

COVID-19 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS

Students: What You Need to Know for Reopening

Northpoint is working to create policies and procedures to ensure a safe return to campus for all students. Whether you are an upperclassman or a new student, we are committed to providing an environment in which you can learn and succeed. We encourage you to check back for updates.

All students must present a COVID-19 negative test that was taken no more than seven days prior to returning to campus.

Out of Region Students returning to Campus

The state of Massachusetts has set forth specific requirements concerning people who travel into the state of Massachusetts from outside a specific seven (7) state area. Anyone traveling from outside of the seven-state area (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey) should self-quarantine for fourteen (14) days after entering the state. In order to protect the Northpoint community and to lessen the impact of potential cases of Covid-19 at the start of the academic year, any student who is coming from outside the designated seven-state area, must be on campus on August 5 to begin a period of quarantine. Listed below are the guidelines:

- You need to complete all facets of registration prior to August 5. The staff is more than ready to assist you to complete registration. You can email Mrs. Maranville (amaranville@northpoint.edu), Mrs. Phillips (aphillips@northpoint.edu), or Dr. Howell (dhowell@northpoint.edu) for help in the registration process.
- You will need to report to campus on August 5 to begin a twelve (12) day self-quarantine. This means you will not be permitted to leave your room, except to go to the restroom.
- Your meals will be provided via Pioneer and delivered to your room.
- You will need to sanitize the restroom both before and after use (wipes and spray are provided) as these restrooms will be used by multiple people.
- Students in self-quarantine will attend class via Zoom on August 12-14.
- Students showing no symptoms of COVID-19 will begin live instruction starting August 17.
- Students with a roommate, will be permitted to move into their assigned room after the self- quarantine period on August 16 at 1pm, provided they are not symptomatic.

Parental Help in Moving into Gibson, Gallagher, or Academy Halls

We realize this is normally an exciting experience for parents/guardians and students to share. However, in order to minimize the potential risk for Covid-19, parents/guardians will not be allowed into the residence halls to help students carry items to their room, aid in unpacking, or assisting in setting up the student's room. We will have student help available to assist in getting items into rooms. This policy is necessary in order to protect our community as we start the academic year.

In addition, only the student will be allowed into Academy Hall to complete his/her registration process. Please know the staff of Northpoint will guide you through this process.

Face Coverings

In response to Governor Baker's COVID-19 Order No. 31 requiring any person over age two (2) in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to wear a mask or face covering when in any place open to the public within the Commonwealth beginning May 6, 2020, the Institution is issuing new guidance for employees and students who attend, work or reside in institutional facilities and other campus-wide spaces.

Effective immediately and until further notice, anyone (age two and up) outdoors on the Northpoint Bible College campus that is unable to or does not maintain a distance of six (6) feet from every other person is required to cover their mouth and nose by wearing a face covering or mask. Anyone indoors in public areas of the Institution is required to wear a face covering or mask at all times.

Employees working alone in their offices, resident students and families, staff and families who are in their assigned college-owned housing do not need to wear masks or face coverings, but anytime in public areas of the Institution, masks are required.

Anyone unable to wear a mask or face covering due to a medical condition is excluded from this requirement. Documentation from your medical provider must be submitted to the Office of Student Development.

If any individual refuses to wear a mask or face covering for non-medical reasons, Northpoint reserves the right to deny entry to that individual.

The use of a mask or face covering can potentially slow the spread of the virus preventing people who may have the virus but are asymptomatic from transmitting it to others. The use of a mask or face covering does not replace important social distancing measures. All individuals must continue to practice methods to protect the health and safety of the Northpoint Bible College community, including but not limited to the following: maintain more than six (6) feet of distance from other people; wash hands regularly with soap and water for at least twenty (20) seconds; keep isolated or stay home if sick; avoid close contact with others; avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth; clean things frequently touched with cleaning spray and wipes; and cover mouths whenever coughing or sneezing (using a tissue or inner elbow, not hands).

Social Distancing

In addition to wearing a face covering while on campus, all students must follow social distancing practices. The goal of social distancing is to reduce transmission of Covid-19 amongst individuals. Social distancing is not intended to completely eliminate all interactions. While on campus, all employees and students must maintain a minimum of six (6) feet from individuals to reduce the spread of Covid-19 when possible.

Safety Guidelines

You will notice various changes in the way our workplace looks as well as new practices and protocols. We understand these changes may be difficult, and we are here to support you. Our goal is to collaboratively ensure you feel safe and secure so together we can navigate the complexities of our “new normal.”

