COVID-19 Update
August 11, 2021

A community of learners improving our world
Presentation Format

• Zoom webinar format

• All lines are muted - Chat function is disabled

• Questions submitted in advanced will be answered throughout presentation

This session is being recorded and will be available on the COVID-19 website

Any questions submitted through the Q&A function will be answered at the end of the presentation
Agenda

• Opening Remarks – President Scott Olson

• COVID-19 Reset – Vice President Scott Ellinghuysen

• COVID-19 Cases, Testing, Vaccinations – Health Service Director Connie Kamara

• Academic Affairs and Classroom Instruction – Provost Darrell Newton

• Student Life and Development – Vice President Denise McDowell

• Human Resources – Director Lori Reed

• Campus Communications – Vice President Jon Olson
Opening Remarks

Dr. Scott R. Olson
President
COVID-19 Reset

Scott Ellinghuysen
Vice President for Finance and Administration
COVID-19 Reset - Governor Walz

• Governor Walz rescinds “old” mask mandate on May 13, 2021
  • Cases remained low through much of the Summer

• Governor’s peacetime emergency powers ended on July 1, 2021
  • What does this mean?
  • Governor no longer can mandate masks, occupancy levels, hours of operation, etc, across the entire State of Minnesota

• WSU is still a State Agency and can have certain items imposed upon us by the Governor or Legislature
COVID-19 Reset – Delta Variant

• **Update masking guidance from the CDC on July 28**\(^{th}\) **recommended masks for unvaccinated and vaccinated in indoor spaces** if your county is in the substantial or high category of community transmission.

• On July 29\(^{th}\), **Chancellor Malhotra required campuses** that had substantial or high levels of community transmission to implement an indoor mask mandate.

• Effective August 4\(^{th}\), **WSU enacted the indoor mask mandate** due to Winona County having substantial or high levels of community transmission.
COVID-19 Reset – Mandatory Vaccinations

• Governor Walz may be providing guidance on mandatory vaccinations at some point

• University of Minnesota and St. Mary’s University have said they will require the vaccine when it is given full approval from the FDA
  • This decision to require/mandate the vaccine is not a local decision we can make at WSU
  • Any requirement/mandate we would have needs to come from the Chancellor, Legislature or Governor
COVID-19 Reset – Travel

• Domestic travel is allowed with presidential approval
  • No requirement to quarantine

• Employee international travel is allowed to level 1 and 2 countries under the US Department of State advisories, with presidential approval

• Employee international travel to level 3 and 4 countries requires system approval

• Student international travel ban is still in place – system office will revisit on October 15th
COVID-19 Reset – Misc

• Reporting to the system office on weekly cases for students and employees will resume the week of August 16th
  • Positive cases
  • Isolation
  • Vaccination rates

• No restrictions on public access to campus, outdoor events, etc

• Public would need to follow same masking guidelines
COVID-19 Cases, Testing, Vaccinations

Connie Kamara
Director of Health Services
MAKING PROGRESS – STAY THE COURSE!

**2019**
- Open campus

**COVID-19 Pandemic**
- Campus closed for a period
- Most classes online
- Numerous mitigation efforts in place
- Isolation & Quarantine measures highly active

**2020**

**2021**
- Vaccine administered
- The more vaccinated the more restrictions lifted
- Opening of campus
- Majority of classes online
- Vaccine coverage helps open things
- Delta variant
- Vaccinated no quarantine
- Encouraging vaccination
GET YOUR COVID-19 VACCINE RIGHT HERE ON CAMPUS!

- Vaccine available at Special Events
- Vaccine available on weekdays in the Covid Nook across from McGown
- Get first dose and/or second dose
- Faculty, staff, students, family of eligible age
MYTH: COVID-19 vaccines cause infertility.

FACT: COVID-19 vaccines DO NOT affect fertility.
Confusion arose on social media claiming that the Syncitin-1 spike protein (responsible for the growth of the placenta) was the same as COVID-19 and being vaccinated would cause the body to fight against the newborn instead of protecting against COVID-19. These two spike proteins are completely different and distinct. Additionally, pregnant women have a higher risk of contracting severe COVID-19. Getting vaccinated can help protect you and your newborn.

MYTH: The development of the COVID-19 vaccines was rushed; effectiveness & safety cannot be trusted.

FACT: The COVID-19 vaccine DID NOT skip any steps in the development process.
COVID-19 vaccine developers overlapped the steps in the development process to speed up the process. Research shows that vaccines have a 95% effectiveness rate in protecting you against COVID-19.

