

EACC COVID Campus Safety Guide and Fall 2020 Class Plans



**Wear it so
we don't
share it.**

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Introduction | 3 |
| Guiding Principles | 3 |
| Foundational Strategies..... | 3 |
| Sources of Guidance and Requirements | 3 |
| Maintaining Our Inclusive Community | 4 |
| Instruction | 4 |
| On Campus and Face-to-Face Instruction | 4 |
| Classrooms | 5 |
| Flexible Methods of Attendance | 5 |
| Lab and Clinical Instruction | 6 |
| Online/Virtual Instruction | 6 |
| Self-Screening Requirement | 7 |
| Self-Screening Questions | 7 |
| Visitors and Guests | 7 |
| Individuals at Increased Risk..... | 8 |
| Accommodations..... | 8 |
| Face Coverings Required..... | 8 |
| Exceptions to Face Coverings Requirement..... | 9 |
| Use and Care of Face Coverings | 9 |
| Distancing | 10 |
| Other Health and Safety Practices and Protocols..... | 10 |
| Campus Facilities..... | 11 |
| Open and Closed Buildings and Allowed Users..... | 11 |
| Before, Between, and After Classes | 11 |
| Restrooms..... | 11 |
| Eating..... | 11 |
| Student Services | 12 |
| Placement Testing, Advising, Activities, Wellness Checks, Mental Health..... | 12 |
| New Student Orientation | 12 |
| Assistance with Laptops, Hotspots, and other Devices..... | 12 |
| Student Transportation | 12 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Library, CEC, and other Communal Spaces | 12 |
| Testing Positive | 13 |
| Informing Others of a Positive Test..... | 13 |
| Contact Tracing | 13 |
| Coronavirus Testing on Campus | 13 |
| Individuals Who Are Ill..... | 13 |
| Close Contact with a Covid-19 Positive Person | 14 |
| Attendance During Quarantine | 14 |
| Returning to Work or Class Following Quarantine or Diagnosis..... | 14 |
| COVID-19 Diagnosis with Symptoms | 14 |
| Laboratory Confirmed COVID-19 Diagnosis without Symptoms | 14 |
| Exposure to COVID-19 through Close Contact..... | 14 |
| Non-Compliance with Campus Safety Guidelines..... | 14 |
| More Information | 15 |
| Input/Updates..... | 15 |
| FAQs..... | 15 |

Disclaimer: This manual contains guidance from state and federal public health authorities; it is not a replacement for medical advice. Public health guidance is constantly evolving. Please consult with your healthcare provider and the Arkansas Department of Health to determine what is best for you, your family, and your community.



Introduction

Dear EACC Students,

East Arkansas Community College is committed to protecting students, employees, and visitors to the greatest extent possible during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. While we realize there is a risk of exposure for any individual who comes to a facility open to the public, we seek to provide the best and most up-to-date protections and protocols to minimize that risk. We also hold paramount the goal of providing students with quality learning opportunities using the method that best helps them learn, whether that is online/virtual, on campus, or a combination of both.

This COVID Campus Safety Guide and Fall 2020 Class Plans contains health and safety protocols EACC began putting into place in May and has been updating and refining as the situation has developed. We anticipate that these guidelines will evolve with the changing pandemic and public health assessments. They will also be updated with additional student, employee, and community input as we progress.

Guiding Principles

- We will remain focused on our students and our mission at all times.
- We will protect our students, faculty, staff, and visitors as much as possible.
- We will provide flexible and adaptable learning opportunities to accommodate all students.
- We will adjust quickly to meet the demands of the pandemic and student needs.
- We will provide inclusive and equitable opportunities to work and learn.

Foundational Strategies

- Face coverings required and provided.
- Distancing of 6 feet required at all times possible.
- Use of protective barriers where risk of exposure is higher or additional protection needed.
- Enhanced and frequent sanitizing and cleaning at an institutional level.
- Cleaning and sanitizing products available to all (i.e., sanitizing sprays, wipes, hand sanitizers.)
- Daily screening.
- Flexible attendance options.
- Limiting the number of students in each classroom.
- Options for students, including on campus, virtual, or blended instruction, that accommodate the intellectual and health needs of all learners.
- COVID-19 testing as recommended by ADH.
- Compliance with national, state, and local public health regulations and guidelines.

Sources of Guidance and Requirements

This guide is based on recommendations from the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), and the Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE).

Maintaining Our Inclusive Community

EACC supports and celebrates a diverse community of learners and seeks to promote an educational and work environment that is inclusive, responsive, and supportive. We are committed to maintaining an environment that is free of all forms of discrimination and harassment. For every member of our community to thrive, especially as we continue to struggle with a global pandemic, we must seek to foster mutual respect, support, and inclusion.

