



Cowboys Coming Back

STUDENT REOPENING PLAN

INTRODUCTION

As part of the Oklahoma State University community, we live by the [Cowboy Code](#). This code includes principles such as: “We have a passion to do what’s right, even when it’s hard.” We stand firm as Cowboys when confronted by challenges. Now faced with one of the greatest challenges in our university’s history, these powerful principles are more important than ever.

Bound by the Cowboy Code, we introduce the Cowboys Coming Back – Student Reopening Plan. This plan is a testament to collaboration, incorporating input from across our campus and led by our Pandemic Response Committee. As we look ahead at a careful, phased reopening of our campus, we must all do our part to protect the health and wellbeing of our fellow Cowboys. We encourage everyone to take personal responsibility in following the plan’s guidelines, as only through a collective, cooperative effort can we help protect our campus community.

This plan will evolve based on data from public health officials, including those from our Center for Health Sciences in Tulsa who have been on the frontlines managing this situation. University leaders and the Pandemic Response Committee receive updates daily to address new challenges and create new protocols and guidelines to ensure our plan is as complete as possible. We know the importance of clear and consistent communications during this time and will provide regular updates of our plans.

Thank you for your support of this plan. Let us pledge as the Cowboy family to work together and act responsibly as we reopen our campus.

HEALTH GUIDELINES FOR THE OSU CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Student Personal Health Responsibility

The following outlines expectations of all OSU students while on campus. This is not only to protect your health, but also the health of our entire community. Your continued support of these guidelines is appreciated.

- All students are asked to take special precautions to avoid exposure for at least two weeks prior to the start of the fall semester.
- Sick students must not go to class on-campus. Please contact your professors for any accommodations that may be required.
- Self screening should be performed each morning before arriving on campus. Temperature must be less than 100.4° F/38° C. [See self-screening checklist.](#)
- Maintain [social distancing guidelines.](#)
- You are also expected to wear a face covering if you are near or are encountering others. All students will be provided a cloth face mask.
- Wash hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Keep a supply of hand sanitizer (as possible).
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and then throw it away. Wash your hands afterwards.
- Disinfect all high-touch areas in your living area on a regular basis. Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

Face Coverings

All OSU students must wear a face covering (mask) upon entering any campus building when social distancing measures are hard to maintain. We know that COVID-19 can be spread when people are asymptomatic, which means they don't know they are sick yet. Wearing face coverings has been shown to reduce the spread of COVID-19 to others. It's important that OSU is a safe place to work and study, and taking this step creates a safe environment for all of us as advised by the CDC. As a reminder, face coverings do not replace the need to maintain social distancing, frequent handwashing and our rigorous cleaning and disinfecting routines. This step is not only about keeping you safe, it also shows that you care about your fellow Cowboys and are doing your part to keep our campus community safe. [More on face covering guidelines.](#)

Positive COVID-19 Case on Campus

We follow the guidance of local, state and national health officials and our medical experts at OSU Medicine in our response to a positive diagnosis on campus. When we receive confirmation that an OSU student or employee has had a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, there are important measures that will be promptly taken including contact tracing, communication and facility disinfection.

How Students Should Respond to a COVID-19 Infection Report

Immediately

1. If you become ill while on campus, quickly isolate yourself from others and call University Health Services at 405-744-7665 to get tested.
2. Remain isolated from others until you get further instructions from a healthcare provider. This includes staying home from class, activities, or even grocery or convenience stores.

Within 24-48 Hours

1. Notify your professors or activity sponsors of your need to isolate because you are sick.

Within 48-72 Hours

1. You should get notification from UHS on your results. If results are negative, you should remain home until you are no longer sick and you are fever free for 72 hours. If you are positive, UHS and Payne County Health Department will give you further instructions on the mandatory quarantine, as required by the state of Oklahoma.
2. If living on campus, work with UHS and OSU Housing to determine if you should remain in your current room. If you live off campus, continue to isolate yourself at your home, utilizing a private room and bathroom if possible.
3. Continue to answer daily calls from the state health department in order to comply with state regulations and ensure your health and safety.
4. You will be contacted to provide a list of your possible contacts so that they may take precautions as well. Please provide as many details as you can at this time and call Payne County Health Department if you have other concerns.
5. You will be frequently contacted by the state health department to discuss your symptoms. They will release you for public contact somewhere between 10 to 14 days if you are exhibiting NO symptoms.