MYTH: Getting vaccinated means I can stop wearing my mask & following COVID-19 precautions.

FACT: The CDC has revised safety guidelines for those who are fully vaccinated.
The CDC & Health Services still recommends wearing a mask at the first sign of any illness and when receiving medical care. Mask wearing & physical distancing is recommended at large gatherings and areas of high traffic; such as when using public transport or attending events.
Count on me to Self Report.

Scan me for the Self-Report
WHAT TO REPORT ON THE CONFIDENTIAL SELF-REPORT – TO BE AVAILABLE ON WSU HOMEPAGE
FORM FITTING MASKS
MaskUp
Spread Out
Get Vaccinated

Help #StopTheSpread of COVID-19
WSU HEALTH & WELLNESS SERVICES
COVID-19 INFORMATION!


Follow us on Social Media @WSUHealth

Blogs.winona.edu/wellness
6 Tips for a Safe & Healthy Return to Campus
WSU’S HEALTH & WELLNESS SERVICES IS HERE FOR OUR STUDENTS

Any health questions, guidance call Ask-A-Nurse 507-457-2292

Report contact, symptoms, positive results, and/vaccine status on the Self-Report on WSU’s homepage

Telehealth options as well as in-person clinic options available for your healthcare needs. Call 507-457-5160 for an appointment.
What changed that caused masks to be required again?

The Delta variant has caused an increase in cases of COVID-19 across the country, and we're doing everything we can to prevent a spike on our campus. We also don't have a clear picture of the percentage of our students that are vaccinated (to help with that, self-report here). What we do know is that only 29% of 18-24 year olds in Winona County are currently fully vaccinated. In comparison, the minimum starting point would ideally be a 70% vaccination rate.
What are the precautions WSU will take next semester as the Delta variant cases are increasing. Will masks be required again and social distancing?

Effective Wednesday, Aug. 4, all students, faculty and staff, and visitors are required to use a face covering to cover both the nose and mouth in all public indoor spaces on University campuses and properties in both Winona and Rochester. This guidance applies to all individuals, regardless of vaccination status.

In addition, we continue to encourage vaccination, physical distancing, hand washing, and self reporting to help all Warriors work toward a safe and successful fall semester.
Why are masks mandated and not recommended?

Recent CDC guidance requires the use of face coverings in indoor public areas, even for vaccinated individuals, when there are “substantial” or “high” levels of transmission in the county.
I’m already vaccinated. Why should I have to wear a mask?

The Delta variant is as contagious as chicken pox and is 55% more transmissible than the original COVID-19 strain, according to the CDC. Although breakthrough cases are possible (where a vaccinated person tests positive for COVID), it’s much more likely for a vaccinated person to have lessened symptoms or be asymptomatic and unknowingly pass the virus to another because of the high transmission rate of the Delta variant.
Why get vaccinated at this point?

The current vaccines still cover the mutated Delta strain of COVID-19, so there three main benefits to getting the vaccine: 1) The vaccine will help to prevent you from contracting the virus. 2) If you do contract it, the vaccine will reduce your risk of becoming severely ill, hospitalized, and it can prevent death from the virus. 3) Getting vaccinated as a whole community allows us to fight against future variants of the virus – ones that might not be covered by the current vaccines.
Will there ever be separate guidelines for vaccinated vs non vaccinated?

Currently there are separate guidelines if a vaccinated person is exposed to a positive case. They will merely need to wear a mask and get tested 3-5 days after exposure. **THEY DO NOT NEED TO QUARANTINE!!**

As further guidelines are developed, we will continue to monitor and share updates going forward.
When will this guidance be reviewed again?

After the first weeks of the semester, we’ll have better insight into local transmission rates and hope to have better insight into campus vaccination rates (self report here: wsu.mn/covid-report). This will put us in a better position to determine next steps for our community. Until then, the situation will be monitored and reevaluated actively by university leadership. Check your university email as well as the COVID Alerts homepage for up-to-date information.
What are the expectations for working with families in small spaces/offices? Is there still a distancing guideline? In open work areas, it cannot be left up to the individual to make that decision as it affects everyone using that space.

Physical distancing guidelines: whenever possible – it is highly encouraged that physical distancing is occurring whenever possible. If it’s feasible to move to a different space where you would be more spread out or even in an outside space, consider that for increased physical distancing guidelines.
Winona County is only about 50% vaccinated. Do we know what the rate of vaccination is among our students? The legal consensus is that we CAN require the COVID vaccine even though it has only been approved for emergency use at this time. Why are we choosing not to?

