



COVID-19 Protocols for Spring Semester January 5, 2022

Given the rise in cases of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 globally, nationally, and in New Hampshire, we continue to work closely with local, state, and national health officials to help keep our community safe.

We have learned so much since we first started down this path nearly two years ago. With vaccinations, boosters, and several new therapeutics now and soon to be available, we are in a much better place to manage COVID-19 than we were in previous semesters.

One important thing we have learned is that in-person learning and living is what you want and deserve. In addition, we know that the on-campus experience and social interactions with your friends and classmates are crucial to your physical, emotional, and mental well-being.

Taking all of this into consideration, I'm pleased to let you know that the spring semester will begin as planned with classes starting on Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

All of the safety protocols and procedures that were utilized during the Fall 2021 semester will continue during the Spring 2022 semester.

- This will include mandatory masks in all indoor spaces, PCR and rapid testing, contact tracing, and quarantine and isolation as appropriate.
- All students, faculty, and staff will be required to have a negative PCR test before classes begin. Mandatory PCR testing will take place Friday through Sunday, January 14–16 in The HUB Courtroom. You must take a PCR test by Sunday, January 16, to have your Panther Pass updated so you can attend class on Tuesday, January 18. Please check the [PSU website](#) for testing times and locations.
- While not mandatory, we are asking that if you took a BinaxNOW test home with you for the break, or have access to another type of rapid test, we encourage you to take that test the day before you come to campus and upload those results [using this form](#).
- As they were last semester, BinaxNOW tests will be available to all students upon move-in and throughout the semester.
- Masks Will Be Required Indoors. We are working to secure additional medical-grade face masks (KN-95) to be distributed to employees and students as they become available. If you have medical grade masks available to you please bring these to campus so you can use them during the start of the semester. Please note that cloth masks will continue to be accepted for use at this time but some classes may require that medical grade masks be worn in the classroom.
- Mandatory weekly PCR testing will take place through at least mid-February and will be extended as needed.

Important Notes:

- If you test positive before you come to campus you must stay home and cannot come to Plymouth until your required isolation period has ended.
- If you test positive as part of our PCR testing before classes begin you will be required to isolate at home for the required isolation period.
- Details on our revised on-campus isolation/quarantine policy will be sent in a separate e-mail.
- Did you test positive over break? If you tested positive over the break please make sure you upload those results on our website [using this form](#). Once we have these results you will be exempted from PCR testing for 90 days from the date of your positive test.
- If you are sick or have any COVID-like symptoms at all please stay home and do not come to campus until you are feeling better.

Vaccinations/Boosters

- COVID-19 vaccination and booster shots will be continue to be offered and available during the spring semester to interested students. We encourage everyone to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine/booster to help mitigate the spread of the virus.
- If you received a first or second dose or booster and have not shared proof with us you may do that now [using this link](#).
- Our first Vaccination Clinic is scheduled for Thursday, January 20, and details will be shared as they become available.

We all hoped we would be in a very different place two years into this pandemic, and while we have many more tools to mitigate our risk it is still crucial that we work together to keep each other and our community healthy and safe.

Please remember to check your Plymouth e-mail frequently as additional information and urgent updates may be sent at any time. In addition, please check the [COVID-19 pages of our website](#) for updated information.

Remember that you can email the COVID-19 Response Team with any questions you might have at covid19@plymouth.edu.