

Welcome (back) to campus!

While we are committed to continuing on-campus operations for the spring term, students, faculty, and staff must work together to help mitigate the spread of the virus on our campus and in the community. Here are answers to some of your questions regarding MTSU's policies to help keep you and the rest of our True Blue community safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.



For a more extensive list of questions and answers, visit mtsu.edu/coronavirus

Report your COVID-19 test results or exposure at mtsu.edu/covidreporting or 615-494-7745

OUR MASK AND SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS

Do I have to wear a mask?

Masks or face coverings are required inside all campus buildings, including classrooms, labs, offices, and common areas such as hallways, stairways, elevators, restrooms, and other shared spaces. Masks or face coverings and social distancing also are highly recommended when outdoors.

How are we defining "mask"?

- A mask is a face covering that fits snugly against the side of the face; completely covers the nose and mouth; is secured with ties or ear loops; includes multiple layers of fabric; allows for breathing without restriction; and can be laundered and machine-dried without damaging or changing its shape.
- Appropriate masks or face coverings include disposable single-use paper masks with ties or ear loops, gaiters, balaclavas, and bandanas. Face shields

may not substitute for masks or face coverings, unless approved with additional protections as a part of a reasonable accommodation for a documented disability. Please work directly with the Disability and Access Center (dacemail@mtsu.edu or 615-898-2783) for more information.

What happens if I forget my mask or face covering? Where will I be able to obtain one?

Academic departments will have a limited number of disposable masks for students who forget their face coverings. Administrative departments will have disposable masks for visitors. Mask and face coverings also can be purchased at MTSU's Phillips Bookstore in the Student Union.

Will social distancing and masks be enforced on campus?

Yes. Students who fail to follow social distancing requirements, including wearing masks or face coverings and maintaining 6 feet of distance, may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

MTSU COVID Requirements for Students

REGARDING YOUR OWN HEALTH AND SYMPTOMS	
IF	THEN
If you have symptoms that might be COVID-related but have not yet seen a doctor or been tested	You are not to come to class or be out and about on campus if you have a COVID-related symptom or risk factor. Call the Nurse Triage Line at MTSU Student Health Services at 615-494-7745 and make arrangements to see a provider and be tested. While waiting for test results, you must remain in quarantine in your room or apartment so that you do not have contact with other people. If you live on campus, please notify your housing staff so they can assist you in moving to alternative housing, if necessary, and receiving meals.
If you receive a negative COVID test result and you feel no symptoms	You may resume contact with others and return to class if you have a negative test result AND you have been symptom-free for 24 hours. At this point you are no longer considered suspect for COVID-19.
If you receive a positive COVID test result and you feel no symptoms	You must isolate away from other people for a total of at least 10 days from the date you took the test. The 10 days start the day after the positive test. You may resume contact with others and return to class on Day 11 if you have remained symptom-free. If you live on campus, please notify your housing staff so they can assist you in moving to alternative housing, if necessary, and receiving meals.
If you receive a positive COVID test result and you are experiencing symptoms	You must isolate away from other people for a total of at least 10 days from the start of symptoms and be symptom-free for 24 hours. The 10 days start the day after symptoms start. You may resume contact with others and return to class on Day 11 if you have been symptom-free for 24 hours. If you live on campus, please notify your housing staff so they can assist you in moving to alternative housing, if necessary, and receiving meals.

REGARDING THE TESTING STATUS OF OTHERS AROUND YOU	
IF	THEN
If you have been in close contact (defined as within 6 feet for more than 10 minutes) with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19	You must either: Quarantine for 10 days (PREFERRED), starting the day AFTER the last contact with the person who is infected. You may resume contact with others on Day 11 if you have no symptoms. OR Quarantine for 7 days and provide a negative COVID test (antigen or PCR) taken on or after Day 7. You may resume contact with others on Day 8 if you have no symptoms.
If someone you live with receives a positive COVID test result and you continue to share space with that person	You must either: Quarantine for 10 days from the start of their symptoms PLUS an additional 10 days (PREFERRED) after the person is no longer ill (20 days total). You may resume contact with others on Day 21 if you have no symptoms. OR Quarantine 10 days from the start of their symptoms PLUS an additional 7 days and provide a negative COVID test (antigen or PCR) taken on or after Day 17. You may resume contact with others on Day 18 if you have no symptoms.
If you have been in the presence of someone who tested positive but not in close contact (defined above)	You do not need to quarantine or take any other action.

Lightning Says

WHAT HAPPENS IF . . .

A Return to Campus Playbook for Students



MIDDLE
TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY

Updated January 2021

SAFETY AND HEALTH

What should I do if I feel sick or if someone in my home is exhibiting symptoms?

- Stay home
- Don't attend an in-person class. Students should evaluate their ability to learn remotely in such a situation and act accordingly.
- Separate yourself from other people.
- Monitor your symptoms.
- Contact the Nurse Triage Line at Student Health Services at 615-494-7745 to report your symptoms and receive instructions about what to do next.

May a family member contact my instructor or a designated person on campus if I am sick?

Yes, but you need to have a Partners in Education (PIE) agreement on file with MT One Stop (mtonestop@mtsu.edu or 615-898-2111).

Do I have to provide a doctor's note to my instructor or campus?