We do not currently know the vaccination rate amongst students and employees. Although many have self reported, we do not have the percentage of the full population has chosen to self-report. Minnesota State is planning to pull aggregate data from the state of MN’s immunization records system which will give us a better idea of where our campus is at in terms of vaccine. It is still very helpful for us to have individuals confidentially self report – do so here: wsu.mn/covid-report

As a part of the Minnesota State system, we need to follow directions of Minnesota State on requiring/not requiring the vaccine.
The delta variant is highly contagious at 40-60% more transmissible than the alpha with viral loads 1,000x higher. Why is the mask mandate only effective through the first several weeks of fall semester? Models are predicting that Delta-variant cases will continue to rise through summer and fall, peaking in mid-October. Even as cases begin to decline, don’t we still have a responsibility to keep our community safe, including those who cannot access vaccines yet? (Children under 12 aren’t expected to access vaccines until winter.)

As in the past, we are monitoring the overall infection rates closely, and we will react accordingly.

Any mitigation strategies put in place, including the mask mandate are intended to keep both the campus and Winona community safe. As we have seen throughout the Covid pandemic, things are always changing as we learn more. We will continue to reevaluate what is best for our community based on the most current information.
Are students being quarantined as they were last year if testing positive?

If students test positive, they will be instructed to isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms or the date of their test. If they are in on campus housing, they will be isolated at Tau as they were last year. If they are in off campus housing, they will be given instructions on how to isolate in their current housing arrangements.
Will COVID tests be readily available for students, staff and faculty?

COVID testing will be available for student through Student Health Services. There will be daily testing at the Health Services Covid Nook across from McGown Gym as well as in Health Services Clinic. Staff and faculty can access testing at Winona Health, Gundersen, Hy-Vee, and Vault Health
Will vaccines be readily available for students, staff and faculty?

COVID vaccines will be available for student, staff, and faculty through Student Health Services. There will be daily vaccine at the Health Services Covid Nook across from McGown Gym as well as in Health Services Clinic. Students, Staff and faculty can also access vaccine at Winona Health, Gundersen, Winona County Public Health, and any local pharmacy.
What mitigating factors have been instituted across campus to help with indoor airflow and ventilation – particularly in areas with heavy in-person traffic such as the Warrior Hub where alternate ventilation (such as opening windows) is not possible? Why does plexiglass and face fields continue to be recommended when we know they do little to prevent airborne illness?

Campus ventilation systems have been serviced and maintained to operate per design intent. Where possible, system run times have been extended to provide additional daily air exchanges.

Plexiglass and face shields can provide additional protection, such as reinforcing social distance. But, they do not replace the use of vaccination and face masks as the primary means of protection against virus transmission.
Are there any plans ongoing in case we have to pivot to 3 or 6 feet apart OR totally online?

WSU will follow guidance from Minnesota State and MDH as it becomes available. We will draw from our recent experience to make these changes if required.
Academic Affairs

Dr. Darrell Newton
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
In Person Instruction COVID Toolkit

• FAQ
• Guides
• Sample Syllabus Language
• Checklists

https://learn.winona.edu/wiki/In-person_COVID_Toolkit
# Guides

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taking Precautions During Class Meetings</td>
<td>Maintaining social distance and engaging in preventative public health measures during class time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching and Face Coverings</td>
<td>Using face coverings during in-person class meetings and voice amplification.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holding Class Meetings Outdoors</td>
<td>Reserving and using outdoor spaces for teaching in-person class sessions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Students in Isolation or Quarantine</td>
<td>Supporting students in isolation or quarantine who cannot attend in-person class meetings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing Your Own Isolation or Quarantine</td>
<td>Handling the instructor's absence from in-person class meetings due to isolation or quarantine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interacting with Students Outside of Class Time</td>
<td>Setting expectations for in-person meetings outside of class time.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We have provided optional and editable syllabus statements to provide a starting point for faculty who wish to use them.

**Sample syllabus statements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Expectations</td>
<td>General statements about accommodation, flexibility, face coverings, and physical distancing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unscheduled Absences</td>
<td>Statements about accommodating students who miss class meeting for COVID-related reasons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Face Covering</td>
<td>Statements about face coverings for students and instructor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside Interactions</td>
<td>Statements about managing interactions outside class time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulnerable Students</td>
<td>Instructions for vulnerable students needing additional safeguards.</td>
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## Checklists

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Readiness Checklist</td>
<td>Have you accomplished all of your COVID-related course preparation tasks?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Readiness Checklist</td>
<td>Have you prepared your students for the COVID-related changes to your course?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We will have 2 tents.
• One tent will hold 60+ seats.
• One tent will hold 40+ seats.

