



## Spring 2022 COVID-19 Plan

### University Objectives for COVID-19 Response

- Protect the health, safety, and well-being of our students, faculty, staff, and community.
- Ensure delivery of high-quality coursework/programs that lead to high-quality degrees.
- Sustain our core superstructure and infrastructure.

To effectively meet the stated objectives, Florida Gulf Coast University is following applicable federal and state executive orders and closely consulting guidelines issued by federal, state, county, and local entities.

### A Healthy Campus Environment

FGCU will seek to mitigate risk for the campus and community through:

- Continued encouragement to become fully vaccinated when medically feasible and to obtain CDC-recommended and FDA-approved booster shots when advised by medical practitioners.
- Infection prevention and control strategies guided by the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) and/or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- Continued awareness of personal responsibility for hand hygiene, sanitization, and health practices.
- Continued daily health screening and surveillance capabilities.
- A sound infection prevention and control strategy.

### A Healthy Community Environment

Continue to engage campus-based and visiting community partners to encourage and mutually support healthy habits, processes, and choices. Includes entities engaged with service learning, career services, athletics, internships, practicums, clinicals, and other community partnerships.

### Masking

Face coverings may still be required in campus healthcare settings. Follow the posted guidelines about face masks when visiting Student Health Services, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and the Community Counseling Center.

If FGCU and/or Lee County exhibit COVID-19 positivity rates greater than 10%, as reported by the [Florida Department of Health](#), the university will strongly encourage masks to be worn at all times while indoors.

### Vaccinations

Florida Gulf Coast University is not neutral on vaccination. Everyone who is medically able should take steps to become fully vaccinated and are strongly encouraged to obtain CDC-recommended and FDA-approved booster shots as advised by medical practitioners.

Vaccinations continue to be the single most effective tool to combat the spread and damaging health effects of COVID-19. Vaccines are widely available in the community without cost, and individuals are encouraged to take responsibility for personal health decisions by utilizing these resources.

Student Health Services will continue to offer COVID-19 vaccines to students based on supply availability and demand from students.

Vaccination clinics may be coordinated with the FDOH or other vaccination providers.

### **COVID-19 Virus Testing**

FGCU's COVID-19 testing protocol will be based on test availability, processing capacity, and current FDOH, CDC and other scientific guidance.

- Symptomatic testing will continue for students provided by Student Health Services.
- Asymptomatic polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing will be offered to students and employees at the beginning of the spring semester from January 3rd to 14th. Additional asymptomatic testing may be available at designated times and locations based on campus and/or community COVID-19 transmission rate levels.
- PCR testing will be conducted as needed for students and employees in specific areas or for groups showing a potential for high COVID-19 transmission rates based on the case investigation process.
- PCR test results will be monitored related to:
  - CDC-recommended activities, such as:
    - FGCU-sponsored international travel.
    - Fully vaccinated individuals within three to five days of coming in close contact with a COVID-19-positive person.
- State insurance plans cover 100% of COVID-19 testing costs for employees when testing is medically necessary. Members may or may not be symptomatic, but they must have a medical reason for the test, such as COVID-19-like symptoms or exposure to the coronavirus.

### **Contact Tracing and Surveillance**

- FGCU will continue to work closely with the Florida Department of Health (FDOH), regarding campus risk assessment and contact tracing. According to Florida Statute, the FDOH retains authority for contact tracing.
- Continuation of the Veoci app health screener provides students, faculty, and staff a convenient way to report COVID-19 symptoms, close contacts, and test results. All students and employees will be urged to complete the Veoci app health screener each day prior to coming to campus if they have tested positive for COVID-19, when they are symptomatic, or when they have come in close contact with a COVID-19-positive person.
- The Case Management Team and Student Health Services will continue to provide guidance on risk assessment activities, COVID-19 testing, medical care, and quarantine and isolation procedures.
- The Case Management Team and FGCU Emergency Management will continue to regularly monitor the status of the campus health environment using defined metrics, enabling campus leaders and the FDOH to quickly respond to noted increases in cases.
- On FGCU's campus, when specific geographic areas (ex: residence halls and office areas) or groups of people (ex: classes, RSOs, event attendees) show positivity rates of 3% or higher, the

university will perform additional analysis of metrics and COVID-19 cases to determine if additional mitigation and protection measures will be activated.

