

Dear NMC Community,

Nebraska Methodist College in conjunction with the Nebraska Methodist Health System is committed to maintaining a safe working and learning environment for all students, faculty, staff and visitors. Our goal is to maintain a high level of education while adapting processes and procedures to meet the safety standards provided by the federal government and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in the [Opening Up America](#) guidelines.

Our comprehensive plan follows the best public health information and guidance currently available. CDC provided [Institutes of Higher Education \(IHE\)](#) considerations noting, *"IHE officials can determine, in collaboration with state and local health officials, whether and how to implement these considerations while adjusting to meet the unique needs and circumstances of the IHE and local community. Implementation should be guided by what is feasible, practical, acceptable, and tailored to the needs of each community."*

We want to provide students and employees with meaningful on campus experiences while limiting exposure to the virus. Reopening our campus is complex and it is unreasonable to assume that we can eliminate the risk of student, faculty, or staff exposure to COVID-19. Please review the **Fall Semester Campus Re-Opening FAQs** for details on NMC's reopening. I hope the FAQs offer much of the information you need to prepare for a successful fall semester.

The FAQs are comprehensive, but we understand that there may be additional questions. Please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or the leadership team. As we have learned, even the best of plans can change. Therefore, the NMC's Incident Assessment Team and appropriate college committees will continue to monitor conditions and have the ability to adjust the reopening process as necessary throughout the coming summer months and into the fall semester.

As we work to return to a fall semester that looks and feels more traditional, it is very important we remember our duty as Educated Citizens and future healthcare professionals. Understanding the risks COVID-19 presents to our community is simply not enough. It is our responsibility to continue diligent efforts necessary to stop the spread. We cannot forget our why!

The sacrifices we make now impact the greater good of our community and our long-term health. Mask for those who cannot. Sanitize and distance to protect yourself and others. Do your part at school, clinical, home and in the community to work together to stop the spread. ***This is the NMC difference. This is the meaning of care.***

Deb Carlson

Deb Carlson
President & CEO
Nebraska Methodist College

Will campus be open for fall 2020?

While our campus will look different, NMC's campus will be open! New signage is being posted throughout the NMC facilities directing risk-minimizing behaviors for students, faculty and staff. Physical barriers are being installed at the Clark and Leinart front desks, bookstore retail area, campus health and Deja Brew. Classrooms, labs, study areas, and Clark dining are arranged for proper physical distancing. Technology will be available to provide effective hybrid or online instruction.

What will the fall semester academic calendar look like?

The fall semester will begin as scheduled on **August 17, 2020** (ACE begins August 10, 2020). Labor Day will be observed as a regular holiday with no classes, but classes will be in session on Tuesday, September 8. Thereafter, the academic fall schedule will continue per the academic calendar with both Fall Break and Thanksgiving break being observed as scheduled. Professional Development courses will continue as scheduled. The health and safety of our students, faculty and staff is our highest priority; thus, on campus plans are subject to change.

Will there be in-person courses or labs this fall semester?

Yes, NMC will have courses, labs, skills checks, and testing delivered in person, on campus for the fall semester. NMC will also have some courses originally schedule for in person instruction shift to a hybrid delivery of in person and online instruction or to exclusively online. An updated course schedule will be available to students and faculty soon. At this time, all classrooms, labs, study and social areas will be at half capacity and class sizes will be limited to approximately 25 students.

Will clinicals resume this fall semester?

Yes, clinical experiences will resume per program availability. Students will need to work with program director and clinical coordinator for details for your specific program. Most community clinical rotations will be completed in a virtual format. Clinical opportunities with NHI and lead testing will be in person.

Can I come to campus to work and/or study?

NMC's campus will be open to students, faculty, and staff effective **Monday, August 3, 2020**. Campus will be open from 6am – 8pm. Campus building access points will require NMC badge access. Please do not hold the door open for others; each person should produce a unique swipe. Guests and NMC employees or students without their badge must enter through the main Clark entrance and sign in/sign out with security.

By using your NMC badge, you are attest that you:

- Have conducted and passed a daily self-screening. See **Daily Self-Screening Guidelines**.

- Are adhering to all NMC protocols posted, including but not limited to **Physical Distancing and Campus Face Covering Guidelines**.

At this time, all classrooms, labs, study and social areas will be limited to half capacity. Capacities will be displayed on study rooms. Booths and tables in social and study areas will be marked and spaced for appropriate physical distancing. To be efficient with cleaning resources, classrooms will be closed to meetings and studying once classes dismiss.

Are prospective students able to visit campus in person?