Will be reservable in EMS,
Contact Tania Schmidt
Social Distancing in Instruction

• In environments where students, staff, and faculty will have designated areas to sit or be stationed, institutions are encouraged to maintain an environment where some extra spacing between people can be maintained, especially prior to and for the first couple of weeks of bringing the campus fully together.
  • As an example, institutions could consider 3 feet social distancing in classrooms, or 6 feet social distancing in gyms.
If we have students refusing to wear masks, will we be required to offer both online and in person instruction for each class?

A student’s refusal to wear a mask should not automatically require an instructor to create an online version of the class. A syllabi statements about the face covering guidelines should be addressed on the first day of class. If a student doesn’t like the policy, they would then have time to drop the course.
Are we going back to distance learning? Is in-person learning still a possibility?

With the current level of cases in Winona County, we are proceeding with course delivery methods as planned for Fall Semester—meaning, in general, if you registered for an in-person course, it will be in-person, and if you registered for an online course, it will be online.
I will be teaching in person this fall. I have three children who are in elementary school. What is the process or policy to follow in the circumstance that one of my children's classrooms is closed due to covid exposure, necessitating them to switch to remote learning and remaining at home. Will I be able to transition to online teaching during this time if necessary?

That should be arranged with your Dean to make certain that the appropriate support is provided. Further, your students and Dean should be made aware of the possible “pivot.”
With the recent increased number of positive COVID-19 cases. Are WSU and its staff prepared for distance learning? Students should have the opportunity to minimize risk and reduce physical interactions. Staff and faculty should also have the option of teaching remotely.

Again, I would suggest that your Dean is made aware of your concerns in the event of a possible “pivot.”
Why did WSU lift all covid precautions on campus last spring? It now appears that WSU's return to in-person work was premature. How does WSU plan to rebuild the trust lost over the last few months? How do employees and students ensure we won't be put in a position to feel as though we need to choose between employment and our own family’s safety? WSU was so careful and transparent early on. Why did this change?

I don’t know that many members of our academic community understand how actively faculty petitioned to return to face-to-face. Despite the possible dangers, many faculty and students made it more than clear that they longed to return to a traditional learning platform. Therefore, the lifting of COVID precautions on campus last spring was not done all at once, but gradually in an attempt to address concerns of contagion yet provide a more hopeful fall semester. As for a loss of trust, that is far more complex to address. I would like to believe that members of the WSU and WSUR communities understand our commitment to the campus, students, faculty and staff.
Student Life and Development

Dr. Denise McDowell
Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Life
All-University COVID Forum
Student Life and Development Update
August 11, 2021

Presented by:
Dr. Denise McDowell
VP Enrollment Management and Student Life

Meaningful Connections For All Students
Meaningful Connections Across The Campus

• **Admissions Office Team** and student ambassadors have worked restlessly to recruit the Fall cohort. They could not have done it without a little help from their friends in MarCom.

• **Warrior Success Center** and their partners across the campus made Registration through Zoom for current and new students a meaningful experience. In addition to planning and executing 12 In-person Fall Prep Days.

• **Warrior Hub** personnel creating a “you belong here” energy with every answered phone, email response and text sent.

• **Residence Life and Housing and Health Services** are inseparable partners helping to keep the campus healthy and safe.

• **Kryzsko Commons** remodel designed to expand the student experience. Prepared to say “Wow”.

• **TRIO and the Office of Inclusive Excellence** continue to lift students with services and opportunities that push them closer to realizing their dreams.

• **All SLD Personnel and departments** across the campus continue to partner with colleagues to do amazing work despite the inconveniences.

• **All students, faculty, staff and administrators** of the WSU Winona and Rochester campuses who are committed to the health and safety of our community...

• **THANK YOU** for your authentic and agile thinking. A rainbow follows a storm.
Layer Prevention Measures
### Sanctions for Noncompliance

If you know a member of the WSU community who is not complying with campus COVID-19 guidelines, you can submit a [Non-Compliance Report](#).