Every person's care, compassion, and empathy for each other makes a positive difference. EACC encourages all constituencies to share in the responsibility for cultivating a meaningful learning environment where differences are valued and inclusivity practiced.

During this public health crisis, where there are many unknowns, taking care of each other is just as important as taking care of ourselves. Making assumptions about or engaging in negative treatment of others based on perceived symptoms, medical conditions or abilities, national origin, racial and ethnic characteristics, socioeconomic status, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or disability hurts our community.

Every person's care, compassion, and empathy for each other makes a positive difference. EACC encourages all constituencies to share in the responsibility for cultivating a meaningful learning environment where differences are valued and inclusivity practiced.

Instruction

Because students find it disruptive to change academic calendars that have been planned years in advance, the academic calendar for the Fall 2020 semester will remain the same, with **classes beginning on August 24**. We plan to observe the Labor Day holiday, fall break, and Thanksgiving break as scheduled. At present, we plan to return to campus following Thanksgiving, with the last day of classes set for December 7, and finals to begin on December 8.

For anyone coming to campus, safety is paramount. All students, employees, and visitors will be provided face coverings and are required to wear them. Everyone is required to maintain a 6 foot distance at all times possible. Hand sanitizer stations are available in all buildings.

Face shields, plexiglass, clear shower curtains, or other protective barriers will be strategically placed to enhance safety. Common areas will be subject to frequent cleaning with EPA certified sanitizing products. All classrooms will be thoroughly sanitized before classes begin.

On-Campus and Face-to-Face Instruction:

For those who prefer to learn in person, EACC is planning on classroom instruction this fall, in both **Wynne and Forrest City**, with enhanced safety measures. All class schedules are available online and students may register **now**. Students in on-campus classes will be allowed to switch between face-to-face and virtual learning if necessary due to health concerns or personal and family responsibilities.

All students will have options for required general education classes that do not require them to come to campus, but we are providing as many options for on-campus instruction as it is possible to safely provide. For fall, all face-to-face class sizes will be smaller to maintain 6 feet of distance as much as possible. **All faculty and students will wear face coverings in class at all times.**

Each on-campus class will have an online or virtual component, so that the course can accommodate remote learning if a student or faculty member is quarantined or unable to attend class for another reason, or if public health directives require it.

Faculty are working on new and innovative ways to engage in frequent and substantive interaction with students in the virtual world. EACC has acquired new technology such as cameras for faculty, so that they may record lectures and hold virtual office hours. Graphics tablets, video cameras, Go Pro cameras, and other technology have been purchased to allow live-streaming of classes on Zoom, or to allow recording of classes, labs, and demonstrations. Use of existing technology, such as voice-over PowerPoint and other technological tools, will improve and increase. Software to support virtual hands-on skills development has been purchased. Software to allow remote or online practice tests for licensing exams is available.

Although all classes – including technical, vocational, and occupational – will have plans in place to be able to deliver content remotely, if a situation arises in which a student cannot complete a class, there are also mechanisms in place to allow them to complete assignments or demonstrate skills mastery at a later date.

EACC will do all that we can to adapt to unique student needs as the semester progresses. All instructional divisions will develop plans to flexibly and safely deliver the best instruction possible.

If students have a question about what on-campus courses are offered they may check the online schedule for the most up-to-date information or email Care@eacc.edu if they do not see the particular course they would like to take on campus.

Classrooms:

All faculty and students must wear a face covering in all classrooms and must maintain 6 feet of distance, unless granted a special exception. Regardless of the distance between individuals, face coverings are required. As of July 17, 2020, Arkansas is under a state mandate requiring face coverings.

All faculty and students will wear face coverings in class.

Seating/desks will be spaced 6 feet apart and seats or rows will be taped off or removed. Instructors will enforce these modified layouts. Instructors will utilize a combination of barriers, faces shields, and face coverings as much as possible to protect themselves and students. Classes will be carefully scheduled with regard to safe social distancing, including planning for safe ingress and egress such as limiting contact in hallways.

Flexible Methods of Attendance:

All face-to-face classes will accommodate multiple methods of attendance. Students are not required to have a healthcare provider's excuse to utilize these methods of attendance. This practice aims to encourage ill students to stay home and to accommodate parents who are coping with ever-changing school and daycare situations.

The goal is to provide a way for all students to attend class even if they cannot come to campus. Quarantining based on exposure, symptoms, and diagnosis of COVID-19 will continue for some time, as will disruptions to K-12 school and daycare schedules.

A variety of strategies will be utilized to allow for flexible attendance:

- All students, faculty, and staff have access to Zoom videoconferencing.
- All faculty will have a Blackboard course shell for all classes and will require regular student use

of Blackboard and EACC email to accommodate multiple methods of attendance.

