

LSUA's COVID-19 Protocols and Procedures

* Protocols are subject to change at any time.

Safety

- Face coverings will be encouraged for any individual experiencing COVID-19 like symptoms and individuals who have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Cover all coughs and sneezes.
- Wash hands thoroughly and often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer frequently.
- COVID-19 vaccination decreases the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. The CDC strongly encourages COVID-19 vaccination for everyone 5 and older and boosters for everyone 16 and older. Vaccination is the best way to protect yourself and reduce the impact of COVID-19 on our communities.

COVID-19 Vaccinations

Free COVID-19 vaccines will be available on campus at the LSUA Health Center at various times during the semester. Walk-ins or appointments will be accepted. Faculty, staff, and students are strongly encouraged to get the vaccine and/or booster shot if you have not yet done so at this time. Vaccine availability will be communicated to the campus community via email.

COVID-19 Testing

Testing for SARS COVID-19 is a critical component of keeping everyone safe and healthy. Faculty, staff, and students should get tested for the virus if they have symptoms associated with COVID-19 or five days after being in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Furthermore, in the event you do develop any COVID-like symptoms, get tested as soon as possible and delay coming to campus until you have received a negative test. People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. These symptoms can closely mimic those of a cold or a sinus infection and can be very difficult to differentiate. Examples of these symptoms may include:

- 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

Covid-19 tests are available on campus at the LSUA Health Center, located on the first floor in Coughlin Hall (Nursing Building). Test detects an active COVID-19 infection. It is administered using a nasal swab in the front of the nostril. The health center hours are listed below:

LSUA Health Center Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Closed 12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. for lunch

(P): 318.427.0110

Sanitation & Cleaning

Intensified cleaning has been implemented on campus according to CDC guidance, and cleaning protocols are being updated as new information is released by the CDC and others.

Building services custodial staff received updated training on the proper disinfecting techniques required for this enhanced cleaning. The custodial staff will be conducting routine cleaning of bathrooms, hallways, offices, common areas, classrooms, teaching areas, break rooms, and conference rooms.

In addition, the custodial staff will clean frequently touched surfaces on a daily basis. The minimum frequency of cleaning for high touch areas include:

- Twice daily for elevators, stairways, and restrooms
- Once daily for doorknobs, light switches, and break rooms

At a minimum, classrooms will be cleaned once a day, including doorknobs, light switches, chairs, and desks, as well as other hard surfaces. Most classrooms are equipped with HEPPA filtration and HVAC UV sanitation equipment. IN addition, most large meeting areas on campus have installed upper air UV sanitation equipment.

Additionally, LSUA has installed touchless toilets, urinals, faucets, soap dispensers, and hand sanitizing dispensers in all campus buildings to reduce the incidence of surface contacts.

Protocol Based on Testing, Reported Symptoms, and/or Exposure

Faculty, staff, and students who receive a positive COVID-19 test result are **REQUIRED** to report their positive case to Chad Gauthier, LSUA's Safety & Risk Manager. Communication from that office to the employee or student will contain the following information based on the specific case.

Confirmed Positive

- Isolate for 5 days and if **asymptomatic**, and without fever for 24 hours, follow that by 5 days of wearing a high-quality mask when around others to minimize the risk of infecting people they encounter.
- You are required to fill out the daily symptom checker every day for 5 days after you test positive for COVID-19.

If possible, stay away from others, especially people who are at a higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19.

Students who need to isolate should contact each of their course's faculty and let them know you are in temporary isolation status and they should provide the course work to you so that you do not fall behind.

Close Contact / Exposure

CDC defines Close Contact as:

Individual who has had close contact (<6 feet) for ≥ 15 minutes with someone that meets the following criteria:

- Person with COVID-19 who has symptoms (in the period from 2 days before symptom onset until they meet criteria for discontinuing home isolation; can be laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness)
- Person who has tested positive for COVID-19 (laboratory confirmed) but has not had any symptoms (in the 2 days before the date of specimen collection until they meet criteria for discontinuing home isolation).

