with service learning, career services, athletics, internships, practicums, clinicals, and other community partnerships.

Vaccinations

Florida Gulf Coast University is not neutral on vaccination. Everyone who can get vaccinated should be vaccinated, and our objective is to achieve very high immunization rates on our campus. COVID-19 vaccinations are currently the single most effective tool to combat the spread and damaging health effects of COVID-19. Vaccines are widely available in the community without cost. FGCU is taking a multi-tiered approach to strongly encourage students and employees to be fully vaccinated.

1. #WingsUpVaxUp marketing campaign – Student Success and Enrollment Management launched the #WingsUpVaxUp campaign on July 12 to strongly encourage students to get vaccinated before arriving back to campus for the fall 2021 term. Communication emphasizes the desire to create a more traditional in-person university experience. The campaign includes information on the Protect the Nest webpage, email campaigns, social media, videos, and a hashtag to accompany the messaging. Messaging to the Facebook parent group will ensure that everyone understands the vaccine resources available to them.
2. FGCU vaccine clinics – Students and employees have been and will continue to be provided multiple opportunities to be fully vaccinated prior to and after their return to campus.
 - a. Student Health Services continues to offer Moderna vaccine clinics on campus each Thursday with an increase in available days as demand dictates.
 - b. Mobile vaccination clinics providing the Pfizer vaccine will be available in the Parking Lot 5 Inner Bus Loop from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 16-20. Mobile clinics are operated by the Florida Department of Health.
 - c. Aug. 23 and Sept. 13 Pfizer vaccination clinics will be available for up to 1,000 people in the University Recreation & Wellness Center.

3. Incentives for vaccinations – The university plans to incentivize FGCU students and employees to become fully vaccinated. The FGCU community will exponentially benefit from increased vaccination levels through reduction in COVID-19 cases and the realization of less severe symptoms for vaccinated individuals who contract the virus. Fewer COVID-19 cases means students will be able to participate in academic, social, and community events more fully.
 - a. Students will be offered a \$100 incentive to become fully vaccinated.
 - b. Fully vaccinated students who voluntarily provide a copy of their vaccination card to Student Health Services through [the Student Health Services Portal](#) will also be eligible for a weekly random drawing.
 - i. A student is eligible to win a prize in the weekly drawings when a student’s vaccination record is provided through the Student Health Services Portal or the Florida Shots system for one dose of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine or two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.
 - ii. A student remains eligible each week, even if they have won previously.
 - c. FGCU will craft an incentive program for employees to encourage vaccination.
 - d. Employee Health Benefits under the state of Florida health care plan.
 - i. The COVID vaccination, including two-dose vaccines, is covered 100% when using a state of Florida health plan (i.e. PPO, Aetna) when using a network provider OR under the RX Plan (Caremark) when using a retail pharmacy participating in Caremark’s Broad Vaccination Network.

COVID-19 Virus Testing

FGCU’s COVID-19 testing protocol will be based on test availability, processing capacity, current FDOH, CDC and other scientific guidance, and administration of the testing program.

- Symptomatic testing will continue for students provided by Student Health Services.
- Students are strongly encouraged to have a recent COVID-19 test prior to returning to the campus in the fall.
- Asymptomatic polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing will be offered to students and employees at the beginning of the semester from Aug. 16 to 20 and Aug. 23. Additional asymptomatic testing may be available throughout the semester at designated times and locations.
- PCR testing will be conducted as needed for students and employees in specific areas or for groups showing a high concentration of positive cases.
- PCR test results will be collected related to:
 - CDC-recommended activities, such as international travel
 - Fully vaccinated individuals within 3 to 5 days of coming in close contact with a COVID-positive person.
- State insurance plans cover 100% of COVID testing costs for employees when testing is medically necessary. Members may or may not be symptomatic, but they must have a medical reason for the test which could include COVID-like symptoms or exposure to COVID.

Contact Tracing and Surveillance

- FGCU will continue to work closely with the Florida Department of Health (FDOH), regarding campus risk assessment and contact tracing. According to Florida Statute, the FDOH retains authority for contact tracing.

- Continuation of the Veoci app health screener provides students, faculty, and staff a convenient way to report COVID-19 symptoms, close contacts, and test results. All students and employees will be required to complete the Veoci app health screener each day prior to coming to campus. This includes fully vaccinated students while the area COVID positivity rate is greater than 10%.
- The Case Management Team, Student Health Services, and the FGCU contracted Epidemiologist will continue to provide guidance on risk assessment activities, COVID-19 testing, medical care, and quarantine and isolation procedures.
- The FGCU Risk Assessment Team will continue to regularly monitor the status of the campus health environment using defined metrics, enabling campus leaders and the FDOH to quickly respond to noted increases in symptoms.
- On FGCU's campus, when specific geographic areas (ex: residence halls and office areas) or groups of people (ex: classes, RSOs, event attendees) show positivity rates of 3% or higher, the university will perform additional analysis of metrics and COVID19 cases to determine if additional mitigation and protection measures will be activated.
- The FGCU COVID hotline will continue to be staffed with FGCU-contracted case investigators seven days a week to assist individuals with COVID-19 questions, Veoci app health screener technical questions, and reporting of COVID-positive cases, close contacts or symptoms. The FGCU COVID Hotline is 239-590-1206.