**For Consultation contact:**
Director of Student Conduct and Citizenship or Office of the Dean of Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violations 8/24/20 – 5/3/21</th>
<th>Warning First Violation Letter</th>
<th>Conduct Second Violation</th>
<th>Conduct Third Violation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Distancing-On Campus</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Face Covering-Off Campus</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Housing & Residence Life Update

• 1642 students living in University Housing includes new and returning students

• East Lake Apartments and Main Campus Residence Halls are full 2/3 single occupancy

• Room changes are still being processed as space becomes available

• All students in housing will be notified soon that the room change request link will open early this year

• Move-In Appointments for Fall 2021 will be August 14-19 for new students – Orientation begins August 20

• Thursday, August 19 Vaccinations will be available near the Sheehan Hall VB court to anyone on campus

• For more information, please visit the Housing & Residence Life webpage.
Fitness Center

*IWC posted hours are:*
- Monday – Friday 10am-8 pm
- Saturday – 10 am-6 pm
- Sunday – Noon-8 pm

*The current hours subject to change as MDH recommendations adjust.*

**Gentle Reminder:**
- Mask are required in the facility
- Social distance of at least 6 feet
- Clean equipment surfaces after use
- Restricted availability for scheduled events

*To slow the spread do not use the facility if you are sick or if you had close contact with COVID-19 or tested COVID positive.*
Mental Well-Being

Visit the WSU Counseling and Wellness Resource page: https://www.winona.edu/counselingservices/resources.asp

https://www.winona.edu/counselingservices/

Schedule an appointment: counselingservices@winona.edu
We Are Here For You... In-person, Online and Hybrid

SLD Personnel are ready to guide you to the appropriate resources

Let us know what best meets your needs and we will do our best to meet and exceed your expectations
Slow Thaw

- August 13 – Fall Prep Day
- August 18 – Registration Continues
- August 14-19 – Move In Day
- August 19 – Vaccine Clinic Sheehan Hall near Volleyball Court
- August 20 – Welcome Orientation Begins
- August 23 – Fall Classes Begin
- August – September – Campus Engagement
- September 2 – Warrior Game Day Experience
- September 17-19 – Family Weekend
- September 28 – Ted Talk Tuesday
What are the rules regarding masks will be for in our dorm rooms and the dorm buildings?

Masks will be required in all indoor public spaces (i.e. lobbies, hallways, common areas, etc) but not in your individual room.
What kind of disciplinary actions will take place if masks are refused?

If a student does not follow the stated WSU Face Covering guidelines, their behavior would be addressed using the Student Conduct Code and include possible sanctions. As needed consult with the Director of Student Conduct and Citizenship or the Office of the Dean of Students. You can find out more information about sanctions under Article III of the Student Conduct Code: https://www.winona.edu/sld/studentconductcode.asp
What does this mean for clubs?

There are no specific changes impacting student clubs, aside from the updated requirement of face coverings and the continued recommendation to practice physical distancing. WSU’s Count on Me campaign outlines all current campus guidelines. Clubs will still need to register their events/activities for approval on WarriorSpace, as usual.
Can the IWC open at 8am instead of 10am? My only time to workout is before classes and I’m paying for that service. I don’t understand why the hours will only be 10am-6pm? These are the main hours of class and therefore not accessible to students.

IWC posted hours: Monday – Friday 10 am – 8 pm; Saturday 10 am – 6pm; Sunday Noon – 8 pm

The current hours subject to change as health authorities’ recommendations adjust.

*Mask are required, social distancing of at least 6 ft, clean equipment surfaces after use, restricted availability for scheduled events.
What are you doing about the negative impacts on student mental health?

The entire situation impacts employee and student mental health. Identifying ways, we can support each other and intervene is key to being a part of a compassionate community. WSU is forming a Task Force for Employee and Student Wellness and Mental Health.

The Counseling and Wellness Services is available to address mental health concerns. Students can schedule an appointment with a mental health professional send email to: counselingservices@winona.edu. In addition, visit the WSU Counseling and Wellness Resource page https://www.winona.edu/counseling-services/resources.asp
If everyone is to wear masks in all university buildings (and assumedly in all classes), how should we handle student, faculty and staff that refuse to wear a mask, immunized or not?

In most cases a gentle reminder of the mask requirement creates compliance. Ask if the face covering was forgotten and offer a mask for convenience.