- Video cameras are available for faculty use either to pre-record lectures and demonstrations or to record each day's lectures/demonstration, or to stream the class or demonstration synchronously.

Each syllabus will provide the following details for every course:

- Alternate methods of attendance for quarantined or ill students, or students facing childcare or other disruptions due to COVID-19.
- Alternate methods of instructional delivery in the case of a quarantined or ill faculty member.
- Course procedures in the event of a statewide shut down.

Lab and Clinical Instruction:

"Sim labs" and other virtual instruction will be used to provide quality learning opportunities and to meet the safety demands imposed by COVID-19; however, it is necessary for some experiential learning to be completed in person for some programs. If a student is unable to complete their assigned experiential learning due to health issues or family responsibilities, there are mechanisms in place designed to help them complete those at a later date.

Increased density of less than 6 feet may be permitted for some instruction in labs where the nature of the work requires it. In these cases, a higher level of PPE, as well as screening and quarantining procedures, will be utilized. Students who are placed in healthcare settings as part of a clinical rotation will comply with the testing, screening, and PPE standards set by the clinical sites.

Lab and shop areas will ensure operation of ventilation systems and will increase circulation of air as much as possible. Lab housekeeping is critical. There will be routine cleaning of all spaces. Daily sanitizing of high-contact touch points will be completed by instructors.

Lab and hands-on instruction will utilize a variety of methods to protect students as much as possible. These may include alternating schedules to minimize density, compressing the amount of time required to complete learning objectives, and physically separating students with space markings or barriers.

All lab and hands-on instruction will use disposable, one-use items, or items assigned to one student, as much as possible. The sharing of learning tools will be limited, but if items are shared, instructors will ensure they are cleaned between users.

For labs where someone tests positive for COVID-19, cleaning will be performed by authorized, trained staff using EPA and CDC approved cleaning supplies such as the sanitizing fogger.

All students must carefully consider the risks of their chosen course of study, as well as their health issues and personal responsibilities. EACC is concerned about the well-being of its students, and wants students to make the best and most informed choices for their individual circumstances.

Online/Virtual Instruction:

There are multiple options for those who feel safest learning remotely. We have acquired new technology and discovered ways to enhance the quality of EACC's already strong online courses. We will continue to work to make the virtual learning experience even better for our students.

If students have a question about what courses are offered they may check the online schedule for the most up-to-date information or email Care@eacc.edu if they do not see the particular course they would like to take online.

Self-Screening Requirement

EACC students (and employees) are required to conduct daily self-screening to assess themselves for the symptoms of, or exposure to, COVID-19. EACC is exploring the use of digital technologies to support self-monitoring and/or verification of symptom-free status. Some programs where risk is greater will conduct additional screening. Every student is required to develop this essential daily habit.

Each day students are expected to take their temperature before coming to campus. If their temperature exceeds 100 degrees, they may not come to campus. Daily self-screening is designed to prevent sick or symptomatic students from leaving their homes; therefore, students are requested to take their temperature before coming to class. EACC has purchased no-contact thermometers that will be available for students who are unable to access a thermometer before coming to campus. If it is necessary for a student to use a college thermometer, this should be done before interacting with others.

Self-Screening Questions:

Each day students must review the following questions and may not come to campus if the answer to any question is yes:

1. Within the last 14 days, have you had close contact with or cared for someone who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19? (A generalized definition of close contact is within 6 feet of a positive case for more than 15 minutes without a mask or face covering. However, close contact is situational, and ADH may take other factors into consideration when making quarantine or isolation recommendations.)
2. Have you been diagnosed with or do you believe yourself to have COVID-19?
3. Do you currently have a fever greater than 100° F, or have you experienced a fever within the last 72 hours?
4. Have you felt unwell within the last 48 hours with symptoms of COVID-19 (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)?

Signage has been placed around campus reminding students of the screening questions and is part of the self-screening process. Each EACC computer will require users to verify that they are able to remain on campus based on the screening questions each time they log in. This will serve as an additional check for all students using an EACC computer.

Students who develop symptoms during the day **must leave** campus immediately, and are asked to contact their instructor, their director or dean, or Mr. Errin James in the Betty Jo Hodges building. Symptomatic students should contact their healthcare provider and follow their provider's advice. If a student is unable to leave campus due to a lack of transportation, they should contact Mr. Errin, and EACC will arrange transportation.

Visitors and Guests:

Visitors and guests will be screened when they arrive on campus. All visitors and guests must indicate their "no" answers to the screening questions before being allowed to remain on campus. Face coverings will be required of all visitors and guests. The temperature of visitors and guests will be taken by the screener, but will not be recorded.

Individuals at Increased Risk

Based upon CDC and ADH guidance, some people may be at a higher risk of experiencing negative COVID-19 outcomes. EACC encourages students to carefully weigh their personal risks and make informed choices about their health and learning. Guidelines may change based on evolving public health guidance. The CDC and ADH websites will have the latest information.

