

## **Summer 2020 Health Guidance for New and Returning Pre-Clinical Feinberg Students**

We look forward to welcoming back our second-year students in late July and our incoming first-year students in early August.

### **Background:**

COVID-19 is present in the US and there is ongoing transmission in the community in all 50 states. Infections among staff and physicians at our affiliated hospitals and clinics has been uncommon since the implementation of rigorous infection control policies including mandatory universal masking. However, despite best efforts, no environment is completely free from risk of infection.

All students should review and follow the health precautions recommended on our website. <https://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/sites/covid-19/>. These include following mandatory campus-wide policies such as universal masking, not coming to campus if sick and frequent hand hygiene. Northwestern University believes that all members of the community are accountable for their individual behaviors and that all of us must work together to safeguard our own health and the health of those around us.

### **Before You Return to Campus:**

There is still much unknown about individuals who are asymptomatic but infected with SARS-CoV-2. Northwestern University therefore **strongly encourages** students to voluntarily self-isolate for 14 days prior to first arrival to campus due to known high prevalence of asymptomatic COVID-19 infections in individuals between the ages of 20-30.

Self-isolation for 14 days is mandatory for all persons arriving to the City of Chicago from high prevalence states as determined by the City. Additional details are available and should be checked prior to classes beginning and before any planned personal travel out of Illinois. <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid-19/home/emergency-travel-order.html>. Feinberg students arriving from high prevalence states must follow this city-issued requirement for 14-day quarantine.

Please be aware of current **CDC requirements** for quarantine following international travel. If you are arriving from abroad, you should plan to allow for this additional time prior to the start of classes.

### **Testing:**

Testing of asymptomatic health care providers (including students) is not currently recommended. Therefore, Feinberg is not requiring students undergo testing for SARS-CoV-2 prior to arrival on campus. Feinberg does encourage a voluntary 14 day quarantine as recommended by Northwestern University and described above.

Students with symptoms possibly consistent with COVID-19 should not come to campus and call NU Student Health [NU Health Service-Chicago](#) at 312-695-8134 or the COVID hotline at 312-472-6843 for additional information.

### **Daily Symptom Monitoring Requirement**

Northwestern University requires all students, faculty and staff to monitor themselves for symptoms of COVID-19 daily prior to arriving on campus. More information will follow regarding this requirement as it becomes available.

### **Masks, Social Distancing and Handwashing**

Infectious disease and public health experts state that the most important ways to reduce the likelihood that you contract or spread COVID-19 is to wear **face masks**, practice **social distancing** and frequently **wash your hands**.

Northwestern University guidelines require all students, staff and faculty to follow these simple precautions. As members of the medical profession, we must hold ourselves and those around us accountable to these best practices and should commit to being a model for these behaviors.

Faculty and students are required to wear masks while on campus at all times. Masks are available at self-service kiosks at campus building entrances.

### **Reporting and Contact Tracing**

Students must **report any positive COVID-19 diagnosis** and participate in University or clinical affiliate contact tracing efforts.

### **Quarantine and Isolation**

A student testing positive for COVID-19 must self-isolate.

Students identified via contact tracing may be asked to quarantine until the recommended CDC clearance timeframe has been met.

### **What you will notice on campus:**

- Classroom, administrative and other spaces are being redesigned to apply physical distancing requirements.
- Buildings have signage outlining appropriate transit patterns and maximum occupancy. Elevators, classrooms and other areas have signs indicating maximum capacity.
- Some seating areas have been closed.
- Congregating in hallways, building entrances or near classroom entrances is not allowed.
- Cleaning protocols have been enhanced.
- Self-hygiene stations with masks and hand sanitizer have been strategically placed on campus near building entrances.

- The simulation center has been in operation continuously since the pandemic began and has well-developed protocols for social distancing, frequent cleaning and lower occupancy levels.

### **Off campus activities**

Participation in large social gatherings (such as parties) especially when they occur indoors (bars, restaurants) is strongly discouraged. When participating in outdoor activities we recommend that you wear a mask especially if social distancing cannot be maintained.

We will continue to send updates on our campus protocols as they evolve.