- The FGCU COVID-19 hotline will continue to be staffed with FGCU-contracted case investigators seven days a week to assist individuals with COVID-19 questions, Veoci app health screener technical questions, and reporting of COVID-19-positive cases, close contacts or symptoms. The FGCU COVID-19 Hotline is 239-590-1206.

### Quarantine and Isolation

- Quarantine and isolation remain one of the primary response tools to contain the spread of COVID-19 on campus. Through the contact-tracing process and information provided through the Veoci app health screener, students and employees will be advised to follow current CDC and/or FDOH guidelines. In general:
  - Isolation for COVID-19-positive individuals will be ten days after symptom onset or a positive test result.
  - Quarantine for those with close contact, or who are symptomatic, will be ten days. A negative PCR test result during days five to seven may allow for release on day seven. Quarantine is not required for those that are fully vaccinated or have recovered from COVID-19 in the past 90 days.
  - Quarantine and isolation times may be extended based on the specific circumstances of a case, including ongoing symptoms and vaccination status.
- Those who develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 may be advised to self-isolate and be tested for the coronavirus.
- FGCU will have limited isolation space for COVID-19-positive individuals living in FGCU residence halls. Quarantine and isolation spaces are not available for non-resident students. **Students and parents are expected to determine a plan for quarantine or isolation in advance of coming to campus.** Personal preparation is strongly encouraged well in advance of a possible infection.
- **Overflow isolation locations may be available but cannot be guaranteed.**
- Quarantine and Isolation assignments for resident students are determined jointly by Student Health Services and the Office of Housing and Residence Life based on bed availability and the specific circumstances of each case. Students may request additional support if needed for academic technology items, academic assistance, mental health services, transportation to the isolation location, and food provisions.

### Flu clinics and other related items

- Flu clinics sponsored by Student Health Services and providers, such as Publix, will continue.
- Student Health Services will continue to offer both flu and strep testing when students present signs and symptoms similar to COVID-19 to help reduce the spread of these illnesses on campus.

### Academic Program Delivery

Spring 2022 will see a normal distribution of online and in-person teaching modalities. To maintain course continuity and academic integrity, each course instructor will identify alternate methods of instruction should a class disruption due to COVID-19 suspend class operations in the short or long term.

- Short term – Alternate modality or course modification for two weeks or less. Short-term changes would likely follow pre-COVID-19 adaptations to a course in the event of unexpected circumstances. Examples: A faculty member is quarantined or isolated and cannot attend class in person during this time. A single course has a high positivity rate and must suspend in-person meetings until surveillance testing is completed.

- Intermediate term – Alternate modality for two weeks to four weeks. Examples: A high rate of positive cases in a college or on campus requires a temporary suspension of a portion of face-to-face classes, or a suspension of all classes, for a period of a few weeks.
- Long term – Alternate modality for more than four weeks. Examples: An Executive Order or decision by the Board of Governors transitions the campus to remote instruction.

Training and course support for remote and online modalities are available to faculty through the Lucas Center as well as the Office of Digital Learning.

### **Campus Communication and Messaging**

FGCU will provide accurate and timely communications on decisions and actions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Messages will be sent via the [FGCUUpdate@fgcu.edu](mailto:FGCUUpdate@fgcu.edu) email address, shared on branded social media accounts for the university, posted to FGCU’s Protect The Nest website, [www.fgcu.edu/coronaupdate](http://www.fgcu.edu/coronaupdate), and appear in university-branded publications. The Marketing and Communications department continues to be available for the creation of new, branded signage relative to current messaging and communication needs of the pandemic.

### **Travel**

International Travel:

- The university is committed to the health, safety, and security of all members of its community who travel outside the United States of America. All student and employee international travel will comply with FGCU Policy [International Travel 2.020](#), and must be critical to the mission of the university.
- International travelers will work with the Global Engagement Office and FGCU Export Control to assure compliance with all U.S. and destination requirements related to COVID-19 vaccinations, testing, quarantine, and isolation. More information can be found at <https://www.fgcu.edu/academics/internationalservices/>
- International travelers will abide by CDC, Florida Department of Health, U.S. Department of State and other applicable authorities.

**The above plans for Spring 2022 may be altered as needed based on information available regarding variants, community resources to combat COVID-19, and campus considerations.**

Approved by the President’s Cabinet November 9, 2021.