

South Texas College

COVID-19 Campus Safety Protocols

As the College continues its operations, the health and safety of our employees, students, and visitors remains paramount. As Jaguars, we all have a role in protecting the health and safety of our colleagues, peers, and the college community. In accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease and Control, state/county orders, and public health agencies, the college developed and incorporated resources and safety protocols to be practiced while on campus. The college will continue to assess our operations and the needs of our employees, students, and visitors in the coming weeks. The following Safety Protocols are to be adhered to collectively. Due to the fluidity of the virus, safety protocols are subject to change in response to minimizing the spread of the virus.

Face Mask

- Everyone is highly encouraged to wear a face mask over the nose and mouth while in indoor public areas such as classrooms, lobbies, computer labs, hallways, common areas, library, etc.
- Shuttle bus passengers will not be allowed to ride the bus without a mask. Face masks are still required on public transportation as part of a Federal Mandate based on Presidential Executive Order 13998. This mask requirement is also being enforced by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). This Federal Mandate supersedes any state mandates. For questions, please call the South Texas College Department of Public Safety at (956) 872-4444.

Social Distancing

- Use best efforts to maintain social distancing.

Hygiene

- Wash hands often for 20 seconds.
- Use an alcohol-based hand rub that contains 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow and do not spit.
- Throw used tissues in the trash.

Disinfecting Practices

- The College continues to follow cleaning and disinfecting recommendations, including daily routine cleaning of high-touch surfaces and shared objects.
- If there has been an individual who tested positive for COVID-19, the College immediately cleans and disinfects the space.

Daily Self-Screen

- On a daily basis, prior to arriving on campus, employees and students must self-screen themselves for new or worsening symptoms related to COVID-19.
 - Follow the same reporting procedure below if you are already on campus and began to feel sick or develop COVID-19 symptoms.
- Stay home if you are sick and seek medical care as needed.
- List of COVID-19 symptoms. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

Reporting Procedures for Employees and Students

If you have tested positive or been diagnosed with COVID-19:

- Do not come to campus. If already on campus, go home immediately.
- Seek medical care, as needed.
- Employees shall notify Human Resources Benefits staff and their supervisor and complete the following form [Employee Communicable Disease Reporting Form](#)
 - Depending on the circumstances, an employee may continue to work remotely if approved by the supervisor.
- Students shall notify Counseling and Student Accessibility Services and their instructor and complete the following form [Student Communicable Disease Reporting Form](#)
 - Depending on the circumstances, a student may continue with the course if approved by the instructor.
- Faculty or staff who have been informed by a student, an employee, or another person of positive diagnosis of COVID-19 will notify the Office of Human Resources immediately. The Office of Human Resources will then notify the appropriate departments.
- You may return to campus after:
 - 10 days since symptoms first appear, and 24 hours without a fever (without using any fever-reducing medications), and other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving (if you had symptoms).
 - 10 days have passed since the date you had your positive test (if you had no symptoms).

If you exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status:

- Do not come to campus. If already on campus, go home immediately.
- Seek medical care, as needed.
- Employees shall notify Human Resources Benefits staff and their supervisor and complete the following form [Employee Communicable Disease Reporting Form](#)
 - Depending on the circumstances, an employee may continue to work remotely if approved by the supervisor.
- Students shall notify Counseling and Student Accessibility Services and their instructor and complete the following form [Student Communicable Disease Reporting Form](#)
 - Depending on the circumstances, a student may continue with the course if approved by the instructor.

- Faculty or staff who have been informed by student, an employee, or another person of exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms will notify the Office of Human Resources immediately. The Office of Human Resources will then notify the appropriate departments.
- You may return to campus after:
 - 10 days since symptoms first appear, and 24 hours without a fever (without using any fever-reducing medications), and other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving, or
 - A negative test result, or
 - Provide a medical note clearing you to return due to a medical diagnosis unrelated to COVID-19.

If you have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 (excluding if you are fully vaccinated¹ or have had COVID-19 within the past three months):

- Do not come to campus. If already on campus, go home immediately.
- Seek medical care, as needed.
- Employees shall notify Human Resources Benefits staff and their supervisor and complete the following form [Employee Communicable Disease Reporting Form](#)
 - Depending on the circumstances, an employee may continue to work remotely if approved by the supervisor.
- Students shall notify Counseling and Student Accessibility Services and their instructor and complete the following form [Student Communicable Disease Reporting Form](#)
 - Depending on the circumstances, a student may continue with the course if approved by the instructor.
- Faculty or staff who have been informed by student, an employee, or another person of close contact with someone who has COVID-19 will notify the Office of Human Resources immediately. The Office of Human Resources will then notify the appropriate departments.
- You may return to campus:
 - After day 10 without testing, or
 - After day 7 after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later of close contact), or
 - Provide a medical note clearing you to return due to a medical diagnosis unrelated to COVID-19.
- It is recommended that fully vaccinated people who have come into close contact with someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 to be tested 5-7 days after exposure, and to wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.

¹*People are considered fully vaccinated:*

- *2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or*
- *2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine*