PROTECTING OUR PANTHERS

University of Northern Iowa®
Everyone at the University of Northern Iowa is excited to see our students, faculty and staff back on campus this fall and to welcome our new Panthers. While our campus operations may look a little different, we are working to ensure the high-quality learning experience that students at UNI are accustomed to, while also protecting the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff and Cedar Valley community.

The Forward Together: Protecting Our Panthers Plan outlines the proactive measures the university has put in place to ensure we are following COVID-19 guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH).

Visit UNI’s Forward Together website at forwardtogether.uni.edu for the university’s latest updates, information and resources related to COVID-19.
FALL 2020 ACADEMIC CALENDAR MODIFICATIONS

Changes to the fall 2020 academic calendar will give us the opportunity to further protect our campus community while still holding a full semester of on-campus teaching and learning activities.

The academic calendar will be modified as follows:

- Classes begin on Monday, August 17.
- Classes will be held on Monday, September 7 (Labor Day).
- Regular classes end on Friday, November 20.
- Final exams occur on Saturday, November 21 and Monday, November 23 - Wednesday, November 25.
- We will recognize and honor those who hold their Sabbath on Saturdays and schedule make-up exams for them if they request it.
- Make-up exams, if needed, can be held the week of November 30 to noon, December 4.
- Grades submission by faculty due by 1 p.m., Wednesday, December 9.
- Commencement held on Saturday, December 19.
- Students engaged in non-arranged activities that require time beyond the new end date (e.g. internships, field experience) will be allowed to continue; incomplete grades will be used to extend the period as needed.
HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE PANTHER COMMUNITY

Protecting our campus from COVID-19 depends on all of us acting with care, responsibility and sacrifice. Sustaining the health and safety of our campus community during the COVID-19 pandemic will require action on the part of each of us, including faculty, staff and students.

FACE COVERINGS

Out of care and concern for all members of our campus community, the University of Northern Iowa will require everyone on our campus to wear a face covering while in campus buildings. This requirement includes students, faculty, staff members and guests. Face coverings are required throughout class periods, as well as in out-of-classroom building spaces and outdoor spaces where six feet or more of physical distance cannot be maintained. We take these steps together recognizing that my mask protects you, your mask protects me, and together wearing masks protects the entire UNI community.

Cloth masks are the preferred and safest form of face covering and the primary recommendation from agencies like the CDC. We have made face shields available for individuals with medical conditions that prevent the use of a mask and other unique situations when a mask is not practical. Masks provide the best measure of safety so when you have a choice, you should wear a mask, or a mask with a shield.

Face coverings may be removed while:

- Alone in a private office or residence hall room
- Eating or drinking
- Outside when 6’ of physical distancing is maintained
- Working out at a campus facility or outdoor area

Students

If a student does not comply with the expectation of wearing a face covering throughout the class period, they may be asked to leave class and/or referred to the student conduct process.

Students unable to wear a face mask due to a medical condition or other protected reason should wear a face shield or should contact:

Student Accessibility Services
sas.uni.edu | accessibilityservices@uni.edu
319-273-2677

Faculty/Staff

If a faculty member does not comply with the expectation of wearing a face covering or fails to enforce this expectation in the classroom, a student can make the choice to leave the classroom and/or refer the incident to Human Resource Services.

Employees unable to wear a face mask due to a medical condition or other protected reason should wear a face shield or should contact:

Human Resource Services
hrs-leaves@uni.edu | 319-273-2422
TESTING AND CONTACT TRACING

COVID-19 testing will be available at the Student Health Center to students and employees who are experiencing potential symptoms or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. Symptoms can 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

If you experience any symptoms, or believe you might have been exposed, contact the Student Health Center at healthcenter@uni.edu or 319-273-2009.

ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

If you have COVID-19 or if you’ve been exposed, follow guidance from public health officials. Public health officials may require a quarantine period of 14 days if you’ve been exposed to COVID-19. Stay at home (or in your residence hall) and do what you need to do in order to prevent the spread even further. Call the Student Health Clinic if you have any questions or concerns about your health, as our nurses, providers and health care personnel care about your well-being.

If you are living in a UNI residence hall and you’ve been exposed to COVID-19, or if you’ve tested positive yourself, reach out to the Department of Residence immediately. They can help you make arrangements to have food delivered to you.