Prospective student visits will be by appointment only. At this time, NMC will not hold large group visits this fall, but instead, intends to maximize use of our virtual visits.

Do I need to quarantine if I have traveled recently or am a new student on campus this fall?

As of June 1, 2020, travel guidelines only require a 14-day quarantine after returning from international travel. Students that have traveled 100 miles outside of the Omaha area or are new to campus this fall from locations greater than 100 miles outside the Omaha area are encouraged to call Campus Health at (402) 354-7211 for COVID-19 symptoms or exposure screening. There is not a quarantine requirement if the screen is negative at this time.

Will there be a summer commencement ceremony?

NMC will hold summer commencement ceremonies on July 31, 2020. Multiple ceremonies are being planned that day to keep the within the venue capacity limits and to provide for social/physical distancing. If state and federal guidelines do not allow large gatherings to take place, the College will communicate alternative plans.

Who should I speak to if I'm experiencing COVID-related issues or am uncomfortable returning to campus this fall semester?

We understand that students may face a variety of COVID-19 related challenges. NMC wants to provide the support necessary for our students' success. If a challenge inhibits your academic or personal success, please contact Sarah Murphy, Dean of Students, for support. You can reach Sarah via phone or email at Sarah.Murphy@methodistcollege.edu or 402-354-7528.

Students or employees who have been exposed to COVID-19 or who have received a positive COVID-19 test are instructed to contact Campus Health (students) or Employee Health (employees). Further COVID-19 guidelines are provided within the FAQs.

Is Campus Housing open?

NMC's campus housing is open for NMC students. We ask that campus housing residents please adhere to social distancing, masking and other CDC preventative measure guidelines. Details about fall student move-in days will be forthcoming in early July.

How will campus events and meetings be conducted?

All social gatherings and meetings should be limited to 25 people or less and have made accommodations for appropriate physical distancing. All college-sponsored events should provide access

for individuals not able to be physically present to accommodate remote participation when activity is otherwise face-to-face. All student organization sponsored events and fundraising must be pre-approved by the Dean of Students. Outside organization, events, and facility rentals are cancelled until further notice.

Continued use of WebEx, Zoom or conference calls is strongly encouraged in lieu of in-person meetings. If you are onsite, faculty and staff are encouraged to meet virtually from individual offices if available, instead of taking up classroom or student study space.

When WebEx, Zoom or conference calls are not available and an in-person meeting is scheduled:

- Sit every other chair or, if practical, arrange chairs six feet apart
- Wipe down tabletops and chair arms before and after your meeting
- Sanitize markers and clean white board before and after your meeting
- Wipe down computer, audio equipment and speakerphone control panels before and after your meeting

Are Federal Work Study students and student employees able to report to campus to work?

NMC anticipates that student workers will report to campus. The financial aid department will contact FWS students regarding their work assignment for the fall semester.

How am I able to receive Financial Aid counseling or visit with Business Office staff?

The Financial Aid and Business Offices will be open, but the majority of the operations will continue on-line. To the extent possible, we encourage students to conduct business via e-mail, phone or through the NMC Financial Aid Portal. In-person meetings will be by appointment only. To schedule a telephone or in-person appointment with a Financial Counselor, use the Financial Aid Counselor's Calendly link, available on the NMC Financial Aid Portal. Business Office staff Calendly links are on the NMC Business Office website.

Are there travel restrictions in place for students and NMC employees?

All non-essential business/academic travel (employee and student) should be cancelled at least through October 31, 2020. No new travel may be booked at this time—please see your Vice President (employees) or Dean of Students (students) if you feel your travel is essential. Academic Travel Abroad (ATA) remains scheduled for December 2020 with updates provided to those signed up for ATA travel.

Will Advising, Library and Academic Success services, such as academic coaching, tutoring and supplemental instruction, be available on campus this fall?

Yes! Advising, library, academic coaching, tutoring and supplemental instruction will be available for both in person and virtual support this fall semester.

How can I access mental health counseling?

Counseling Services will be available for both in person and virtual support this fall semester. On campus students please contact Campus Counselor Kathy Dworak at Kathy.Dworak@methodistcollege.edu or call 402-354-7080 for an appointment. All NMC students (online and on campus) may also access

mental health counseling resources 24/7/365 through the Student Assistance Program (SAP) at 866-776-6233 or 402-354-8020 and at www.BestcareEAP.org.

Are you seeking pastoral support and spiritual reflection rather than counseling?

Rev. Chad Anglemeyer is a United Methodist pastor and member of NMC Board of Directors. Contact him at 402-830-3039 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday--Thursday to schedule a time for conversation by phone or Zoom video conference. NMC's Ignite group meets weekly via Zoom and has posted [virtual service listings](#) on MyMethodist.