According to MTSU Policy 311-A Class Attendance, while an instructor may request a doctor's note, you are not required to provide one. Neither MTSU Policy 311 nor 311-A discusses the possibility of a student who is absent to care for a family member diagnosed with COVID-19. Students should discuss any change in family circumstances that impacts attendance with their instructor and/or advisor.

What if I get COVID-19 testing off campus?

Anyone who receives testing from outside institutions should contact Student Health Services to ensure that quarantine/isolation dates adhere to Tennessee Department of Health and MTSU guidelines.

How can I access mental health and support services for my anxieties related to the virus and all of these changes?

Contact Counseling Services (615-898-2670) for a telehealth or in-person screening. Short-term individual and group counseling services are available. Counseling Services also offers Self-Help Exercises for Dealing with COVID-19 (mtsu.edu/countest/self-help-covid19.php).

What should I do if I learn that a fellow student has COVID-19 or has recently been exposed to an infected person but is not quarantining or following campus guidelines?

Report the behavior to Student Conduct at mtsu.edu/student-conduct. Click on "Report a Conduct Violation," and select "COVID-19 Non-compliance" under relevant categories.

CLASSROOM AND INSTRUCTION

What happens if my instructor tests positive?

The department chair or program director will ensure that your courses are covered.

What happens if someone in my class is diagnosed with COVID-19?

In a socially distanced classroom setting with all participants being 6 feet apart and wearing face coverings, the current Tennessee Department of Health view is contagion risk is low and no quarantines of classroom participants are necessary.

If I decide that it is too risky to be on campus and want to move my classes to online or remote options, will I be allowed to do so?

Students wishing to move their classes from on-ground to online or remote after the semester begins and after the Drop/Add period should consult with their instructors and advisor. Students who anticipate this possibility should enroll in online/remote options.

How will I know what I missed because I'm sick or isolated? Will we video all in-person classes?

Classrooms have been equipped to stream classes live as well as record for later viewing. For classes where recording may not be appropriate, instructors will provide alternate materials. A "videos" link appearing in the navigation bar for every course in D2L will provide recordings of all class meetings. Students with COVID-related health issues should inform their instructors as soon as possible to arrange for finishing their classes either on-ground or online.

Will Incomplete or Withdrawal policies change to address the needs of students who become ill?

Changing Incomplete and Withdrawal policies is not under discussion. Students who become ill should inform their instructor and/or advisor of the situation to determine the best solution.

What arrangements are being made for students who need internships or student-teaching assignments to complete their degrees?

Students whose degree plans require internships, clinicals, or teaching residency should discuss plans for these courses with their instructor/advisor/program director.

TECHNOLOGY

Will computer labs be available?

MTSU's large computer labs—BAS S137, KOM 350/351/360, Adaptive Technology Center (Walker Library Room 174), and Walker Library computer lab—as well as other smaller labs scattered throughout campus will be available. They will have reduced capacity because of required social distancing.

How often will computer labs be cleaned?

Although everyone should take responsibility for maintaining sanitary conditions and caring for fellow students (and the University's equipment), assistants in larger labs will clean computers in high-use areas every hour. For departmental labs with no assistants, computers will be cleaned daily.

If my classes are online, will MTSU provide computer and internet access if I don't already have it?

Laptops, Chromebooks, and hotspots will be available for students to check out at the beginning of the spring semester on a first-come, first-served basis. Request equipment at mtsu.edu/itd.

If I need special accommodations with computer access to take online classes, what do I do?

Contact the Disability and Access Center (dacemail@mtsu.edu or 615-898-2783).

FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Will campus workspaces be available for students to use when they're not in class?

- Campus computer labs will be open along with various locations in Keathley University Center and the Student Union. Students should check the schedule of availability for appropriate spaces.

- Wireless connectivity is available in the following parking lots for students to use while in their vehicles: Bell Street commuter lot, Greenland Lot B, western half of Softball Lot, north end of Rutherford Boulevard Lot, and both parking garages. Click the Parking Lot WiFi Map button at mtsu.edu/maps.
- Walker Library will be open but with limited occupancy. You can see the live occupancy numbers and library operating hours at library.mtsu.edu/reopening.

What campus facilities will be open?

- We anticipate entering the Spring 2021 semester at Phase 3, which means offices will be open, and services are available with possible modifications for safety reasons. However, periodically check our website, mtsu.edu/coronavirus, for updates and changes.
- All operating hours will be posted on office websites. For lab hours, students should consult their instructor or the lab manager.
- MTSU's Phillips Bookstore is open and applying safe practices for staff and customers. They also will order materials for you online with free shipping and curbside pickup.

TERMS

Isolation separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.

Will students with no on-ground classes have to purchase parking?

The Campus Access fee for parking services, part of the Program Services fee, is required of all students. It is used to fund and to maintain roads, sidewalks, lighting, and other parts of campus.

How will Raider Xpress operate?

- Occupancy will remain at 50%.
- Shields have been installed to protect drivers and passengers during loading and unloading.
- All occupants, including drivers, are required to wear masks or face coverings.
- All buses will be completely wiped down/sanitized at the end of each shift.



Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

For more information about how MTSU is dealing with the coronavirus/COVID-19, visit mtsu.edu/coronavirus

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