Remember, if you do get sick this semester, UNI is here for you. We have adjusted the UNI attendance policy to provide more flexibility to our students in the case they are impacted by COVID-19 this fall. Reach out to your professors or to your academic advisor to see how we can help you stay on track with your academics.
CLASSROOMS AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

One of the reasons students come to UNI is because of the faculty they get to work with both inside and outside the classroom. The residential, engaged learning experience that faculty members provide is our niche—it is what makes the University of Northern Iowa learning experience unique.

It is important that we continue to provide this unique experience to all of our students in a safe manner. This is one of the reasons we will be requiring face coverings in all classrooms. Our collective actions will determine our ability to remain together in an in-person learning environment.

CLASSROOM CLEANING AND HYGIENE

Several important changes to our cleaning practices will be implemented in the fall that will enhance the safety of our classrooms and campus community.

- Every classroom and learning space will undergo daily enhanced cleaning and disinfection by custodial staff.
- We changed our HVAC systems to non-recirculating air to bring more fresh air into classrooms and common spaces. Air in rooms is exchanged at least six times per hour and new filtration has been installed.
- Students are encouraged to spend time outside between classes as much as possible to reduce congregation.
- Students should not linger at building or room entry and exit points.

CLASSROOM CAPACITY

Enhanced physical distancing will be practiced in classrooms in a number of ways:

- Classes will be scheduled so that no more than 40% of room capacity will be used if possible.
- First-year classes have been prioritized for face-to-face instruction.
- Generally, classes of more than 50 students will not meet together in person. Those classes will meet in a hybrid pattern or online.
- Chairs and tables that will not be used will be marked for non-use to maximize the spacing between students.

Over 80% of our classes will meet fully or partially face-to-face
FALL COURSE DELIVERY: FACE-TO-FACE, HYBRID AND ONLINE

Changes to the academic calendar, and implementing safety practices like the use of face coverings, are designed to ensure we will be able to make it through the semester together, in our classrooms, learning and thriving. We recognize the challenges that this semester includes, but we also feel confident in the team of faculty, staff, students and administrators who have come together to determine how we can do this in a safe manner.

In order to maintain physical distancing in classrooms this fall, we are adjusting classroom locations to utilize more spacious rooms that allow for greater seating distance between individuals. In some cases, faculty may use a combination of in-class and online elements to allow smaller groups of students to meet together. In a limited number of cases, classes may move to online delivery, but students will retain all of the campus support around those classes. In order to assist the Iowa Department of Public Health with contact tracing, faculty will request students adhere to a seating chart in all classes.

We have also created guidelines for the following:

- **Bandwidth**: As faculty members develop their courses, they are looking for new ways to use educational technologies that have a lower bandwidth to provide access to those students who have older laptops or limited off-campus WiFi. High-speed on-campus WiFi service continues to be available and recently enhanced, with several new outdoor coverage areas available for use. Outdoor coverage areas are identified on this map: https://it.uni.edu/outdoor-wifi-map

- **Student Absences**: COVID-19 related absences, including illness, self-isolation, and quarantine, are excused. If a student needs to miss classes for one of those reasons, they should contact their faculty for help identifying how they can maintain successful progress in their courses. Faculty may do that through several means of alternative instruction or makeup assignments.
We are excited to welcome students back to campus this fall! We know how important living the UNI experience is to our students and ultimately their success through to graduation. We remain committed to doing everything we can to provide an outstanding student-life experience.

RESIDENCE LIFE AND ON-CAMPUS DINING

In preparation for students’ return, we are making some important changes to the residence halls and dining centers to help reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. This includes outlining our expectations for our community members and emphasizing the responsibility of our residents to maintain a healthy environment.

Changes have been made in the residence halls with additional guidelines that need to be followed:

- **Reducing density within our halls** to ensure smaller student-to-student ratios, safe enter and exit practices from buildings, and reviewing common area space capacity and usage.
- Common spaces in the residence halls will not be closed, but we will be **limiting the capacity of lounges and recreation rooms** to accommodate physical distancing guidelines in order to maintain six feet of separation.
- Guests will be allowed to visit students in their rooms; however, there will be **limits on the number of people within student rooms**.
- We ask that **no more than double the room capacity** be in a room/apartment at one time. For example, students in a double room should have no more than four people in their room at one time. Students in a four-bedroom apartment should have no more than eight people in the apartment at one time.
- Students will be required to **wear a face covering when in public spaces** to help reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. Wearing a face covering is part of the shared responsibility of being on campus and protecting others. Each student will receive three UNI face masks and a face shield, along with a small bottle of hand sanitizer at check-in.