People of any age with certain underlying medical conditions are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. More information about those conditions can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>, as well as actions those at increased risk can take to protect themselves and to make informed decisions about their health. As of June 25, these conditions include:

- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant
- Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 or higher)
- Serious heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- Sickle cell disease
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus

In addition, the CDC lists many conditions that *might* place a person at an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. That list is available here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>, as well as the evidence related to this finding and steps individuals can take to protect themselves and make informed decisions about their health. Information about age and its relation to severe illness and COVID-19 is located here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/older-adults.html>,

Accommodations:

EACC recognizes the intense challenges that students face during this time. Students with conditions such as those listed above are eligible for, and may request, reasonable accommodations. No student should feel subject to mistreatment or face repercussions due to their need for accommodations. Vulnerable students should not feel extra pressure or feel coerced into placing their health in jeopardy. If a student feels they are under such pressure, they may contact Care@eacc.edu or their dean or director.

Remote learning is a possible accommodation, as is additional PPE, partitioning from others, or scheduling at a time when the fewest number of persons are on campus, such as an independent study. Students should not hesitate to let us know if they have a special situation and need help. Students who need accommodations for COVID-19 or for any reason, may contact Mr. Melvin Tinsley at mtinsley@eacc.edu or 870-633-4480 ext. 304. They may also email Care@eacc.edu or work with their instructors and deans or directors. Students should note that for some programs, some in-person experiential learning is required by outside regulatory authorities, and EACC must follow those requirements.

Physical distancing of 6 feet must be maintained even while using face coverings.

Face Coverings Required

Face coverings must be worn by all faculty, staff, students, guests, vendors, and visitors. Face coverings are worn to protect others in the event someone is unknowingly transmitting the virus. As of July 20, this is a statewide mandate required by Governor's Executive Order 20-43.

EACC will provide reusable cloth face coverings to all employees and students. Disposable face coverings will be available in several locations on campus, including the Betty Jo Hodges building. Some instructors and programs will also have a supply. Cloth face coverings will also be available for purchase in the bookstore.

EACC has ordered disposable surgical masks that will be readily available to anyone coming to campus, including students. Cloth face coverings may be supplied by the wearer, as long as they meet CDC guidelines. All cloth face coverings must be properly hand washed or laundered. Physical distancing of 6 feet must be maintained even while using face coverings.

Faculty will not allow a student to remain in class who refuses to wear a face covering and will enforce proper wearing of face coverings. Proper wearing of face coverings includes keeping the **mouth AND nose** covered at **all times**. Proper wearing of face coverings falls under the student code of conduct in the student handbook. See the code for sanctions for those who fail to comply.

Cloth face coverings may vary (e.g., masks or neck gaiters are acceptable), but they must:

- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face (bandanas that are unsecured at the bottom are not acceptable, per ADH).
- Be secured (e.g., with ties or ear loops).
- Cover the nose and mouth.
- Allow for breathing without restriction.
- Be able to be laundered without damage or change to shape.

Exceptions to Face Coverings Requirement:

Exceptions to the face-covering requirement include those whose duties or activities (such as sports) prevent safe use of a face covering, those who are alone in a single-user office or room, or those who are eating. If a face covering is removed for eating, individuals should maintain more than 6 feet of distance and should not face each other.

Exceptions to the face-covering requirement may be made for individuals with a documented medical condition that prevents their safe use. Accommodations may include the use of barriers, alternate methods of attendance such as Zoom, or transfer to online classes.

Use and Care of Face Coverings:

When putting on a face covering/disposable mask, everyone should:

- Wash hands or use hand sanitizer prior to handling the face covering/disposable mask.
- Ensure the face covering/disposable mask fits snugly over the nose and under the chin.
- Tie straps behind the head and neck or loop around the ears.
- Throughout the process wearers should avoid touching the front of the face covering/disposable mask and avoid adjusting it during the day and wash hands/use sanitizer after any adjustments.
- When taking off a face covering/disposable mask, everyone should avoid touching their eyes, nose, or mouth; loop their finger into the strap and pull the strap away from the ear, or untie the straps; wash hands immediately after removing.
- Face coverings/disposable masks should be stored in a paper bag when not in use.
- Cloth face coverings may not be used more than one day at a time and must be washed after use with regular soap or clothing detergent.
- Cloth face coverings should be replaced immediately if soiled, damaged (e.g. ripped, punctured), or visibly contaminated.
- Disposable masks should not be used for more than one day and should be placed in the trash if they become soiled, damaged, or visibly contaminated.

