To the University community,

The delta variant of the coronavirus, and the subsequent increase in the number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in the middle Tennessee region, makes urgent the continuing need for our University community to adhere to health and safety precautions. These precautions were developed after review of guidance from MTSU Student Health Services as well as local, state, and national public health experts. Our ability to stay on course with plans to continue in-person classes and on-campus activities for the Fall 2021 semester depend upon us working together to keep each other safe.

**VACCINATION:** While recognizing that vaccination is a personal choice, immunization has been proven as the most effective way to combat this virus. We continue to strongly encourage everyone to be vaccinated and will continue to provide vaccinations through our Student Health Services. MTSU Student Health will have Moderna vaccination clinics every Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon and on Friday mornings. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be available daily.

**TESTING:** Students may visit MTSU Student Health Services for free in-house COVID-19 antigen and in-house PCR testing if symptomatic. Results are available same day.

**FACE COVERINGS:** All members of our University community, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear masks at all times inside University facilities. Exclusions to this include private offices, dorm rooms, and individual study rooms. Students should wear a mask while entering the dining areas, but may remove their masks while seated and eating.

**WHAT IF I LIVE ON CAMPUS?** All on-campus residents are required to contact MTSU Student Health Services, via our online form or phone call, if they receive a positive COVID-19 test result, regardless of whether the test is given on or off campus. Once notified, MTSU Student Health Services will follow up with Housing for isolation and quarantine instructions. MTSU Housing is maintaining a number of residence hall rooms to use for isolation and quarantine of on-campus residents. If you are living on campus, please visit the COVID-19 Housing Protocols website at [mtsu.edu/living-on-campus/COVIDHousingProtocols.php](http://mtsu.edu/living-on-campus/COVIDHousingProtocols.php) for specific information.

**STAY AT HOME IF SYMPTOMATIC OR EXPOSED:** Students, faculty, and staff must not come to campus if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, have reason to believe they have come in contact with the virus, or are in isolation or in quarantine due to pending test results or after exposure. More information on quarantine and isolation can be found on the following pages.

If we work together, we can keep our MTSU community safer, and continue to enjoy all the activities that make our campus such a great place to be. We appreciate the efforts of our students, faculty, and staff to protect one another and to keep us on track for a great fall semester.

Sincerely,

Sidney A. McPhee
President

[Signature]
COVID-19 VACCINE AND TESTING

Is the COVID-19 vaccine available on campus?

MTSU Health Services will offer Moderna vaccination clinics every Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon and on Friday mornings. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be available daily. Vaccinations are available at no cost to students, faculty, and staff.

Do I report a positive COVID-19 test to MTSU?

All on-campus residents are required to contact MTSU Student Health Services, via our online form or phone call, if they receive a positive COVID-19 test result, regardless of whether the test is given on or off campus. Once notified, MTSU Student Health Services will follow up with Housing for isolation and quarantine instructions. MTSU Housing is maintaining a limited number of residence hall rooms to use for isolation and quarantine of on-campus residents.

Faculty, staff, and students residing off campus are strongly recommended to report positive test results to MTSU Student Health Services, via our online form or phone call.

Is COVID-19 on-campus testing available to students?

Yes. MTSU Student Health Services will continue to provide free in-house COVID-19 antigen and in-house PCR testing if symptomatic. Results are available same day. If subject to quarantine, a student may elect to take the antigen test after seven days to potentially end the quarantine.

Is COVID-19 on-campus testing available to faculty and staff?

We are pleased to be able to provide immunizations for all of the MTSU community, including faculty and staff. However, faculty, and staff are reminded that MTSU Student Health is funded by student fees and has a primary obligation to serve our students. Faculty and staff should see their primary care physician, local urgent care, or pharmacies for testing and consequent isolation and quarantine if applicable.

QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS

What should I do if I am experiencing symptoms?

All community members MUST NOT come to campus if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, have reason to believe they have come in contact with the virus, or are in isolation or in quarantine due to pending test results or after exposure.

What should I do if came in contact with the virus?

All community members MUST NOT come to campus if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, have reason to believe they have come in contact with the virus, or are in isolation or in quarantine due to pending test results or after exposure.

Should I quarantine while waiting on a test result?

Yes. All community members MUST NOT come to campus if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, have reason to believe they have come in contact with the virus, or are in isolation or in quarantine due to pending test results or after exposure.

What are quarantine/isolation requirements for students?

MTSU continues to follow guidelines from the CDC and Tennessee Department of Health regarding COVID-19 isolation and quarantine:

- **Isolation** for those confirmed to have COVID-19 requires a minimum of 10 days after onset and can be released after they are without fever for
24 hours (without fever-reducing medication) and show improvement in symptoms. Some severely ill patients will need to be isolated for at least 20 days.

- Isolation for those who test positive for COVID-19 but who have no symptoms requires 10 days after their test date.

- Quarantine for unvaccinated persons who have been determined to have had a close contact with someone with COVID-19 requires separation from the person who is ill (e.g., household contact) and quarantine from all other persons for 10 days. The quarantine period may be shortened to seven days if there is a negative COVID-19 test on day 8. Self-monitoring for symptoms and wearing of a face mask should continue through day 14. Mask-wearing is especially important through day 14 and should continue as noted beyond the quarantine period.

