



## **MSUCOM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES RELATED TO COVID-19**

### **UPDATED MAY 26, 2022**

This update reflects current operations for the College of Osteopathic Medicine for Summer Semester 2022, reflecting university, state, and CDC guidelines.

#### **COVID-19 VACCINES AND BOOSTERS**

In fall 2021, MSU announced a requirement for a primary vaccination series against COVID-19. In December 2021, MSU announced that boosters against COVID-19 would be required for all eligible students, faculty, and staff, beginning in spring semester 2022. Specific details:

- Eligibility for booster dose: Those who completed a two-dose series of the Pfizer vaccine at least 5 months prior, or a two-dose series of the Moderna vaccine at least 6 months ago, or a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at least 2 months ago are considered eligible for a COVID-19 booster and are expected to receive one as soon as they are eligible.
- Further information and a link to access the vaccine verification form can be accessed at <https://msu.edu/together-we-will/covid19-vaccine/>.
- Information on requesting an exemption to COVID-19 vaccination may be found at <https://msu.edu/together-we-will/covid19-vaccine/exemptions.html>.
  - Effective May 2022, students, faculty, and staff who have an approved exemption will no longer be required to participate in the Early Detection (Spartan Spit) program.
  - Students, faculty, and staff who do not receive a booster vaccination when they are eligible will be considered out of compliance with the university policy.
  - Due to the need to verify and endorse student vaccination status to clinical sites, MSUCOM may require submission of vaccination and booster information and copies of vaccination cards separately and in addition to the university processes. In this event, students will be expected to comply with both submission requests.

#### **COVID-19 TESTING AND REPORTING**

Effective May 2022, MSU is discontinuing its Early Detection (Spartan Spit) Program, as well as on-campus COVID-19 testing separate from its clinical operations.

Information on how to locate COVID-19 testing and other data may be found on the MSU [Together We Will website](#).

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## PRECLERKSHIP STUDENT PROTOCOLS (OMS-I AND OMS-II)

### Self-monitoring for symptoms

All MSUCOM students are expected to self-monitor for symptoms that may be related to COVID-19. As noted by the Centers for Disease Control, COVID-19 infection may be associated with no symptoms, mild symptoms, or severe illness. Symptoms typically appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.

Students should continue to self-monitor for symptoms

According to the CDC [website](#), these symptoms include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

### Instructions for students who are symptomatic or test positive for COVID-19:

#### If you have symptoms or fever:

- Do not come to campus. Complete an excused absence request if you were expected to attend an on-campus session.
- Seek COVID-19 testing as soon as possible. Isolate from others while awaiting testing.

#### Next steps:

- **If you are symptomatic and test positive for COVID-19** – regardless of vaccination status:
  - **Continue to isolate for 5 days** from the onset of symptoms. The day you began having symptoms is day 0. You may not come to campus during this time.
  - **If your symptoms have resolved by day 5**, you may return to campus but as a precaution you should wear a mask when you are around others through day 10.
  - Call the MSU COVID-19 hotline at 855-958-2678 to report your test result.
  - Complete additional excused absence request forms as needed.

## PRECLERKSHIP STUDENT PROTOCOLS (OMS-I AND OMS-II), CONTINUED

- **If you are symptomatic and test negative for COVID-19:**
  - **If you are fully vaccinated or have received a booster:** You may return if you are well enough to do so. Complete additional excused absence request forms as needed. Seek medical attention for an alternate diagnosis, or retest for COVID-19 if symptoms persist or if you have had a known exposure.
  - **If you have completed a primary vaccination series and are not yet eligible** to receive a booster (e.g., you had your second dose of the Moderna vaccine less than 6 months ago or of the Pfizer vaccine less than 5 months ago, or you had a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine less than 2 months ago): You may return if you are well enough to do so unless you had a close contact (see below). Complete additional excused absence request forms as needed. Seek medical attention for an alternate diagnosis, or retest for COVID-19 if symptoms persist.
  - If you are **not vaccinated/exempt:** Remain off campus and contact MSU Triage Hotline for more directions.

### Close contacts

A close contact is defined as exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, in which the contact was at least 15 minutes in close proximity (6 feet) without PPE. If you are unsure about a potential contact, call the MSU Triage Line at 855-958-2678 for further guidance.

- **If you are asymptomatic, and you are fully vaccinated and received a booster:**
  - You may come to campus.
  - Self-monitor for symptoms and fever for five days. If symptoms develop, follow the steps in the section above.
- **If you are asymptomatic, and you completed a primary vaccination series but are not yet eligible to receive a booster** (e.g., you had your second dose of Moderna or Pfizer less than 6 months ago, or had a single dose of Johnson & Johnson less than 2 months ago):
  - You may come to campus.
  - Self-monitor for symptoms and fever for five days. If symptoms develop, follow the steps in the section above.
- **If you are asymptomatic, and you completed a primary vaccination series, and you are now eligible for a booster but have not yet received one** (e.g., you had your second dose of Moderna or Pfizer less than 6 months ago, or had a single dose of Johnson & Johnson less than 2 months ago):
  - **Do not come to campus.**
  - **You must quarantine and self-monitor for symptoms for 5 days.** Day 0 is the last day of contact with the person who tested positive.
  - If symptoms develop, follow the steps in the section above. If not, you may return to campus after five days.

## PRECLERKSHIP STUDENT PROTOCOLS (OMS-I AND OMS-II), CONTINUED

### Masks

As of May 13, 2022, COM communicated a plan to use the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [COVID-19 Community Levels](#) by county, and to follow the corresponding CDC recommendations regarding face masks. Community levels are calculated based on three factors - new COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population in the past 7 days, the percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients, and total new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days. Community levels are reported by county as “Low”, “Medium”, or “High”. Under this system, face masks are recommended when the community level is “High”.

Please note the following caveats that apply to MSUCOM students.

- At the DMC site: a face mask will be required in all areas at the DMC Campus due to local policy.
- At the East Lansing and Macomb site: Masks will be **recommended** in lectures, classrooms, study spaces, meeting rooms, etc. when the COVID-19 Community Level is “High”, and **optional** when the level is “Medium” or “Low”.
- At all three sites: A surgical-style disposable face mask will continue to be **required** during summer semester 2022 in clinical skills labs (OMM and OPC), on clinical assignments or preceptorships, and in the Learning and Assessment Center. You may choose to use a cloth mask over a surgical mask, or use a KN95 or N95 mask instead.

### Travel

For current information on MSU and non-MSU related international travel, please see the MSU [Together We Will](#) website. Another helpful resource is the [Sherpa](#) app, which shows current COVID-19 related travel restrictions and requirements by country.