Distancing

Since people can spread the virus before they know they are sick, it is important that we stay away from others when possible, *even if we have no symptoms*. According to ADH, COVID-19 positive persons are most contagious 48 hours before they show symptoms. At EACC, a distance of 6 feet between persons will be maintained as much as possible.

Everyone on campus is expected to follow social distancing practices:

- Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people whenever possible.
- Do not gather in groups.
- Avoids other when entering or exiting a building or moving between rooms or buildings such as in hallways. Do not stop to engage with another person during these transitions.
- Distance yourself when standing in line and ask others to move if they violate the 6-foot rule.
- Avoid others when moving between the parking lot and campus. We are most likely to greet other people as we enter or leave campus. Do not stop to engage with others when entering campus.

In particular, students should:

- Remain in their learning area as much as possible.
- Do not congregate on campus unless a 6 foot distance is maintained **and** face coverings are worn.
- Remain in their vehicles until the start of class and return to their vehicles after class, or to a safe area such as outside, away from others.
- Keep a log of all close contacts on campus to aid in contact tracing.

EACC will utilize virtual events and meetings as much as possible. Advising should be done over the phone, over Zoom, or through email. If social gatherings or student activities are allowed, they will be held outside and control measures to reduce exposure will be utilized.

One of EACC's best defenses against COVID-19 is the unique layout of our campus, which keeps people dispersed in different areas.

One of EACC's best defenses against COVID-19 is the unique layout of our campus, which keeps people dispersed in different areas. It will promote good health for students to remain in their learning areas and not visit other areas unnecessarily.

Other Health and Safety Practices and Protocols

Everyone should **wash their hands often** with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing their nose, coughing, sneezing, or touching their face. Everyone should wash their hands as they enter and leave areas and before eating. EACC has an excellent video on handwashing on its YouTube channel featuring Nursing Instructor Elizabeth (Liz) Ramsey. The link is on the website under COVID-19 resources.

According to the CDC, **gloves** are not necessary for general use and do not replace good hand hygiene. Washing hands often is considered the best practice for common everyday tasks.

The College is monitoring evolving guidance related to the use of **face shields and goggles**, and will provide them when advisable (subject to availability). We have ordered face shields and goggles for use as an additional safety measure or accommodation, where needed.

Everyone must always **cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when they cough or sneeze or use the inside of their elbow**. Used tissues must immediately be thrown in the trash. After sneezing, wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. EACC has purchased thousands of bottles of hand sanitizer for everyone's use and has installed hand sanitizer stations all over campus.

Custodial crews will clean common areas such as lobbies, restrooms, and classrooms daily. High-touch areas will be cleaned more often. Before starting an activity and before leaving any room in which they have been working, faculty and staff will wipe down all areas. Tools and lab equipment will not be shared between students unless it is cleaned with a sanitizing wipe between users. Sanitizing wipes will be provided to all faculty and staff. All cleaning products follow CDC and EPA disinfection criteria.

EACC has purchased a sanitizing fogger that can be used to sanitize an entire room. It will be used regularly in classrooms, lab spaces, and other areas that receive group use.

Campus Facilities

Only those with legitimate educational business are allowed on campus, although they do not have to be a registered student. All EACC distancing, face covering, screening, and disinfection standards must be observed by anyone coming to campus.

Open and Closed Buildings and Allowed Users:

College buildings are open for those with legitimate educational business. The general public is welcome as long as they have such business to conduct. All buildings with the exception of the Gym and the Student Center will be unlocked during regular business hours (8-4:30 Monday through Thursday and 8-12 on Friday; starting August 17, 8-4:30 Monday through Friday). The Gym will only be unlocked for scheduled classes. No additional workouts are allowed.

At present, the Student Center is closed to prevent group gatherings and sharing of common items, although this may be revisited if the situation changes. Vending machines are located in Classroom Building 3. Individuals may not congregate in the vending area.

Before, Between, and After Classes:

Students are asked to remain in their vehicles until class starts and to return to their vehicles or remain outdoors or in another safe area away from others following class to limit interaction with others. Students must wear their face coverings and maintain 6 feet of difference at all times if they are around others.

Restrooms:

Use of restrooms must be limited to ensure at least 6 feet distance between individuals. It is best to wait outside the restroom for someone to exit before entering and to wait at least 6 feet distant from the door. Signs will be posted in all restrooms reminding users of the need to maintain distance and wash hands.

Eating:

If consuming food on campus, students should wear a mask or face covering until they are ready to eat and then replace it immediately. Everyone is requested to eat outside or in a private space such as a personal vehicle. Even when eating outside, a 6-foot distance from others should be maintained. Individuals should not sit facing one another while eating.

Student Services

Student services are available. However, distancing, screening, barriers, and other measures that protect both staff and students are in use. All **testing services**, including Accuplacer and CLEP, have been and continued to be available. Remote and in-person testing options are available, although the number of persons who may test at one time is limited. Our **academic advisors** have been working, and will continue to work, to register new and continuing students for fall courses. Returning students may register themselves for Fall 2020 using the My EACC student portal.