Some temporary adjustments have been made to meal plans for fall 2020 to protect public health and comply with the current state guidance for food service operations:

- Seating capacity in the dining centers will be reduced to ensure ample physical space, and access will be limited to meal plan holders only; no guests.
- The new Flex+ program will be put on hold for this academic year.
- Meal plan participants can eat in the dining center, get any meal to-go or grab a specially prepared meal at a central location on campus during peak meal times.

Throughout our dining locations, we are replacing finger scan technology with contactless scanners. Students will also have the option to self-swipe their ID card. Retail customers can self-swipe most pre-packaged items, as well as self-swipe payment.
HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES

The health and safety of all our students and staff remains top priority, and is a shared responsibility. We all must work to ensure we are prioritizing our health as individuals and as a community. Outlined below are some of our existing protocols as well as additional precautions we are currently taking to provide an extra level of safety and care across our facilities.

Certified Cleaning Agents
We use hospital-grade disinfectants that have been validated by the EPA and CDC to be effective against coronaviruses, including the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

Sanitizing Surfaces
We frequently clean and sanitize high-contact surfaces such as door handles and countertops.

Hand Sanitizer and Wash Stations
Hand sanitizer is available in public areas where hand washing stations are not as readily available, and each student will get a small bottle of hand sanitizer during move-in.

Transaction Barriers
We installed Lexan transaction barriers in locations where face-to-face interactions frequently take place, such as our retail outlets and front desk operations.

Face Coverings
During move-in, three face masks and a face shield will be provided to all residential students. Students will be expected to wear a face covering when in a public space where it may be difficult to adhere to social distancing guidelines.

Physical Distancing
Measures are in place to easily allow for physical distancing within our residence halls and dining centers. This includes reduced seating, directional traffic and signage, along with the option of taking your meal to-go. There will also be a limit on the number who come together in communal spaces within the residential facilities.

Food Safety Standards
All dining staff are ServSafe® certified for safe food handling and service.

Self Check-Out
Retail customers can self-swipe most pre-packaged items, as well as self-swipe payment.

Contactless Access
We are replacing finger scan technology with GETMyCard scanners so customers at the dining centers can access their dining plans via smartphone. They will also have the option to self-swipe their ID card.

Mobile Ordering
Customers can use the GET app to order ahead and provide contactless payment.

Unlimited Meals To-Go
Students with a meal plan can choose to take any of their dining center meals to-go in addition to the option for pick-up from a satellite location.

Virtual Meetings and Programming
We are providing staff and students the option to participate in meetings and activities via Zoom.

Service Modifications
Students will find changes to services provided in our facilities, including package/mail pick-up and check-out equipment.

Quarantine/Isolation Spaces
We have designated on-campus spaces for both quarantine and isolation.
PUBLIC EVENTS HOSTED AT UNI

Events hosted at the University of Northern Iowa are always a special experience. To continue to offer these experiences throughout the fall semester, we have created guidelines visitors to the university will need to follow.

- All areas that hold large events will have plans in place for enhanced cleaning and sanitation before and after events.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be available in key locations throughout the facility and numbered appropriately for the size of expected events.
- Appropriate personal hygiene products will be made available to staff and performers to maintain their area of use.
- Face coverings for all staff and guests are required.
- Face coverings will be available for sale at a reasonable price at our venues.
- Physical distancing guidelines must be followed.
- Outdoor events that do not allow for physical distancing will not be permitted.

Visit the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center website (www.gbpac.com) and the UNI Athletics website (unipanthers.com) for specific information and guidelines related to events at these locations.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

- Student organization members are required to wear face coverings in all campus buildings, and maintain six feet of physical distance from others. When gathering outside, members are also strongly encouraged to wear face coverings and maintain six feet or more of physical distance.
- Whenever possible, external guests, speakers and performers will engage virtually rather than coming physically to campus. In the limited situations where external guests visit campus, they must be provided a guidance document for UNI visitors.
- For group gatherings, organizers are required to limit the number of participants present to ensure they’re using 50% or less of room capacity and maintaining six feet or more of physical distance between individuals.
- Organizers should plan for contact-free distribution of any event materials and entrance/exit procedures that minimize congregation in small spaces.
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Share your questions, comments and suggestions with us at forwardtogether@uni.edu.