



FALL 2021 BACK ON CAMPUS PLAN

Overview

“Back to normal” using risk mitigation, not risk aversion.

As we enter our third school year affected by COVID, we will maintain our risk mitigation approach, and return to normal operations with the exceptions that pandemic education, reporting, contact tracing, isolation and quarantining for exposure remain in place. Faculty and staff must remain prepared and ready to support the significantly decreased, but important, number of students affected by COVID this coming year. It is not a matter of completely preventing anyone at Lake Area Tech from getting COVID-19. It is a matter of limiting COVID-19’s spread/impact and protecting our “at high-risk” population. We desire to have an environment where students and staff are as safe as or safer from COVID-19 than they would be in the corresponding industry/business setting or in the general community. As the pipeline for providers of essential services, technical education is an essential service and must continue to operate effectively in the COVID-19 environment.

The Back-on-Campus plan

With the low level of COVID-19 infections in the area, the three priorities for the Back-on-Campus plan are:

1. Maximize the on-campus hands-on time and opportunities for our students using a “Return to normal” paradigm with regards to people’s behavior with the exceptions of:
 - a. Education on COVID, its symptoms, and personal protection steps:
 - i. social distancing including “do not come to work if you have unexplained symptoms,”
 - ii. personal hygiene especially hand washing and avoiding touching your face,
 - iii. sanitization,
 - iv. barriers such as plexiglass and masks, and
 - v. vaccination;
 - b. Testing and reporting COVID infections and exposure in a timely manner;
 - c. Isolating and quarantining in accordance with CDC guidelines. Exposed people who have no symptoms and have been vaccinated are exempt from quarantine; and
 - d. Programs and staff must take the appropriate steps to ensure contact tracing is still quick and effective (i.e., maintaining assigned seating), and programs must

Note: Lake Area Tech thanks Prairie Lakes Healthcare System for their assistance in developing this plan.

remain prepared to fully support isolated and quarantined students to keep them on pace with their peers.

- e. Vaccinations are highly encouraged, but are not required by any program or the institution.
2. Continued monitoring of staff and student cases with rapid reporting to preclude an outbreak; and
3. Contingency plans for the event of an on-campus outbreak or other catalyst that require a significant number of students to work remotely.

Criteria for implementation of the Back-on-Campus plan.

Implementation of measures in this plan are based on CDC, state, city, healthcare providers, industry, and Superintendent/school district guidance. We know that adaptation and flexibility are key to responding to COVID, but we must maintain a pragmatic risk mitigation approach that responds to the data and circumstances in our community. Therefore, the local COVID-19 infection rates, spread rate, case severity, and on-campus spread remain triggers for rapid changes to this plan.

Other triggers could drive adjustments to this plan making it more or less restrictive. These triggers include:

- Community spread significant change – in consultation with area healthcare providers this could trigger work from home and skeleton crew, students potentially back to online
- Direction from Superintendent
- Guidance from state, city or school district.
- Government orders a shelter in place or a lockdown
- Significant number of employees or students are sick with COVID-19

Overarching guidance and concepts remain available and viable

The “FALL 2020 BACK ON CAMPUS PLAN” remains as the primary conceptual approach and acts as the primary contingency plan should an outbreak occur. Programs and functional areas should maintain their area plan in the case its execution were to be required.