Students who need testing, advising, or registration assistance may contact Mr. Errin James, Director of Advising and Counseling, ejames@eacc.edu or 870-633-4480 ext. 252, or they may email Care@eacc.edu

Clubs and organizations such as the EACC Ambassadors, Diverse Women, M-MAP, and SGA will continue to remain active on campus and virtually in the fall. Details for intramurals will be provided later.

Staff will continue the student **wellness checks** that EACC began in the spring, and those will intensify if the pandemic causes more disruption of education. Students are urged to make sure their most up-to-date contact information is listed in the My EACC student portal. We want to know how you are doing!

EACC is currently exploring ways to provide **mental health resources** to students. More details will be provided when we are able to make those arrangements. Checking your EACC email often is important to stay informed about policies, procedures, and resources available to students.

New Student Orientation:

New Student Orientation will be offered in person on three different dates to maintain distancing standards: August 11-13. All EACC safety protocols will be strictly observed. On August 11, a virtual Zoom orientation will also be held. A recorded Zoom option will be available for those unable to attend in person or virtually. Students need only attend one orientation session. New students will receive information via mail, email, and text about orientation. Further details for registering for New Student Orientation will also be posted on the website and social media pages.

Assistance with Laptops, Hotspots, and other Devices:

EACC has acquired laptops and hotspots to lend to students in need. We are currently developing a process to allow students to request those items. More details will follow through EACC email. Two student success programs – Student Support Services and the Career Pathways Initiative – also have technology to loan.

Student Transportation:

At present, a final decision about the use of EACC's vans for student transportation has not been made. We are concerned about the risk caused by close proximity in vehicles and the rate of community spread in Arkansas. **We would like direct input from students so we can determine the criticality of the need for transportation.** Students are asked to email Care@eacc.edu or President Cline directly at ccline@eacc.edu to let us know if they think their need for transportation outweighs the risk.

If transportation is provided, the CDC has issued guidelines and those will be strictly followed.

Library, CEC, and other Communal Spaces:

The Library, the Betty Jo Hodges building, the bookstore, and the Computer Education Center are open for legitimate educational business. All individuals must maintain a distance of 6 feet. Rooms are configured to support appropriate distancing. Places where students may need to form a line will use cones, tape, or other methods to mark off the 6 foot required distance.

The Gym will only be unlocked for scheduled classes. No additional workouts will be allowed. At present, the Student Center is closed. Drinking fountains that have no-touch bottle refill stations may be used to refill bottles, but all other water fountains will have signs that indicate the water fountain is not to be used.

A final determination regarding food service has not been made. However, if it is allowed, no one may linger in the food service area. Disposable food service items (e.g., utensils, condiments) will be used. Tables will be marked off to ensure 6 feet of distance.

Testing Positive

Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 may **not** come to campus. Students who test positive are asked to inform their instructor, or their dean or director, or to email Care@eacc.edu.

Informing Others of a Positive Test:

If EACC learns of a student or employee who tests positive for COVID-19, we will inform those whom we can determine are at risk of possible close contact, but will maintain required confidentiality. This is one of the many reasons it is important for students to regularly check their EACC email and to make sure that their contact information in the My EACC portal is correct.

Contact Tracing:

ADH will conduct contact tracing, and EACC will cooperate to the fullest extent, deferring to their expertise. ADH receives reports of all positive tests from testing facilities. Students should keep a daily log of each area they visit and the people they come into contact with throughout the day to aid in contact tracing. Students should not move around campus unless absolutely necessary.

Coronavirus Testing on Campus:

A joint plan regarding testing on campuses on behalf of all Arkansas colleges and universities is under review. EACC will follow ADH guidance regarding testing as recommended for our institution. Note that EACC does not provide dormitories, so our testing needs may not be the same as a university.

At present, ADH does not recommend testing of all persons on campus. The prevailing opinion is to limit testing to individuals with direct exposure or who are symptomatic. EACC urges all individuals who have been exposed to, or who suspect they have COVID-19, or who have symptoms, to contact ADH about being tested. As the situation develops, these plans may change, and the campus community will be informed if testing is offered on campus.

Individuals Who Are Ill

All students, faculty, staff, and visitors **must stay home when they are ill**, especially if they are showing symptoms of COVID-19. The most up-to-date list of symptoms is on the CDC or ADH website.

Currently, 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

Close Contact with a Covid-19 Positive Person

Anyone who has recently had **close contact** with a person testing positive for COVID-19 may **not** come to campus. A generalized definition of close contact is within 6 feet of a positive case for more than 15 minutes without a mask or face covering. However, close contact is situational, and ADH may take other factors into consideration when making quarantine or isolation recommendations.

