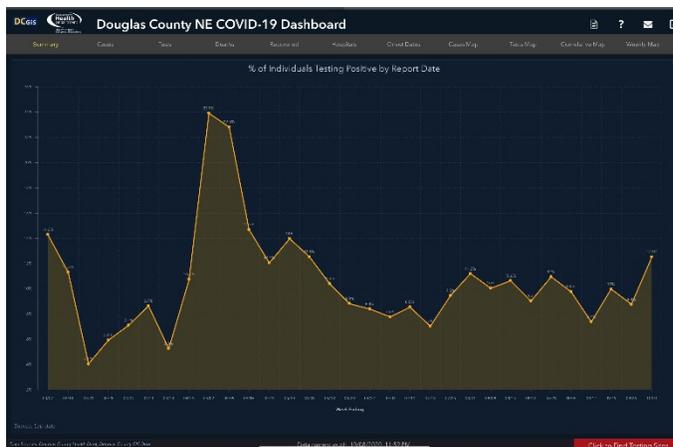
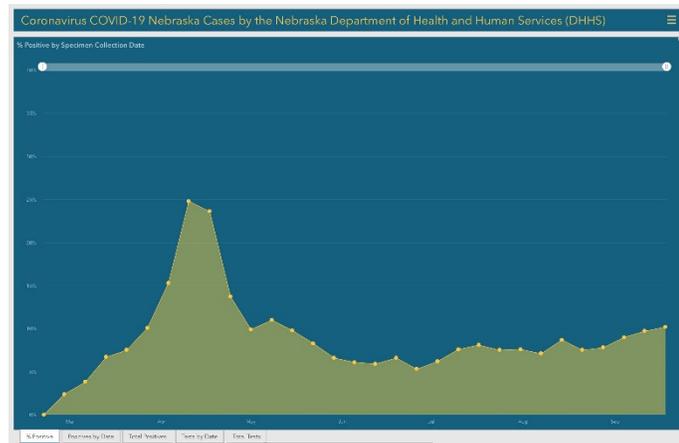


Dear NMC Community,

As many faculty and students begin a much-deserved Fall Break, please keep in mind that COVID-19 remains a health risk to each of us individually, but also a risk to us collectively maintaining our open campus status. Recently, local health officials have reported that the percentage of individuals testing positive for COVID-19 has been steadily increasing in [Nebraska](#) and [Douglas County](#).

In Nebraska, the percentage of individuals testing positive for COVID-19 increased from 9.7% on September 26 to 10.2% on October 3. Similarly, Douglas County experienced an increase during the same period from 9.9% to 12.5%. Further, capacities within our community hospital systems are decreasing.



At NMC, we ask that student and employees self-report to Campus Health if you are experiencing the following:

- Diagnosed/being treated by a healthcare professional for COVID-19 or
- Test positive for COVID-19.

In addition, if students and employees are symptomatic or exposed to a positive case, please follow **COVID-19 Reporting Guidelines** published on page 12-13 of the [NMC Campus Reopening Guide](#).

Since March 2020, NMC has 45 reported positive cases within our campus community. Campus Health has seen an increase in reported positive cases over the same period from 4 cases during the week of September 28 to 8 additional cases the week of October 5. These numbers are self-reported positive cases from students and employees. This fall semester, NMC's on campus student population is 810 students and has 152 full- and part-time employees.

To maintain an open campus and meaningful campus experiences, it is critical that cases continue to be self-reported to Campus Health. NMC's Incident Assessment Team continues to monitor COVID-19 conditions as it relates to our campus health and safety and is leading conversations about how changing COVID-19 conditions, flu season and hospital capacities might affect in person campus

operations, clinical opportunities and the spring 2021 semester. With rising COVID-19 cases, individuals experiencing allergies, and flu season at our doorstep, now is the time to recommit to following face masking and physical distancing guidelines, do not attend on campus classes or attend clinical if sick, and practicing good hand hygiene in efforts to mitigate COVID-19 spread.

Please continue to visit [NMC's COVID-19 Resource](#) page for updates, communication, policies, and resources. Updated Methodist Health System, state and county information is currently available on our COVID-19 Resource webpage. This includes COVID-19 information and dashboards from [Nebraska DHHS](#), [Iowa DHS](#) and [Douglas County Health Department](#). We will be including Campus Health data on our webpage next week.

Have an enjoyable Fall Break NMC, but please stay vigilant to health and safety measures. **Campus remains open during Fall Break.** If you've had a high-risk COVID-19 exposure, are sick, experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, awaiting test results, required to quarantine, or test positive for COVID-19, NMC has support services to available to help you. The pressures and fears that may come with the reality of being sick, missing time in class or clinical and not being able to work are real and NMC staff and faculty are prepared to provide guidance and keep you on track. **If you are experiencing any of the above, please communicate with them immediately.** Our collective success as a campus community depends on the care we have for each other.

Take care and be well,

Deb Carlson

Deb Carlson
President/CEO
Nebraska Methodist College