- Quarantine for unvaccinated persons who have been determined to have had a close contact with someone with COVID-19 but who cannot separate from the person who is ill must continue for a total of 20 days, with release from quarantine on day 21.

- Vaccinated individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19 but are not symptomatic are NOT required to quarantine. Please upload proof of vaccination with the MTSU Student Health portal to help expedite this determination.


### COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING

**Will MTSU provide contract tracing for students?**

MTSU Student Health Services WILL conduct contract tracing of any MTSU students who test positive for COVID-19 through a test at MTSU Student Health Services.

MTSU Student Health Services WILL be responsible for contact tracing of any MTSU students who test positive for COVID-19 and who are living in on-campus housing.

At this point, we are NOT planning to staff a weekend COVID-19 testing service on campus. Take-home tests are available at Walmart, Walgreens, and many other locations. There are also multiple community options for walk-in testing.

**Will MTSU provide contract tracing services for faculty and staff?**

At this point, we are NOT planning to provide contract tracing services for faculty and staff.

### OTHER COVID-19 QUESTIONS

**What happens if a student misses classes due to COVID-19?**

Students who must miss class because of COVID-19 isolation or quarantine requirements should contact their instructors directly to make arrangements to keep up with coursework while unable to attend. Please note that at this time, classes are expected to continue throughout the fall term in the format noted, so students should not expect that attendance for on-campus classes can be converted to an online option.

**How should faculty and staff handle continuing employment obligations?**

- Faculty and staff who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, or are quarantining because of potential exposure to the virus, may reach out to supervisors to discuss the possibility for remote teaching and/or work, if mutually agreeable between the University and the employee. Not all job assignments are able to be performed from
home, and therefore, employees should be prepared to use sick leave as necessary.

- The ADA reasonable accommodation process is still available for those with medical conditions or disabilities (contact the ADA Compliance Office for further information). This process is conducted on a case-by-case basis, taking both a person’s medical concerns and job duties into account. Employees should not assume that remote work will necessarily be deemed a reasonable accommodation.

- While the University has an existing policy for alternate work arrangements for nonfaculty employees, such arrangements are not a right or a benefit, and requests must include a business justification.

Will MTSU still do enhanced cleaning of spaces?

Yes. The appropriate custodial services department (Facilities Services, Housing, Dining, etc.) **WILL** continue to clean campus buildings on a daily or routine basis, including enhanced standards for cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces and high-traffic areas. For community facilities, including restrooms and elevators, this includes but is not limited to doorknobs; handles; push buttons; and toilets, faucets, and sinks. Many of the custodial services you have seen in the past in community facilities will continue as normal, including daily or more often cleaning of restrooms, lobbies, and break rooms; dusting and vacuuming; glass cleaning; and emptying and relining trash and recycling receptacles.

**EXPECTATIONS OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

**Are masks required on campus?**

All community members **MUST** wear face coverings or masks inside any campus building. This applies to **all areas of campus** and includes but is not limited to: classrooms, labs, offices, and common areas such as hallways, stairways, elevators, restrooms, and other shared spaces. Face coverings or masks are not required in a private office when one person occupies that office; in dorm rooms; or in individual study rooms. They also are not required outdoors, but may be prudent if social distancing is difficult.

Students who do not wear the appropriate face coverings in indoor areas may be referred to Student Conduct for disciplinary action.

**I’m a student. What should I do if I feel sick?**

Contact MTSU Student Health Services, which is **free to enrolled students**. Hours and contact information are available [here](#).

Students, faculty, and staff must not come to campus if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, have reason to believe they have come in contact with the virus, or are in isolation or in quarantine due to pending test results or after exposure.

**I’m faculty or staff. What should I do if I feel sick?**

Faculty and staff **SHOULD** see their primary care physician, local urgent care, or pharmacies for testing and consequent isolation and quarantine if applicable. Faculty and staff are reminded that MTSU Student Health Services is funded by student fees and has a primary obligation to serve our students.

Students, faculty, and staff **MUST NOT COME** to campus if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, have reason to believe they have come in contact with the virus, or are in isolation or in quarantine due to pending test results or after exposure.

**What else can I do to stay safe?**

All community members **SHOULD** follow personal hygiene and protective measures, including but not limited to washing hands often; avoiding touching eyes, nose, and mouth; coughing or sneezing into your face mask or elbow; using face masks and coverings and other PPE appropriately; and cleaning and disinfecting work areas appropriately.

**Who can I call if I have questions?**

Questions not answered at mtsu.edu/coronavirus can be asked via a dedicated email and phone number overseen by Student Health Services Director Richard Chapman at mtsucovid19@mtsu.edu or 615-396-WELL (9355) during the hours of 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday.
Middle Tennessee State University does not discriminate against students, employees, or applicants for admission or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, age, status as a protected veteran, genetic information, or any other legally protected class with respect to all employment, programs, and activities sponsored by MTSU. The Interim Assistant to the President for Institutional Equity and Compliance has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies and can be reached at Cope Administration Building 116, 1101 East Main Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37132; Christy.Sigler@mtsu.edu; or 615-898-2185. The MTSU policy on non-discrimination can be found at mtsu.edu/iec.