Students are asked to inform their instructor, or department dean or director, or to email Care@eacc.edu if they believe they have come into close contact with a COVID-19 positive person.

Attendance During Quarantine

Students will be provided with ways to learn remotely if they are under ill or under quarantine. EACC's goal is to provide as many flexible attendance options as possible so that students may continue to learn.

Returning to Work or Class Following Quarantine for Diagnosis or Exposure

COVID-19 Diagnosis with Symptoms:

ADH recommends a symptom-based strategy for discontinuation of quarantine for those diagnosed with COVID-19 who have symptoms. ADH does not, as of July 17, recommend a test-based strategy. These individuals may return to work or class when both of the following criteria are met:

- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery* defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications with progressive improvement or resolution of other symptoms; **and**,
- At least 10 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*.

Laboratory Confirmed COVID-19 Diagnosis without Symptoms:

Individuals with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who have **not** had any symptoms may discontinue home isolation or quarantine when at least 10 days have passed since the date of their positive COVID-19 test, assuming they have not developed symptoms since their positive test.

Exposure to COVID-19 through Close Contact:

Individuals coming into close contact with someone testing positive for COVID-19 (symptomatic or asymptomatic) may return to work or class after quarantining for 14 days after the last exposure. (A generalized definition of close contact is within 6 feet of a positive case for more than 15 minutes without a mask or face covering. However, close contact is situational, and ADH may take other factors into consideration when making quarantine or isolation recommendations.)

Noncompliance with Campus Safety Guidelines

Failure to comply with safety protocols places our campus community at risk for spreading the virus, which could endanger everyone's health and result in further disruption of educational activities. Every member of our campus community is empowered to request compliance with safety protocols. Repeated or serious noncompliance with COVID-19 safety measures may result in suspended campus access.

Students who wish to report an instance of student non-compliance may email Care@eacc.edu or contact Mr. Errin James in the Betty Jo Hodges building, ejames@eacc.edu or 870-633-4480 ext. 252. Non-compliant students are violating the student code of conduct and will be subject to sanctions listed therein. Students who wish to report an instance of non-student non-compliance may email Care@eacc.edu or contact Mr. Ike Sanders, Associate Vice President of Human Resources and Campus Safety, isanders@eacc.edu, who will take appropriate action.

More Information

Students who have needs or questions about these guidelines or anything else may email Care@eacc.edu. This guide will be updated as input is received from students, faculty, staff, and the community, and the most updated version of will be located on the COVID-19 section of the website.

Input/Updates

Additional input is being sought from students, faculty, and staff. As updates are available, this document will be updated and posted to the website.

FAQs

These questions have been most frequently asked; they will be updated as more students ask questions.

Is it safe for us to return to campus?

Safety is paramount. Everyone is required to wear face coverings and remain 6 feet apart. Hand sanitizer is readily available. Plexiglass, clear shower curtains, or other protective barriers will be used in some settings to enhance safety. Common areas undergo frequent sanitizing. All classrooms will be thoroughly sanitized before classes begin. In preparation for the fall, we have ordered face coverings, including surgical masks, cloth masks, face shields, and goggles/safety glasses. We ordered individual bottles of hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes, disinfecting sprays, multiple automatic hand sanitizer dispensers for buildings, and gallons of cleaners and disinfectants.

EACC is doing everything we can to promote health and safety, but there is some risk of exposure to COVID-19, no matter how great the precautions, any time an individual leaves their home. By utilizing this guide, along with our dedicated cleaning staff, we are confident we are taking every step possible to provide a learning environment that is as safe as possible.

Do we have the option of virtual/remote instruction?

Yes. EACC is committed to providing students with quality learning opportunities using the modality that best helps them learn, whether that is online/virtual, on campus, or a combination of the two. Please review the class schedule for the most up-to-date course sections available. If there is a particular class you need to be taught with a particular modality (virtual/online vs. face-to-face), please email Care@eacc.edu, and we will work to schedule that for you. EACC is nimble enough to rapidly adapt to student needs. Please also review the section on flexible methods of attendance in this guide for more helpful information.

Will tutors and student support staff be available?

Yes. All student services including tutors and support staff have continued to be available. However, distancing, screening, shielding, and other measures that protect both staff and students are in use. In some cases, the service may be provided virtually or may be need to be scheduled in advance. You may check with the Betty Jo Hodges Building staff or Mr. Errin James, Director of Advising and Counseling, ejames@eacc.edu or 870-633-448 ext. 252, or you may email Care@eacc.edu for more information.

Who do I contact to inquire about testing such as for the Accuplacer or CLEP? Are CLEP, Accuplacer, and other tests available now?