After being exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19, you should start the following precautions immediately unless you had COVID-19 within the past 90 days:

1. Wear a high-quality mask as soon as you find out you were exposed and continue for 10 full days from the exposure, with day 1 being the **first full day** after the exposure.
2. Do not go places where you are unable to wear a mask.
3. Get tested as soon as possible if you develop any COVID-19 symptoms.
4. Additionally, get tested at least 5 full days after your last exposure, even if you haven't developed symptoms.
5. If you test positive, you would begin isolation immediately.
6. You are required to fill out the daily symptom checker every day for 10 days after your last close contact with a positive case.

Contact Tracing

Contact tracing plays an important role in slowing the spread of COVID-19. Consequently, once someone has tested positive for COVID-19, they will be required to provide information about the people who they have been in close contact with. In addition to the reporting of the positive case, contact tracing is done through emails and phone calls from the Safety & Risk Manager. Emails are used primarily, however if additional information is needed, individuals will be contacted by phone as well.

Classes

- **Fall 2022 semester** classrooms are expected to maintain 100 percent occupancy rate.
- Face coverings will be encouraged for any individual experiencing COVID-19 like symptoms or individuals who were exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19. Wear masks properly over nose and mouth.
- Classroom podiums will be situated more than six feet away from student seating, and there will be enhanced cleaning throughout the buildings.

Housing

In consultation with campus health professionals, protocols for dealing with sick and well students will be in place. The first option is for the resident to quarantine or isolate at home, if feasible. If not, plans will include quarantine and isolation accommodations. We will ask those residents to quarantine or isolate in their rooms.

Students in isolation on campus will be provided the following resources and amenities:

- Students are provided essential health and wellness services while in isolation and quarantine by the Health Center.
- Meals are provided to residents in isolation or quarantine by LSUA Dining.
- Emergency response will be coordinated by LSUA PD to ensure awareness and appropriate response as the situation requires.
- Academic support is coordinated for students in isolation and quarantine by the Department of Student Engagement.
- If a laptop is needed during quarantine, it will be provided by the IET Department.

Dining

LSUA Dining will have no restrictions at this time. Dining staff will take extra precautions to keep themselves and students safe. Facilities will be thoroughly cleaned multiple times each day, surfaces will be continuously cleaned and disinfected, and hand sanitizer will be available at entrances and exits. Dining halls and retail services may use plexiglass barriers to separate cashiers and guests when physical distancing is limited. Masks should be worn when entering and exiting the Magnolia Café if you are still following post exposure and post infection protocols.

Staffing and Workplace

Physical Modifications

Any department or unit that has an interest for physical modifications of the workspace and building to respond to COVID-19 should first get approval for these modifications and any related expenses from the department head or dean, followed by their vice chancellor. Following these approvals, the department can submit a request to Facility Services for consideration. Once plans are finalized, facility services will work with that department or unit to complete the project.

Procuring Personal Protective Equipment

The sanitation supplies and PPE to be provided by the University are being procured in bulk quantities and will be available to the campus through Facility Services to ensure the safest possible return to campus experience. The items being procured by the University include the following:

- Hand sanitizer and dispensers
- Sanitary wipes
- Disinfectant spray and dispensers
- Paper towels
- Disposable masks
- Nitrile (non-latex) Gloves

Facility Services staff will deploy and replenish these supplies and commodities in classrooms, labs, and other public access areas as necessary and consistent with current CDC guidance. Any questions on these specific items should be directed to candyd@lsua.edu.

Leave Policies

If an employee has been exposed to COVID-19 and is subject to a quarantine or isolation order, is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or is caring for an immediate family member as a result of COVID-19, or is caring for a child as a result of loss of care due to COVID-19 and are unable to report to the physical premises for work or perform work remotely, they may use their personal accrued sick, annual, and/or compensatory time accordingly for full pay.