Contact Tracing & Testing

OSU Medicine has set up a “swab pod” for free COVID-19 testing on campus, located at University Health Services. The university is also actively working with the public health department to increase the number of community members who can help facilitate contact tracing. OSU is also identifying technology or other progressive means to aid in notification of at-risk individuals.

Cleaning of University Facilities

OSU Facilities Management provides touch-point cleaning and disinfecting daily in campus buildings and multiple times daily within areas of increased-use or higher risk. OSU maintains alcohol-based hand sanitizer and replacement wall-mount dispensers to refill the currently installed hand sanitizers located throughout campus. Facilities Management will work to procure and distribute necessary cleaning supplies for individual departments.

Facilities Management (FM) has also purchased electrostatic and hydrogen peroxide vapor disinfection equipment for applying preventive disinfectant coverage to targeted areas. If an emergency response is required, FM has several third-party professionals ready and available to treat or remediate campus locations. [Learn more.](#)

High-Risk Students

Students inquiring about general campus accommodations or accommodations related to COVID-19 for academics, Housing/ResLife, ESAs or Paratransit need to contact Student Accessibility Service (SAS). We can answer questions and provide information either by phone at 405-744-7116 or email at accessibility@okstate.edu. Additional information can be found on the SAS website <https://accessibility.okstate.edu/>.

ACADEMIC DELIVERY OF ON-CAMPUS COURSES AND SUPPORT

Instruction. Every effort is being made to maximize in-person instruction for all students on campus this fall with social distancing maintained. Hybrid and online options may be used to accommodate challenges in scheduling. Synchronous online class options will be made available where possible. Laboratory groups that cannot maintain social distancing for pedagogical or safety purposes must wear additional PPE to provide reasonable health safety (e.g., face shields, gloves, surgical masks).

Class Schedule. In order to maximize the number of in-person classes this fall while social distancing, we plan to reduce the number of people allowed in each classroom, use large auxiliary campus spaces to hold classes, and provide a consistent 15-minute travel time between classes. In addition, three new class times will be introduced to increase the opportunity for face-to-face classes: TR 12:00 noon – 1:15 PM, MW 5:30 – 6:15 PM, and TR 6:00 – 7:15 PM. Most classes scheduled on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons will start one hour later to accommodate the new noon class time. Student schedules may possibly be adjusted over the course of the next few weeks. **As we determine social distancing capacity within classrooms, find alternative classrooms or move some courses online, schedules are being adjusted. We are doing our best to minimize disruptions.**

Classrooms. Locations not generally utilized for classes will be used. Some examples may include the Student Union ballroom, the Alumni Center, and the Watkins Center. Social distancing will reduce the capacity of traditional classrooms and using these alternative spaces will increase our ability to deliver face-to-face classes.

Assigned seating with seating charts will be required in all classes so that effective tracing of positive cases can be enhanced. Classes will be set up and maintained following social distancing guidelines.

Office Hours. Faculty will offer office hours online to eliminate crowding in offices and hallways. Students are asked to respect posted virtual hours of all faculty and Teaching Assistants. Teaching Assistants will be providing recitation sections and virtual office hours to work problems and answer questions.

Pre Finals and Finals Weeks. In-class instruction and in-person exams will be completed by Thanksgiving break:

During Prefinals week (Nov 30 – Dec 4), lectures and reviews will be offered virtually.

During Finals week (Dec 7 – 11), final exams and assessments will be offered online. On-campus services and project labs will remain open for students.

It should be noted that OSU intends to conduct on-campus, in-person classes for the spring 2021 semester.

December Commencement. The Class of 2020 Commencement (December 11-12) will be in-person as scheduled. This plan will be continually evaluated as the fall semester proceeds.

Library. Library business hours will be reduced during the fall semester to allow time for overnight cleaning and sanitizing. Furniture in public spaces will be arranged to ensure appropriate social distancing and barriers or shields will be erected to allow more than one user at library tables. When possible, library services will continue to include options for users who are unable to come into the library. For example, curbside pick-up for books and library laptops and chat reference assistance. The Library Browsing Room and Reading Room will not be available for events or public gatherings until social distancing requirements are no longer in place.