Yes, all testing services are available now. Remote testing options are available and in-person testing

continues, although the number of persons who may test at one time is limited. You may check with the Betty Jo Hodges Building staff or Mr. Errin James, Director of Advising and Counseling, ejames@eacc.edu or 870-633-4480 ext. 252, or you may email Care@eacc.edu for more information.

Will the vans run?

At present, a final decision about the use of EACC's vans for student transportation has not been made. We are concerned about the risk caused by close proximity in vehicles and the rate of community spread in Arkansas. **We would like direct input from students so we can determine the criticality of the need for transportation.** Students are asked to email Care@eacc.edu or President Cline directly at ccline@eacc.edu to let us know if they think their need for transportation outweighs the increased risk.

If the virus spreads again, will the campus close?

EACC will do whatever is necessary to protect the health of its students, but we certainly do not want to do anything that disrupts your education. Note that just because K-12 schools close, does not mean EACC will close. EACC does not house students in dormitories and does not have high-touch activities such as sports or fraternities/sororities; this will help us continue to teach in-person classes as long as possible.

However, any student enrolling in a face-to-face class should be aware that the possibility exists of a state shutdown of services. As a state agency, we will comply with all state directives. Faculty will prepare students for the possibility of this throughout the semester so that they will know exactly what will happen in each class. Please see the section on Instruction for more details.

In the spring and summer, EACC's campus never completely closed for an extended length of time due to our small classes, the layout of our campus, and the essential nature of our programs. Instead, we opted for limited access, distancing, protection, and "microlabs" to protect students as much as possible while delivering essential components of instruction. Computer labs and other services remained functional for students throughout the spring and summer. On-campus classes were held over the summer.

What do I do if I see someone on campus who is sick?

Students who wish to report an instance of student non-compliance may email Care@eacc.edu or contact Mr. Errin James in the Betty Jo Hodges building, ejames@eacc.edu or 870-633-4480 ext. 252. Non-compliant students are violating the student code of conduct and will be subject to sanctions listed therein. Students who wish to report an instance of non-student non-compliance may email Care@eacc.edu or contact Mr. Ike Sanders, Associate Vice President of Human Resources and Campus Safety, isanders@eacc.edu.

Will I be required to have a computer or internet service?

EACC does not require students to have those items. Our campus provides high-speed internet access and access to high-quality computers. However, some students prefer to have their own access and digital devices. We are in the process of upgrading our WiFi to extend its range so it can be more easily accessed from parking lots and open areas. Computers are available for student use in the Computer Education Center and the Library. EACC computer labs and IT services for students remained functional for students throughout the spring and summer.

EACC has acquired laptops and hotspots to lend to students in need. EACC is currently developing a process for students to request those items. More details will follow through EACC email. Two student success programs – Student Support Services and the Career Pathways Initiative – also have technology to loan. For information on these programs, contact Ms. Edith Mitchell at emitchell@eacc.edu or Ms. Tik Ward at tward@eacc.edu.

What if I have a question about financial aid?

Contact Mr. Kevin Jumper, Director of Financial Aid, at kjumper@eacc.edu, or 870-633-4480 ext. 225; or Mr. Jerry Stegall, Assistant Director of Financial Aid, jstegall@eacc.edu, ext. 302. Their offices are located in the Betty Jo Hodges Building. Students should be aware that refund checks will be sent via U.S. Mail, and they should make sure that the address listed in their My EACC portal is correct.

Can I request a Zoom or virtual meeting with my advisor or about financial aid?

Yes! We would love to meet with you virtually. Please contact Mr. Errin James for assistance: ejames@eacc.edu or 870-633-4480 ext. 252, or you may email Care@eacc.edu

Can new students still enroll in EACC for the fall?

Yes! We accept new students through the first week of classes (August 24-28). The earlier the process is started, the better, but EACC is an open-door institution; this means we often serve students whose educational decisions are delayed due to family, personal, or other responsibilities. We understand that there is much uncertainty surrounding education for the fall, and we want to accommodate anyone who needs to make a last minute change in plans.

How do I know what classes are offered this fall?

All class schedules – including Forrest City, Wynne, and Online – are available now and students may register at any time. The course schedule can be reached from the EACC website. If you have trouble finding the schedule or registering for classes, please email Care@eacc.edu.

Am I required to wear a mask in class? What if I am 6 feet apart?

Yes! ADH advises that students should wear a face covering at all times. Maintaining 6 feet of distance AND wearing a face covering is one of the best ways to keep you and our campus community as safe as possible, and to help ensure that we will be able to continue to provide on-campus instruction. However, **no matter what, if you are ill, do not come to campus!** We will work with you on attendance.

Questions? Email Care@eacc.edu with any question at any time! We are listening, and we want to assist you. Our only goal is to help you reach yours.