New to campus this fall will be Kim Haizlip. Kim will be introducing NMC to Christian Student Fellowship—a non-denominational campus ministry providing an opportunities for students to connect spiritually at NMC and across college campuses in Nebraska. More info to come about Kim and Christian Student Fellowship soon!

What about students who are registered with Disability Services and receive academic accommodations. Will those continue when courses are delivered by hybrid or online instruction?

Our Academic Success staff has worked with faculty and NMC's CREATE Center to ensure that academic accommodations will be moved online to the greatest extent possible. If you are not registered with Disability Services and are in need of ADA accommodations or a short-term accommodation because of COVID-19, please contact Director of Academic Success, Lisa Flairty at Lisa.Flairty@methodistcollege.edu.

Are TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) available?

TRIO SSS is a federally-funded program that provides academic resources, individual support, career counseling and scholarship assistance for first generation, low income or disabled students. If you are already a TRIO SSS student, resources remain available. If you are a new student at NMC this fall, please contact Director of TRIO SSS, Lisa Johnson at Lisa.Johnson2@methodistcollege.edu for information on eligibility and an application.

Is Campus Health open?

Campus Health hours of operation remain the same, Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., however walk-in appointments can no longer be accommodated. If you are not feeling well, please call 402-354-7211 for an appointment. Please use the Dodge Street entrance to the 501 Building. Soon Campus Health will also be available for visits via telehealth service. More details to come!

Will there be food service, micro market or vending machines available on campus?

Deja Brew will be open this fall. Food service hours may vary. Deja Brew will provide grab-and-go options for meals as well as serve individually plated meals (versus self-serve stations). At this time, campus events and programs should avoid food service. If food service is necessary, avoid buffet style and instead opt for individually packaged meals. NMC micro market and vending machines will be available as well.

If you consume food on campus, dispose of any food or food containers in appropriate trash receptacles. Each person will be responsible for wiping down and sanitizing the any surfaces food is consumed. These areas include the classrooms, study rooms, individual offices, Student Engagement Center as well as the Clark Dining area.

How do I purchase books, supplies and NMC swag?

NMC's Bookstore will be open for in person shopping! Bookstore occupancy will be limited to six customers at a time. All items are also conveniently available on-line. We also encourage students to order through the [Bookstore website](#) for books, supplies and scrubs. Orders will be packaged and available for pick-up at the bookstore or they can be shipped. All payments will be processed electronically.

Will the fitness center reopen in fall?

Unfortunately, the NMC fitness center will remain closed until further notice.

What if someone on campus (faculty, staff, student or visitor) is symptomatic, diagnosed positive or exposed to COVID-19?

If there is an identified or suspected case of COVID-19 on campus, NMC leadership team will identify the level of exposure within campus and will notify anyone who may have been exposed. Depending upon the exposure level, the College will isolate the location(s), close the College (or areas within the College) for a period of time for deep cleaning, and communicate with the campus when the College (or areas within the College) will resume on-campus operations. The Vice President of Business and Operations will contact cleaning services to schedule the deep cleaning of all areas with possible exposure. NMC leadership team and Campus Health will work with the exposed individual(s) regarding the necessary actions to take and contact tracing.

How is NMC supporting campus health and safety?

NMC has enhanced its cleaning and disinfection of common contact areas. Classrooms and labs will be cleaned after each session. Common high-touch surfaces are listed below will receive frequent sanitization throughout each day.

- Door knobs and handles
- Push plates and crash bars on doors
- Automatic door openers
- Overhead light and lamp switches
- Stair doors and handrails
- Elevator call and interior buttons
- Drinking fountains
- Vending machines and ATM's
- Tables, chairs and booths in dining area, OSE and study rooms
- Computer keyboards, printer keypads and other shared equipment
- Fridge/microwave handles in Micro market and breakrooms
- Restroom surfaces and fixtures

In the event a student, faculty or staff tests positive for COVID-19, NMC has a plan for cleaning and disinfecting impacted areas (e.g., classrooms, labs, restrooms, study areas, pathways, etc.).

Student Assistance Resource Quick Links

- NMC’s food pantry remains open and available to all students for curbside pickup. You can access the order form [here](#).
- NMC has a Student Crisis Fund that can assist with payment of non-tuition bills. Contact Dean Tickle, Vice President of Business and Operations at Dean.Tickle@methodistcollege.edu for information on the Student Crisis Fund process for payment assistance and application.
- Free, confidential counseling to currently enrolled students is available by contacting Campus Counselor, Kathy Dworak at Kathy.Dworak@methodistcollege.edu.
- The Student Assistance Program (SAP) also offers free, confidential counseling and available 24/7/365 for students, their spouse, or dependents at 866-776-6233 or 402-354-8020 and www.BestcareEAP.org.
- The Campus Health remains open by appointment only by calling 402-354-7211. Look for an announcement about telehealth options coming soon!

