



Gulf Coast State College

COVID-19: Frequently Asked Questions

Last Update: 9/14/21

Information continues to change rapidly as the situation evolves. We ask that GCSC students, faculty, and staff continue to monitor their college email, social media, and the [GCSC COVID-19 website](#) for the most up-to-date information regarding the college.

[Quick Reference Guide](#) for contacting specific departments on campus during COVID-19.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Are face masks required to be worn while in College facilities?

- ❖ Face masks are strongly recommended inside all College facilities to ensure the health and safety of the entire College community.

What precautionary measures is the college taking to prevent the spread of COVID-19?

- ❖ The College is committed to the safety of all students, faculty and staff and continues to follow guidelines provided by the CDC and health officials. The College has also taken additional precautionary safety measures including: installing Plexiglas shields in high traffic areas; distributing reusable masks to full-time employees; fogging classrooms, labs and public spaces with disinfectant; equipping classrooms with disinfectant wipes; and nightly facilities crews for extra cleaning. Anti-bacterial wipes and hand sanitizer stations are available throughout the campus.

What is an exposure?

- ❖ A community-related exposure is defined by the CDC as having close contact with a person who has shown symptoms of COVID-19 and has a positive test result. Exposure can occur whether you are wearing a mask, or not. What counts as close contact?
 - You were within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.
 - You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19, or reside with them.
 - You had direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them).
 - You shared eating or drinking utensils.
 - They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you.
 - **Those who have tested positive or have been fully vaccinated (both COVID-19 doses) in the last 90 days do not have to quarantine from exposure if no symptoms exist.**

What do I do if I believe I have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?

- ❖ If you have been in close contact with a person who has COVID-19, you will have to stay at home up to 14 days from your last contact with that person. You should monitor yourself for symptoms. If you have no symptoms at all, the 14-day quarantine can be reduced to 10 days without a test. If you have no symptoms at all and can produce a negative test result, you can shorten the 14-day quarantine to 7 days. The negative test result must have been done within 48 hours of the 7th day. Please contact Mr. Thomasee's office for more information. If you develop symptoms, please refer to the "IF I HAVE SYMPTOMS OR TEST POSITIVE" section below.
- ❖ If you have been fully vaccinated (both COVID-19 shots for Pfizer or Moderna, or one shot for Johnson and Johnson), or had COVID-19 in the last 90 days and recovered, you do not have to quarantine. It is recommended you be tested after day 5 of the exposure to confirm no transmission and also wear a mask for 14 days. During that time you should monitor yourself for flu like symptoms.

What do I do if I have symptoms or test positive?

- ❖ If your symptoms are mild, your healthcare provider may advise you to get tested. If you test positive, or do not test, you will need to self-isolate for 10 days after symptom onset. At the end of 10 days if you have gone 24 hours with no fever or use of fever-reducing medications, you will be able to return to the campus. Make sure your symptoms have improved. If you test positive again after recovery, you do not need to repeat the self-isolation guidelines previously mentioned.
- ❖ If your symptoms are severe, consult your healthcare provider immediately.
- ❖ If you test negative, you will be able to return to campus after 24 hours of no fever or use of fever-reducing medications. Make sure your symptoms have improved.
- ❖ Notify your professor of your condition. Your professor should then direct you to contact Mr. David Thomasee, Director of Campus Safety and Security (dthomasee@gulfcoast.edu, or at 850-873-3582). The information provided to your professor and Mr. Thomasee is considered protected and will not be shared.

When can I return to campus after testing positive?

- ❖ There are several factors to be considered when determining when it is appropriate to return to campus after a positive COVID-19 test. Please consult with Mr. Thomasee to discuss your individual situation and ensure you get back to campus in a safe and timely manner.

What do I do if I feel bad and have COVID-19 symptoms?

- ❖ Seek medical advice immediately. If your symptoms are related to COVID-19 that we recommend that you get tested to determine your illness.

How do I complete my class if I test positive and am required to self-quarantine?

- ❖ Faculty will work with students to complete coursework in a timely fashion.
- ❖ If you require hospitalization, the College has a process for students to request a drop from all classes due to a medical issue. Please contact Student Affairs for further information.

What if I have a reason that I cannot wear a face covering (masks)?

- ❖ If you have a reason in which you cannot wear a face covering (masks) you must complete an exemption application. If you are a student please contact the GCSC Student Accessibility Resources office at SAR@gulfcoast.edu or 850-767-8035. If you are an employee or staff member, please contact Human Resources at 850-913-2926.

