

January 10, 2022

Dear CNCC Family:

Greetings and Welcome Back for your Spring 2022 Semester at Colorado Northwestern Community College. I am writing to share recent changes to CNCC's COVID protocols that will be effective with your return to campus on January 10, 2022.

The CDC issued new guidance on December 27, 2022, which impacts the College's COVID protocols. You may read about these changes at <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isolation-quarantine-guidance.html>

The College has carefully reviewed the new protocols and has consulted with local county health authorities to determine how best to implement these changes at CNCC. Please note the following updates:

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

- The new CDC guidance shortens the Isolation and Quarantine periods to 5 days (instead of 10 days) and adds a 5-day strict use of a "well-fitted" mask requirement.
- Symptom management is our most effective tool in limiting the spread of the COVID Omicron variant. We will be working with our instructors, coaches, and staff to ensure that all of us respond quickly and responsibly to onset of symptoms.

CHANGES TO CNCC'S COVID PROTOCOLS:

1. **COVID+ cases now only Isolate for 5 days followed by "Wearing a well-fitting mask for an additional 5 days".**
 - a. **Good News:** Student can now return to class after a 5-Day Isolation period (rather than 10 days) followed by "strict mask use for an additional 5 days".
 - b. Well-fitted masks = minimum 2 ply mask with nose pinch to ensure snug fit. ***Cloth masks and gators do not meet this requirement.***
 - c. The 5-day mask requirement is neither optional nor negotiable.
 - d. COVID+ athletes are required to meet the College's return safe play protocols as assessed by our athletic trainer. Student athletes will not be able to play or practice during the 5-day mask required period.
 - e. Athletes who contract COVID can return to class after 5 day isolation with wearing a mask, and to full participation in sports after 10 days inclusive of isolation and mask requirement.



2. COVID CLOSE CONTACTS - Viability of Vaccinations:

- a. Definition of Close Contact is unchanged: "Closer than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes. 15 minutes is in one contact or spread over 1 hour totaling 15 minutes".
- b. Students/Staff with COVID booster must present evidence of that booster. If received, do not have to quarantine; however, it is highly recommended that they test for COVID 5 days following contact and wear a well-fitted mask for 5 days.
- c. Student/Staff within 6 months beyond the 2nd Dose (Pfizer/Moderna) do not have to quarantine; however, it is highly recommended that they test for COVID 5 days following contact and wear a well-fitted mask for 5 days.
- d. Student/Staff more than 6 months since 2nd Dose (Pfizer/Moderna) must quarantine for 5 days and must COVID test at the end of quarantine period. If negative, return to general population with 5 days strict use of well-fitted mask.
- e. Student/Staff who are unvaccinated must quarantine for 5 days and must COVID test at the end of quarantine period. If negative, return to general population with 5 days strict use of well-fitted mask.
- f. J&J Vaccine is same protocol as above except its protection expires 2 months after shot.

3. Strict use of a Well-Fitted Mask:

- a. All Isolated COVID+ students/staff are required to strictly use a well-fitted mask for 5 days following Isolation.
- b. All quarantined students/staff are required to strictly use a well-fitted mask for 5 days following their Quarantine period.
- c. Students/Staff who flagrantly refuse to wear masks following a COVID+ isolation may be subject to student conduct or an employee conduct review.

3. COVID Symptom Management:

- a. **Employees -**
 - Employees who have symptoms should notify their supervisor and stay home.
 - COVID + employees should stay home and isolate per local/CDC guidelines.
 - Employees should contact HR Director for information about requirements and compensation during COVID leave.
- b. **Students -**
 - Athletic Department is implementing a revised protocol for COVID Symptom management and screening during Spring 2022 sports season. This will be reviewed with each of the college's sports teams.
 - CNCC will screen for COVID+ during registration and dorm check in. COVID+ students will be isolated. Symptomatic individuals will be asked to strictly wear a well-fitted mask.
 - Instructors, Deans and Staff will identify students who show symptoms and invite them to mask and socially distance at minimum and/or to restrict themselves to dorms.
 - Academics will work with students who actively show symptoms to manage absences.



CNCC's COVID Safety Plans will be updated with the above changes and will be posted to the College's COVID Update page during the week of January 10, 2022. As a reminder, all Housing Students will complete a COVID Rapid Text on campus regardless of vaccination status upon check in. Any questions regarding CNCC's COVID protocols should be directed to Jen Rea, Associate Dean of Students, and/or David Hardman, Vice President of Student Services.

We look forward to providing you a full array of Spring 2022 campus services, sports activities and to ensure that each of you remains safe and healthy in this new COVID Omicron aware world.

Best Wishes!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" and last name "Jones" clearly distinguishable.

Dr. Lisa Jones
President