Daily Health Screening Guidelines:

Before coming on campus, everyone including NMC faculty, staff, and students must pass a daily health self-screen to verify that you do not have COVID-19 symptoms or exposures that would put you at risk for infection. If you are ill or have any symptoms of, test positive, or have exposure to COVID-19, you must stay home. Students will be required to record a daily temperature reading in CastleBranch.

- Self-screen for symptoms of COVID-19 or any illness before coming to campus or clinical facility.
- Self-screen for travel internationally or over 100 miles outside Omaha Metro in the past 14 days (for more than 2 hours).
- Self-screen for COVID-19 exposure.
- Self-screen temperature at home before coming to campus or clinical facility (needs to be below 100 degrees).
- If any YES answers on self-screen, DO NOT come to campus for class or go to clinical. Call Campus Health at 402-354-7211.

ONE of the following symptoms is considered a positive screen	TWO of the following symptoms is considered a positive screen
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry, persistent cough • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing • Fever > 100.4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gastrointestinal symptoms (diarrhea or vomiting) • Sore throat • Sudden loss of sense of taste and/or smell • Headache • Body aches

Physical Distancing Guidelines:

NMC is taking the following measures to ensure the health of our community:

- All persons must remain six feet apart, whenever possible, and abstain from physical contact, including shaking hands.
- All persons must observe good hygiene and wash hands frequently and cough or sneeze into their own elbows.
- Employees who can carry out their duties from home have been encouraged to speak to their supervisor about working remotely.
- All persons are not to come to work if they are sick.
- No one with dry cough or fever should enter NMC or clinical facilities.
- Frequent disinfecting of bathrooms, common areas, and high-contact surfaces.
- Hand sanitizer is available at locations presenting a greater likelihood of contact with people.
- Soap and water are available to the NMC community at all restrooms.
- NMC requires all members of the NMC community to wear a face covering, except when in a private office or private vehicle.
- Non-essential events and gatherings have been cancelled or postponed.
- NMC is complying with the public health directives on facility, classroom and lab capacities.
- Meetings take place virtually, when possible.
- NMC will not offer self-service food stations.
- Lids for cups & food items are to be provided by staff and not available for customers to grab.
- Where lines may form, floor markings have been applied to indicate six feet of separation for those in line, and persons are encouraged to use the markings to maintain distance.

Campus Face Covering Guidelines:

Anyone in a NMC space (including buildings, grounds, classrooms, shared laboratory areas, conference rooms, elevators, etc.) must wear a face covering or mask that covers both nose and mouth at all times, except when alone in a private room or private vehicle. Faculty may remove their face covering while delivering in class instruction if they are able to maintain proper physical distancing. Please note the different requirements for clinical and non-clinical settings.

A surgical mask and goggles must be worn at all times in hospital and clinical settings. Due to the close proximity necessary between students and instructors for learning and skills development in campus labs and simulation areas, goggles and cloth face coverings are required for campus labs and simulation areas. Cloth face coverings are not an acceptable substitute for surgical masks in hospital and clinical environments, but are preferred in non-clinical and campus lab settings.

Residents of campus housing are not required to wear a face covering while in their own units, but face coverings should be worn in all common areas housing buildings (hallways, laundry rooms, storage areas, etc.)

NMC's face covering policies are meant to supplement the Physical Distancing Guidelines currently in effect, which strongly recommends maintaining a six-foot distance from others whenever possible. Face coverings and masks are not a substitute for physical distancing.

Cloth face coverings such as bandanas, neck gaiters, scarves or other household items ideally should be made of washable materials so they can be kept clean and reused, as recommended by the CDC and other public health agencies. Anyone coming to NMC should bring and wear a personal face covering. If needed, a facemask (one per person) can be obtained from Clark entrance front desk. Cloth facemasks will be available in the Bookstore for purchase.

To extend the capacity of the campus to provide facemasks to clinical staff and others during the COVID-19 pandemic, please do not request a mask if you have access to a suitable cloth face covering or if it is not currently essential that you work or learn onsite.

This policy is based on guidelines from the CDC. Face coverings are not required for children 12 years or younger. Face coverings are prohibited for children two years or younger, as they can cause suffocation. These guidelines will be revised as conditions continue to evolve.