ACADEMICS/STUDENT LIFE

How are courses being delivered to students?

- ❖ Courses are being offered in a variety of modalities: face-to-face, online, or hybrid.

How will campus services be impacted?

- ❖ All campus services have resumed operations while adhering to the guidelines provided by the CDC.

Is the pool and fitness center open?

- ❖ The pool and wellness classes have resumed.
- ❖ The pool has resumed operations for open swim.
 - The therapy pool will remain closed until further notice.
- ❖ The fitness center has resumed operations.

Will advising be available to students?

- ❖ Yes, students can book a virtual or in-person appointment with their Pathway Navigator by clicking [here](#). Pathway Navigators will continue to work with students via phone, email, and other communication modes.

Will the tutoring labs be open?

- ❖ At this time all tutoring labs will offer in-person and virtual tutoring.
 - Information for the Writing & Reading Lab can be found [here](#).
 - Information for the Math Lab can be found [here](#).

Is the testing center open?

- ❖ The testing center is open and following guidelines set forth by the CDC.
- ❖ Please visit the testing center website for the most up to date information located [here](#).

Are there any resources for finding where my family or I can get assistance with food?

- ❖ Commodore Cupboard is open and ready to serve GCSC students, faculty and staff. Please submit a request for non-perishable food items, pick-up time, and day.
 - **Main Campus** pick-up location submit [here](#).
 - **Gulf/Franklin Campus** pick-up location submit [here](#).
 - You may submit one request per week and request must be submitted by 5:00pm for pick-up the following day (excludes weekends).
 - Curbside delivery will be available in front of Student Union East.

Monetary donations to Commodore Cupboard can be made through the GCSC Foundation located [here](#).

Will the library be open?

- ❖ Yes, the library is open!
 - Study rooms (for single occupancy) may be reserved in advanced. To reserve a study room click [here](#).
 - Library hours can be found [here](#).
 - The library will continue to provide instructional, reference, and article delivery services remotely for your convenience. Research assistance is also provided by phone (850-872-3893), chat, email librarian@gulfcoast.edu, and text (386-866-2853).

Who do I contact for counseling services?

- ❖ Please schedule an appointment with Leigh Bailey at lbailey@gulfcoast.edu with your name and phone number.
- ❖ A list of local resources can be found [here](#).
- ❖ Florida Blue and New Directions Behavioral Health have teamed up to offer a hotline to help Floridians deal with their anxiety over the COVID-19 crisis. Specially trained behavioral health counselors will answer the phone 24-hours a day and offer assistance in both English and Spanish. To receive assistance, please call 833-848-1762. Further information can be found [here](#).

ADMISSIONS/FINANCIAL AID/VA BENEFITS

Who do I contact if I have questions about admissions?

- ❖ Please contact the Admissions office at 850.872.3892 or visit their [website](#).

Who do I contact if I have questions about my financial aid?

- ❖ Please review the financial aid FAQ located [here](#).
- ❖ The financial aid office can be reached at fa@gulfcoast.edu.

Who do I contact if I have questions about my account?

- ❖ Please contact the business office at BusinessOffice@gulfcoast.edu.

Who do I contact if I have questions about how any changes affect my Veterans Benefits?

- ❖ Please contact the Veteran Affairs office at 850.913.3291 or visit their [website](#)

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

Are laptops available for students to checkout?

- ❖ Yes, students can checkout laptops in the library.
 - The laptops are available for semester-long loans to current GCSC students on a first-come, first-served basis. To reserve a laptop, see the link on the library web site or contact the library.
 - Students are responsible for all borrowed equipment, including paying replacement fees or late fines if equipment is not returned in good condition or on time.

Will WiFi be available on campus for students to access?

- ❖ Yes. The college has created an outdoor WiFi zone in the parking lot behind the library (North side, by the bay) for students who need access. This will provide a secure connection for students.
 - Look for the “GCSC Student Access” signs
 - Select the “gulfcoast” network connection
 - Enter your student login information

Is the college providing any free software for students to utilize?

- ❖ Yes. You can find a list of free software available to students [here](#).
- ❖ Texas Instruments is offering free 6 month [software](#) licenses of TI Software to all MAC and PC to allow students, parents and educators easy access to their calculators. They are also offering free downloadable [Classroom Activities](#) designed to align with all TI graphing calculators.