Here are some things we are implementing to help keep our campus safe and to support you:

- Student temperatures will be taken daily prior to classes, Chapel, and entrance to the cafeteria. If a student’s temperature is over 100, the student will be required to go back to his/her room for the day. Within six (6) hours, the student’s temperature will be checked again and the student will be asked if they are experiencing any other COVID-19 symptoms.
- More frequent cleaning and sanitizing
- Access to hand sanitizer throughout the campus
- Access to counseling
- Staggered chapel and dining times so fewer people are together at one time
- More frequent communications on our new policies and requirements
- New limits on the number of people allowed to gather in rooms, conference rooms, and common areas at one time

Here are some things we expect you to implement to help keep our campus safe:

- Alert your RD and RA if you are feeling sick.
- Wash your hands often, and for the recommended twenty (20) seconds.
- Stay at least six (6) feet apart when moving through the campus.
- Wear a face mask or cloth face covering.
- Be considerate of your fellow students (remember, we’re all in this together).
- Call, email, message, or video conference as much as possible rather than meet face-to-face.
- Speak with your academic advisor if you have any concerns.

Guidelines for Specific Locations

Common areas

Face coverings or masks must be worn by all students when inside Northpoint facilities in which others are present—including hallways where others travel and social distancing requirements cannot be maintained—and in common areas, conference rooms and other gathering locations.

Restrooms

To promote at least six (6) feet of distance between individuals, use of restrooms should be limited based on size. Hands should be washed afterward following public health guidance.

Elevators

No more than one (1) person (except for immediate family) may enter an elevator at a time and all riders should wear a face covering or mask and avoid touching the elevator buttons with exposed fingers, if possible. Upon departing the elevator, please wash your hands or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Gym and Fitness Center

There will be no access to the gym nor will there be intramural sports for the Fall 2020 semester.

The Fitness Center will open August 12 and will be limited to five (5) people at any given time. You must sign up to use the Fitness Center for a specified amount of time. You will be required to sanitize any equipment you use.

Guidelines for Specific Situations

To limit face-to-face interactions during your time on campus, you are encouraged to communicate with other students and faculty by email, instant messaging, and telephone.

Because convening in groups increases the risk of viral transmission, when feasible, meetings should be held using College-authorized electronic collaboration tools, such as Zoom, Skype, FaceTime, or Canvas Conferences, even when working on campus.

Meetings

In-person meetings should not exceed 50% of room capacity and require face coverings and appropriate physical distancing. Chairs and tables should be moved to encourage social distancing. Signage has been installed across campus to support social distancing practices.

Guidelines for Classrooms

All classrooms have been reduced in density by 50% when possible. Chairs, desks and tables have been removed from spaces to encourage social distancing; and signage has been installed across campus to support social distancing practices.

All students will be required to wear face coverings while in class; and faculty will be required to wear face coverings or use plexiglass options to reduce spread.

Eating

To limit the potential transmission of the virus, please wash your hands before and after eating. If you are dining on campus, you should wear your face covering or mask until you are ready to eat and then replace it afterward. All dining establishments on campus have been redesigned to allow at least six (6) feet of distance between each person, both in lines and seating areas. Individuals should not sit facing one another, and if possible, consider taking food to eat in the office or outside.

We hope that most people will take food back to their offices, dorms, or eat outside in the warm weather. Our two dining schedules for lunch are 11.45-12.30 and 12.45-1.30; and dinner schedules are 4.30-5.15 and 5.30-6.15.

If you are eating in your work environment, please remember to:

- Maintain six (6) feet of distance between yourself and others.
- Sit so that you are not facing another person.
- Replace your face covering or mask after eating.
- Wipe down all common surfaces — including table, chairs, refrigerator handles and coffee machines — with disinfectant.

Health

If a student has had a close-contact exposure* to Covid-19, the student is required to follow the following steps:

- Report the incident to your Resident Director.
- Self-quarantine for fourteen (14) days.
- Do your course work via Zoom.
- Watch for symptoms. If symptoms occur, you must be tested.
- If you test positive, you must go home and not return until you test negative.
- If possible, continue your course work at home via Zoom.

Health and safety will continue to be a top priority. We ask that all:

- Follow public health directives about staying home as much as possible and continue basic preventive measures.
- Know the signs of COVID-19, as compared to other illnesses. If you are ill, contact taskforce@northpoint.edu to seek advice.
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

- Report a presumptive or confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis to the Dean of Students at taskforce@northpoint.edu. Northpoint is monitoring cases and trends for our whole community.
- Attend to your mental health. Counseling from our staff and counseling services are available to students. Please contact Sue Fushpanski at sfushpanski@northpoint.edu to receive the information you need to schedule an appointment. Remember appointments may be via Zoom.

Resources

- [National Institutes of Health](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)
- [Mass.gov](#)

*From the CDC: In the context of COVID-19, an individual is considered a close contact if they a) have been within approximately 6 feet of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time or b) have had direct contact with infectious secretions from a COVID-19 case (e.g., have been coughed on). Close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a common space with a COVID-19 case. Data to inform the definition of close contact are limited. Considerations when assessing close contact include the duration of exposure (e.g., longer exposure time likely increases exposure risk) and the clinical symptoms of the person with COVID-19 (e.g., coughing likely increases exposure risk, as does exposure to a severely ill patient).