If the observation is frequent complete the Face Covering and Social Distancing Non-Compliance Reporting Form. The form can be located by putting Student Conduct and Citizenship in the search bar on the WSU homepage.
WSU Employees

Lori Reed
Director of Human Resources
Governor’s executive orders, as well as the mask mandate, ended

Began the slow roll of employees back to our campuses to focus on restoring our operations to what our students need and expect to be successful in pursuit of their educational goals

Warriors Together Toolkit
Warriors Together Toolkit

- Recap of campus health and safety measures
- Information to assist supervisors and employees prepare for reopening offices
- Introduced alternative work arrangements
  - Compressed work week
  - Hybrid telework
Workforce Strategy

• We will monitor and evaluate lessons learned during FY21 and FY22 to assist in workforce strategy discussions, planning, and implementation.
Please address the fact that many people cannot access the vaccine (immunocompromised, children under 12). In-person work is affecting employee morale for those who live with people in this category. What are we doing to keep these populations safe? What are we doing to make sure our in-person working parents are able to keep their children under 12 safe? What is the plan if/when schools/daycares close down again as infection rates rise or there is an outbreak?

In the absence of a statewide mandate, each employer, daycare and school is implementing their own mitigation measures to increase safety in their environments. The University will continue to follow the guidance of MDH and CDC, along with the Governor, State of Minnesota and Minnesota State, for mitigating measures, including the current mask mandate. It is the responsibility of each of us and our families, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, to remain current and adhere to MDH and CDC guidelines that are in place throughout the community and at WSU. Please contact your supervisor to discuss available mitigation measures and/or personal protective equipment while on campus.
What is considered a “public indoor space”? There are several people in my office who do not mask when walking around the office and interacting with other unmasked staff. It needs to be clear where masks are expected to be worn.

Campus guidelines for face coverings are outlined on WSU’s COVID Response website: winona.edu/COVID. If you observe that masks are not being worn as required in the guidelines, please address concerns with your supervisor or the Human Resources team.
The WSU Children's Center has just had a positive COVID case in its now mixed preK room (used to be 3 separate classrooms until recently) and the center is now closed for 2 weeks until the first day of classes, Aug. 23. What are parents supposed to do who are not able to find alternate childcare arrangements? This certainly will not be the last time there is a positive case.

With the ending of the Governor’s peacetime emergency and covid paid leave earlier this summer, employees who may need to be home in adherence with MDH and CDC guidelines for their children or themselves may request paid leave. On a situational basis, an employee may request to telework and do so following supervisor approval.
The level of risk for COVID and COVID complications is different for everyone. Is WSU going to (once again) allow a more flexible remote work policy for those who don’t feel safe doing in-person work, are at higher risk of COVID complications but don’t meet ADA requirements, or for those in isolation or displaying COVID symptoms? Many of us are doing in-person work that can just as easily be done remotely, making in-person work safer for those who need to be there. If not, it creates an environment where people may come to work when ill due to heavy workloads and critical deadlines.

Ad hoc telework under the Governor’s executive order ended July 1, 2021. Employees may discuss alternative work arrangement opportunities available at WSU with their supervisor, along with available COVID mitigations for on-campus work. Employees may also request paid leave.

Each of us has the responsibility to safeguard our community by monitoring our health and staying home if feeling sick. Employees who are ill should utilize paid sick leave.

As we have seen throughout the pandemic, things continue to change. We will continue to reevaluate what is best for our campus based upon the most current information.
If we do come into contact with someone who has COVID, what is the procedure for working on the campus? Do we come in? Do we get tested and share? If we do get sick with COVID and have to quarantine BUT are able to work from home, can we?

Current health guidance for exposure for those who are vaccinated would be to get tested 3-5 days after exposure and wear a mask, NO QUARANTINE NEEDED. If test result comes back positive, will need to isolate for 10 days. If unvaccinated, also need to wear a mask, test 3-5 days after exposure and will need to quarantine for 10-14 days. If test is positive, isolate for 10 days.

WSU employees can contact WSU’s Ask-a-Nurse to receive the most up-to-date CDC and MDH guidance regarding testing, quarantine and isolation. Additionally, WSU employees may contact Human Resources with leave or guidance questions.

Employees may voluntarily self-report through the University self-report feature posted on the university website. Information entered will be reported to WSU’s Ask-a-Nurse. WSU employees who are sick should utilize paid sick leave.
What if a student, staff or faculty has underlying health conditions and is concerned about coming on the campus – how will that be addressed?

WSU employee should contact Human Resources.

Students should contact the Director of Health Services for guidance.
COVID Communications

Jon Olson
Vice President for University Advancement
Ever-Changing Guidance
Masks Required Indoors
Masks Respect
Vaccination is Key
Taskforce meets each week to determine best route forward
Cabinet acts on recommendations from campus