Graduate Students. In-person defenses are anticipated to return in fall 2020. A virtual format may be used as necessary with notification of the Graduate College. Guidance for virtual defenses is provided in the Best Practices document in the Graduate Faculty Canvas Community. This format still requires all advisory committee members participate or be replaced with available Graduate Faculty members. Non-coursework Exams (e.g., qualifying, preliminary, comprehensive) are typically for a very small number of individuals at a time and may easily accommodate social distancing guidelines. In-person, online or virtual formats are still acceptable and should take individual concerns of faculty, staff and students into account. Individual Degree Completion Plans are available from Graduate Program Coordinators to document changes in the time frame and resource needs due to associated pandemic disruptions. Additional information may be found on the Graduate College website. [Learn more.](#)

Honors. One of the fundamental aims and promises of Honors courses is they provide undergraduates in the Honors College significant opportunities to interact with outstanding faculty in a small group environment. In light of this, except when dictated by health and safety reasons, all Honors classes will be delivered face-to-face or in synchronous mode. Honors students who, through the action of the University, are unable to meet the normal hours required to remain active in Honors will automatically be awarded active status.

Study Abroad. The U.S. Department of State issued a [Global Level 4 Travel Advisory on March 19](#), which advised U.S. citizens to avoid international travel of any sort. It is not clear at this time when the State Department travel advisory will be reduced. With this in mind, no faculty-led study abroad programs will be allowed prior to Nov 1, 2020. This restriction will be revisited by August 30, 2020 to determine the risk associated with fall break, winter break or spring 2021 programs.

OSU will also suspend its student exchange programs until the Spring 2021 semester, except in very rare cases. Please contact the [Office of Global Studies and Partnerships](#) for more information.

Research. Research at OSU has continued with adjustments for social distancing and personal protection. Detailed information is available on the [research continuity website](#).

CAMPUS LIFE

Student Housing. The student housing plan includes reducing or rearranging shared spaces, increased frequency of cleaning, acquisition of specialized disinfecting equipment and dedicated rooms reserved for student quarantine, if necessary. Accommodations for vulnerable populations will be provided. [Learn more.](#)

University Dining. University Dining Services has reduced the capacity for seating to allow for social distancing within OSU dining facilities. Some dining operations will only be available via an online ordering app to reduce waiting time and exposure to risk. Take-out and delivery options are strongly encouraged. [Learn more.](#)

Student Union. In addition to campus protocols for social distancing and the wearing of face coverings, the Student Union will increase disinfection protocols for all high-touch areas. Restrooms will be sanitized every two hours. [Learn more.](#)

Colvin Recreation Center. A minimum of two housekeepers will be on staff at the Colvin during all operating hours continually cleaning areas by zone as well as repeatedly cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces (handrails, door handles, push plates, etc.) multiple times daily. Fitness floor staff will clean equipment continuously throughout the day including equipment touch points (i.e. seats, handles, bars, and pins). [Learn more.](#)

Student Organization Events

Student events this fall will follow the guidelines of state and local health officials with regards to the limits on attendees. OSU's policy regarding social distancing guidelines and requirement of masks will apply.

Guidance for Planning & Organization of Campus Events

- Require the use of cloth masks
- Maintain social distancing (6 feet)
- Limit circulation of attendees during events (assigned/organized seating)
- Reorganize room setup or relocate to a larger venue to accommodate the size of the event. Event organizers should measure rooms, evaluate space, and make decisions accordingly.
- Cancel or consider other means of delivery for events where social distancing and other safety measures cannot be maintained (consider virtual format or smaller event).
- Make contingency plans for the event in case the future public health situation calls for stricter guidance or limited attendance.

Fraternity and Sorority Life

[Summer recruitment and fall recruitment](#) will follow the same guidelines as on-campus events including social distancing and wearing masks. All Greek chapters will follow the campus reopening guidelines from OSU as they pertain to daily life in a chapter house. Chapters are urged to comply with CDC guidelines by holding virtual events where possible and follow social distancing measures, increase cleaning/disinfection of facilities and other protocols. [Learn more.](#)