Quarantine and Isolation

- Quarantine and Isolation remains one of the primary response tools to contain the spread of COVID-19 on campus. Through the contact tracing process and information provided through the Veoci app health screener, COVID-positive individuals are advised to isolate. Close contact and symptomatic individuals are advised to quarantine according to current CDC guidelines which take into account vaccination and COVID recovery within the past 90 days.
 - Isolation for COVID positive individuals will be 10 days after symptom onset or a positive test result.
 - Quarantine for those with close contact, or who are symptomatic will be 10 days unless a negative PCR test result is obtained during days 5 to 7.
 - Quarantine and isolation times may be extended based on the specific circumstances of a case.
- If you develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, you will be advised to self-isolate and be tested for COVID-19.
- FGCU will have limited isolation space for COVID-positive individuals living in FGCU residence halls. Quarantine and isolation spaces are not available for non-resident students. **Students and parents are encouraged to determine a plan for quarantine or isolation in advance of coming to campus.** Personal preparation is strongly encouraged well in advance of a possible infection.
- **Overflow isolation locations may be available but cannot be guaranteed.**
- Quarantine and Isolation assignments for resident students are determined jointly by Student Health Services and the Office of Housing and Residence Life based on bed availability and the specific circumstances of each case. Students may request additional support if needed for academic technology items, academic assistance, mental health services, transportation to the isolation location, and food provisions.
- Case investigators will make decisions for each case based on a number of factors that include, but are not limited to, rate of COVID spread on campus and in the area, voluntarily provided vaccination and other relevant medical information provided.

Flu clinics and other related items

- Flu clinics sponsored by Student Health Services and providers such as Publix will continue.
- Student Health Services will continue to offer both flu and strep testing when students present signs and symptoms similar to COVID-19 to help reduce the spread of these illnesses on campus.

Academic Program Delivery

Fall 2021 will see a normal distribution of online and in-person teaching modalities. To maintain course continuity and academic integrity, each course instructor will identify alternate methods of instruction should a class disruption due to COVID-19 suspend class operations in the short or long term.

- Short term – alternate modality or course modification for 2 weeks or less. Examples: A faculty member is quarantined or isolated and cannot attend class in person during this time. A single course has a high positivity rate and must suspend in-person meetings until surveillance testing is completed. Short-term changes would likely follow pre-COVID adaptations to a course in the event of unexpected circumstances.
- Intermediate term – alternate modality for 2 weeks to 4 weeks. Examples: A high rate of positive cases in a college or on campus requires a temporary suspension of a portion of face-to-face classes or a suspension of all classes for a period of a few weeks.
- Long term – alternate modality for more than 4 weeks. Examples: An Executive Order or Board of Governors decision returns the campus to remote instruction.

Training and course support for remote and online modalities are available to faculty through the Lucas Center as well as the Office of Digital Learning.

Masking

In light of recently released CDC guidance, FGCU expects everyone to wear a mask at all times when inside any FGCU facility, even those who are fully vaccinated. This includes students, faculty, staff, vendors and visitors.

While FGCU and/or Lee County and Florida exhibit COVID-19 positivity rates greater than 10%, FGCU will expect that masks be worn in indoor locations and while attending crowded, outdoor events. Face coverings are required for all individuals in healthcare settings, including Student Health Services, CAPS, and the Community Health Center. This university guidance is in tow with guidance from state law, the State University System of Florida and health agencies.

Campus Communication and Messaging

FGCU's Core Communication Team (CCT) will provide accurate and timely communications on university decisions and actions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

CCT is responsible for broad messaging, and the expectation is for designated university staff to appropriately message their constituents as necessary. Our audience includes students, parents, faculty, staff, alumni, donors, FGCU Board of Trustees, the State University System of Florida, the Florida Board of Governors, legislators, vendors, campus visitors, the general public and media.

Messages related to the COVID pandemic will be sent to internal audiences via the FGCUUpdate@fgcu.edu email address, shared on branded social media accounts for the university, posted to FGCU's Protect The Nest website, www.fgcu.edu/coronaupdate, and appear in university-branded publications.

During emergencies, or when immediate action is required by our stakeholders, messages will be shared via text message through the Rave messaging system.

We will:

- Distribute information of public interest about the health, safety and welfare of the FGCU community.
- Announce changes to campus operations related to COVID-19 as required by the State University System, President Martin, Cabinet or the Florida Department of Health.
- Explain best practices, offer guidance and share resources for employees and students.
- Relay messages about fiscal impacts relative to the pandemic, including hiring, travel and purchasing changes.
- Assist with campus initiatives to educate students and employees.
- Work with campus departments and groups to ensure COVID-related messaging remains on-brand for the university.
- Share positive stories about the FGCU community thriving during the pandemic.
- Offer thoughtful and timely responses to the media related to the university's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Signage

Working with the CCT, the Marketing and Communications department continues to be available for the creation of new, branded signage relative to the then current messaging and communication needs of the pandemic.

Travel

Domestic:

- CDC guidelines will continue to be adhered to, based on the destination of travel
- Provost/VP approval for all travel will continue to be required until further notice
- Workday Job Aids can be found and reviewed on the [Workday Training Resources Website](#)

For further information, please contact the Office of Procurement at bniarchos@fgcu.edu or panderson@fgcu.edu.

International Travel:

- The University is committed to the health, safety, and security of all members of its community who travel outside the United States of America. All student and employee international travel

will comply with FGCU Policy [International Travel 2.020](#) and must be critical to the mission of the university.

- International Travelers will work with the Global Engagement Office and FGCU Export Control to assure compliance with all U.S. and destination requirements related to COVID testing, quarantine, and isolation.
- International travelers will abide by CDC, Florida Department of Health, U.S. Department of State and other applicable authorities.

The above plans for Fall 2021 may be altered as needed based on information available regarding variants, community resources to combat COVID-19, and campus considerations.