



Louisiana Board of Regents Higher Education Reopening Safely

Frequently Asked Questions

As of October 23, 2020

- 1. Is there information regarding the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine, and how long the vaccine will be effective?**

According to the Louisiana Department of Health, we do not have this information at this time. This will be determined as they continue to develop this vaccine.

- 2. Will the vaccine be provided to international students?**

Everyone in the United States will have access to the vaccine once available to all, per the Louisiana Department of Health,. It will not be restricted by nationality.

- 3. Has 90 days of COVID-19 immunity, of those who have been infected, been confirmed?**

According to the Louisiana Department of Health, this is the best going belief at the moment based on available data, but the understanding is this will continue to evolve as more studies are completed in this area. CDC currently says if an individual has a confirmed infection, and they do not get subsequent symptoms, they do not need to be tested for any reason for 90 days following.

- 4. Are the PCR testing kits for wastewater the same test kits as the testing for nasal/sab testing?**

According to Dr. Pardue at Louisiana State University, the wastewater testing kits are not the same part of the PCR test, it is a quantitative PCR test so it gives the number of copies of the virus not just plus (you gave it) or minus (you don't).

- 5. Where can I find more information regarding flu shots?**

Go to <https://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/newsroom/detail/5833> for more information regarding flu shots.

- 6. In Phase 3 is indoor live entertainment permitted?**

Indoor live entertainment, which includes but is not limited to singing, windblown instruments, and karaoke is not allowed during Phase 3. String and percussion instruments without singing and with social distancing between band members and the audience is permitted.

7. How many students are allowed in library study rooms?

No more than 15 students per study room. Physical distancing and cloth mask-wearing should be utilized in all library rooms.

8. How can I access the reporting on COVID-19 cases?

Visit the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) webpage to see live reporting on cases: <https://ldh.la.gov/Coronavirus/>.

9. Is there a directive to test for COVID-19 at Higher Education Institutions?

The State of Louisiana encourages COVID-19 testing at higher education institutions to identify any potential COVID-19 transmissions before they occur, regardless of being symptomatic or not symptomatic.

10. What is the difference between “isolation” and “quarantine”?

Students who are considered in “isolation” are known to be infectious and have received a positive COVID-19 test result. Leaving isolation requires 10 days from onset, assuming symptoms have improved; the student needs to be fever-free for 24-hours. “Quarantine” applies to individuals who have had a known exposure though they are not symptomatic. It is important to quarantine for 14 days in order to protect individuals from a potential incubation period.

11. On the initial report provided by institutions, what day should the campus start reporting cumulative cases and what does this include?

On Monday, September 14, the COVID-19 Reporting Survey link will be distributed to each institution president by the Louisiana Department of Health. Each institution should submit initial data by Friday, September 21, 2020, and then submit additional data each Friday until further guidance is given. The LDH will publically report data on Wednesdays.

12. Where do higher education campuses direct students to for COVID-19 testing if they do not provide COVID-19 testing at the campus?

If a higher education institution does not have access to COVID-19 testing, contact local FQHC (Federal Qualified Health Centers) or the Department of Health [COVID-19 Testing Sites page](#) to determine testing locations.

13. What is the suggested guidance for temperature checking?

Encourage self-checking daily for symptoms such as fever or illness, staying home if any symptoms are present. When possible, temperature checking can be utilized. A fever is a helpful symptom to identify. In studies, fever was the most common symptom, although not the earliest symptom, of COVID-19. Encourage daily self-checking by including signage around campus to remind students, faculty, and staff.

14. What is the guidance on using public water fountains in facilities?

Continue to use personal water bottles and do not utilize shared water fountains at this time. Mounted individual water bottle filling stations can be utilized.

15. Can elevators be utilized with physical distancing during Phases 2 and 3?

Yes. The usage of cloth masks with physical distancing is required on all campus elevators. The number of people permitted on the elevator is dependent on the size of the elevator. Utilize signage to encourage physical distancing and indicate the maximum number of occupants allowed on each elevator.

16. Are we ending the Fall semester before Thanksgiving?

This is an institutional-level decision. Please check with your campus-level administration. Institutions are encouraged to review their academic calendars in order to limit out-of-state travel by students. For example, some residential campuses are considering compressing the fall calendar to enable students to leave at Thanksgiving and complete the semester online, not returning to campus until the new year.

17. Are visitors to campus allowed?

The guidance encourages limiting external presence and visitors in Phase 2; visitors are allowed in Phase 3. The Board of Regents strongly encourages each institution to establish a written visitor policy and to post this policy around campus and online.

18. What are the directives related to undergraduate students involved in research that requires them to travel to various locations in the state to collect materials and/or data?

Encourage physical distancing. In Phase 2, research can continue but we strongly encourage the use of cloth masks along with physical distancing.

19. Should campuses procure additional PPE for the fall semester? Also, is a face shield an acceptable alternative to a cloth mask?

Cloth masks are preferred; additional PPE is not needed for all students, faculty, and staff. The institution may determine what additional PPE is necessary for certain employees. For example, for food service employees, gloves and access to handwashing facilities are needed.

A cloth mask is preferred, although a face shield can be helpful with larger droplets when you cough or sneeze. If you cannot wear a face mask you can wear a face shield, although a cloth mask is preferred.

20. Who will do contact tracing: the Department of Health or the school?

If the state contact tracers identify an outbreak on campus or if the campus is the center for an outbreak – for example, multiple students in a resident hall test positive for COVID-19 – regional medical directors will work with the postsecondary institution directly. If a student is off-campus, for example visiting family for the weekend when contact is made, the postsecondary institution will not be independently contacted. Instead, the student will need to quarantine at home, notify the postsecondary institution that the student is in quarantine, and continue education remotely.

21. What are the additional resources for counseling services on campus?

The Office of Behavioral Health has a 24/7 COVID-19 Mental Health hotline, available at 1-866-310-7977.

22. Who is the point of contact if a student, faculty, or staff tests positive for COVID-19?

We recommend the student health center serve as the point of contact, or the Dean of Students if there is not a campus health center.

23. If there is a suspected outbreak of positive cases what should be done?

Contact your [Office of Public Health \(OPH\) Regional Medical Director](#) for the planning guidance related to isolation and quarantine.

24. Where will new information be available concerning COVID-19?

Louisiana Department of Health regularly updates its coronavirus webpage: <http://ldh.la.gov/coronavirus/>

25. What happens if students, staff, or faculty do not wear masks?

Higher education institutions can make their own policies around masking and the requirements concerning mask-wearing.

26. If a student, faculty, or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, what disinfection measures are needed?

We recommend closing the classroom or other campus areas affected in order to conduct a deep clean if this individual was found to be infectious while attending a class or meeting.