

Fall Semester 2021 FAQs
Anoka-Ramsey Community College and Anoka Technical College
V1 Dated 8/12/21

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Q: What measures are being implemented at the colleges to respond to continuing COVID-19 transmission?

A: The colleges are taking a layered mitigation approach, using multiple safety precautions as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). These include that:

- The colleges encourage vaccination as the best individual and community protection against COVID-19.
- All students, employees, and visitors are required to wear masks indoors in campus buildings, and when engaged in college-sponsored work activities in other areas of substantial or high transmission.
- All students, employees, and visitors are required to self-screen for symptoms upon entry to campus.
- Free resources for testing for COVID-19 are available.
- Positive COVID-19 cases or known exposure to positive COVID-19 cases are reported to Public Safety at COVID-19.Health@anokaramsey.edu or COVID-19.Health@anokatech.edu.
- Campus spaces, including classrooms, allow for social distancing where possible.
- Campuses have ample hand sanitizing stations, disinfectant, and face coverings available for use.
- Faculty teaching in-person classes use seating charts and/or assigned partners.
- Foot traffic is guided to allow for distancing in hallways.

Q: What can I do to stay safe when I come to campus?

A: The most important way to protect yourself is to get vaccinated. COVID-19 vaccines are free and widely-available. You can find a vaccination appointment or walk-in site near you by visiting the State's [Vaccine Connector](#). It is also important to wear a mask indoors on campus and in other public spaces, practice regular handwashing and health etiquette, and monitor yourself for any symptoms of COVID-19. Do not come to campus if you are experiencing any COVID-related symptoms.

Q: Are employees and students required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to come to campus?

A: Beginning on September 8th, all state employees, including employees of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, will be required to show proof for full vaccination against COVID-19 or be tested at least weekly. This applies to anyone working on-campus, and to teleworkers who want to access campus for more than 10 minutes or provide agency services outside of their home. COVID-19 vaccines are not currently required for students, though students may be required by external entities to be vaccinated (e.g. clinical sites). More information on the details of this requirement and attestation and testing processes are forthcoming.

Q: I am fully-vaccinated. Why do I need to wear a mask on campus?

A: The mask requirement is in alignment with the recommendations of the CDC and MDH, and adopted by the Minnesota State System, that everyone wear a mask in public indoor spaces in areas of substantial and high spread of COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status. This is to respond to the prevalence of the more contagious Delta strain of the virus and increasing case and test positivity rates.

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Q: Do I have to wear a mask in my own office? What about outdoors?

A: Wearing a mask in a private office when alone is not required. Masks are also not required to be worn outdoors, but the CDC recommends that unvaccinated individuals wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or where there is close contact in outdoor activities.

Q: What if someone on campus refuses to wear a mask?

A: Contact Public Safety. Security is prepared to manage these situations directly.

Q: What does “self-screening” mean? Do I still need to fill out an online form and show a green screen to come to campus?

A: No online screening form or green screen is required for entry. Instead, all students, employees and visitors should independently review the screening questions posted at entry. Anyone answering “yes” to the screening questions should not enter campus, but should instead contact their faculty or supervisor, and in most cases, alert their health care provider.

Q: When should I take a COVID-19 test? How can I get tested?

A: Currently, it is recommended that individuals get tested for COVID-19 in the following circumstances:

- Anyone who has any symptoms.
- Anyone who is not fully vaccinated and who has had close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.
- Anyone traveling or returning from travel.
- Anyone who is not fully vaccinated and has attended a high-risk activity.
- Anyone who is not fully vaccinated and who works in close contact with a lot of people.
- Anyone who is not fully vaccinated and who participates in in-person school, extracurricular activities, or sporting activities.
- People with immunocompromising conditions, even if fully vaccinated.
- Anyone who has been asked or referred to get tested by their health care provider, or state, tribal, local, or territorial health department.

More information about COVID-19 testing, including when and where to test, is available at the [MDH testing website](#). Testing is free and available at many sites in the community – find a [testing location](#), or test at home with a [mail-in test](#).

Q: What do I do if a student tells me they have COVID-19 or have symptoms? What if a student has been exposed to someone with COVID-19?

A: First, make sure they know not to come to campus if they are positive for COVID-19 or have any COVID-19 symptoms. Recommend that they contact their health care provider. If they have tested positive for COVID-19, you should report the case to Public Safety at COVID-19.Health@anokaramsey.edu or COVID-19.Health@anokatech.edu. COVID-19 is a reportable disease under state law, and as institutions, we must get that information to the Minnesota Department of Health. If a student does not have symptoms or a

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positive test, but has been exposed to someone with COVID-19, they may need to quarantine, depending upon the circumstances; contact Public Safety at COVID-19.Health@anokaramsey.edu or COVID-19.Health@anokatech.edu. Public Safety will also discuss whether anyone else on campus would be considered a close contact subject to quarantine and/or testing recommendations. Lastly, if a student is in quarantine, faculty are strongly encouraged to be flexible in working with the student on opportunities to continue the course successfully.

Q: What amount of social distancing is required?

A: While there is no specific distancing requirement, the recommendation from MDH is that distancing where possible is an important COVID-19 prevention strategy. Classrooms, common areas and other waiting areas will be set up to maintain 3'-6' distancing where possible, though not all spaces can accommodate this level of distancing.

Q: What cleaning or disinfecting is being done on campus? What am I expected to do in my classroom or office?

A: Classrooms, offices, and common areas are cleaned daily and continue to follow, at a minimum, CDC recommended cleaning and disinfecting protocols. Additionally, disinfecting wipes are available to students, faculty, and staff in offices and classrooms, should they choose to use them

Q: Do I have to assign seats or partners in my in-person classes?

A: Yes, assigned seating/seating charts are required, per recommendations from MDH. Knowing who is a close contact in the case of COVID-19 exposure is still essential to contact tracing and determining quarantine recommendations. It helps to limit possible quarantine.

Q: Are we allowed to have events or activities in-person? Are there capacity limits?

A: In-person events and activities are allowed, but anyone planning or hosting an event or activity should consider MDH recommendations in their planning. While there are not any requirements beyond regular campus protocols (i.e. self-screening, masking), recommendations and considerations include, but are not limited to:

- Holding events/activities outdoors or virtually
- Managing social distancing as practicable (which could mean limiting in-person attendance)
- Keeping records of attendance
- Ensuring attendees are aware of health and safety protocols

Q: I have other COVID-related questions. Where do I go?

A: Please send questions to COVID-19.Health@anokaramsey.edu or COVID-19.Health@anokatech.edu