

## **COVID-19 RETURN TO CAMPUS PROTOCOLS – Updated July 15, 2021**

---

### **Protocols**

At Hodges University, it is our desire to support the health of our students and their families. As students are most likely aware, guidelines have recently changed regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. As has always been the case, the University will abide by governmental guidelines when possible as we strive to balance public health concerns with the needs of our organization.

While we have previously and will continue to observe various protocols to encourage student safety, it's up to all of us, faculty, staff, and students to execute these protocols daily. By updating this return to campus protocol, we hope to clearly communicate our plans moving forward, highlight campus protocols in place to support safety, and continue to provide a level of comfort for all of our students.

We understand that every student's situation is different and encourage those with specific risks or concerns to reach out to their instructor or student advisor to discuss alternate arrangements, should they be necessary.

### **Protocols to Follow When Returning to Campus**

Hodges University has updated the various protocols designed to encourage the health and safety of our students. This section further explains these protocols. For additional information, please reach out to your instructor or student advisor.

In keeping with recently issued CDC recommendations and in compliance with newly issued Executive Orders and state law, Hodges University will no longer measure students' body temperatures before allowing them to enter the campus, require the completion of any health screening procedures for building entry, or require the use of a mask or face covering.

### **Student Health and Safety Protocols**

The success of our return to campus protocol relies on how well our students and staff follow social distancing and health and safety protocols. In general, the more closely you interact with others and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread.

As such, the following protocols will remain in effect to support your health and safety. Please bring any concerns regarding the following protocols to your student advisor immediately.

#### **Social Distancing Protocol**

Where possible, students should follow appropriate social distancing practices while at the University's facilities, including, but not limited to, classrooms and common areas. However, all spaces on campus are now open with no capacity restrictions. Specifically, students are encouraged but not required to:

- Use face coverings or masks on campus.
- Keep these items on hand when returning to campus: a mask, tissues, and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, if possible.
- Stay 6 feet away from others when possible. However, all spaces on campus are now open with no capacity restrictions.

- Avoid physical contact with others whenever possible (e.g. handshakes).
- Avoid touching surfaces that may have been touched by others when possible.
- Distance yourself from anyone who appears to be sick.
- Follow any posted signage regarding COVID-19 social distancing practices.
- Disinfect your classroom space often.
- Avoid touching your face.

Instructors are responsible for encouraging students in their classroom spaces to observe social distancing protocols where possible.

## **General Student Health and Hygiene**

Practicing good hygiene is essential to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Do your part by practicing good hygiene on campus and at home.

- Regularly wash your hands for at least 20 seconds throughout the day after you have been in a public place and touched an item or surface that may be frequently touched by other people, such as door handles, tables, gas pumps, shopping carts, or electronic cashier registers/screens, etc. before touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

To help students remain healthy, the University has hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes available throughout the buildings. It is suggested that students wash their hands more frequently than normal.

In addition, students are encouraged to wear face coverings at all times and if possible, keep a physical distancing of 6 feet. However, all spaces on campus are now open with no capacity restrictions. If choosing to wear one, students will provide their own face coverings in accordance with CDC guidelines. It is encouraged that students wear face coverings when entering and exiting the building and when using common areas such as hallways, elevators, stairwells, bathrooms, breakrooms, and the lobby or at any time when maintaining social distancing of 6 feet isn't possible. Students are expected to demonstrate respect for others' decisions to wear a mask or not.

Finally, students who are feeling sick, experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, have tested positive for COVID-19, or have had unprotected exposure (i.e. without adequate personal protective equipment) to someone with COVID-19 must follow CDC guidance to self-isolate or stay home until recovered. Students who have severe symptoms such as trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, bluish lips or face should immediately seek medical attention and follow the guidance of a health care provider. Students who are feeling ill, have been diagnosed with or are aware they've been directly exposed to COVID-19 should notify their instructor, who will explain how to complete the course. The University expects all students to exercise wisdom and respect for the health of others when making a decision about returning to campus. If a student is actively experiencing symptoms or they or a member of their household has tested positive for COVID-19, they should remain off campus. Those who have traveled internationally should observe CDC guidelines and quarantine for 14 days after returning to the United States. However, as long as a student is not actively experiencing symptoms, or a member of their household has not tested positive, the decision on when to return to campus is at the discretion of the student.