**Emergency Notification**

We are sending you this Emergency Notification as a requirement of the U.S. Department of Education Clery Act, which guides what health and safety information universities share with their campus.

As the fall semester begins, we want to remind you that COVID-19 is still present in Jackson County and the surrounding areas. We all must take steps to slow the spread of the disease. The intent of this message is to share information about WCU COVID-19 resources and protocols for the fall semester. The Campus Updates and Resources [website](https://www.wcu.edu/coronavirus/index.aspx) outlines all safety precautions the University is taking to minimize the spread of the virus.

Community Standards: Catamounts Care

Shared community standards remind us that we each have personal responsibility for actions that may affect our own health and the health of our friends, colleagues, and the broader campus community. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic represents an ever-shifting situation. WCU will be responsive to the latest guidance and information issued by the Jackson County Department of Public Health, the NC Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. More information: info.wcu.edu/catamountscare.

Cleaning, Social Distancing and Personal Protective Equipment

WCU has implemented cleaning protocols that meet CDC sanitization guidelines. In accordance with these guidelines, every room on campus has been inventoried and classified by type to determine sanitization needs and the methods necessary to meet these requirements. Classrooms have also been reconfigured to accommodate physical distancing during in person classes. Additionally, faculty, staff and students are being supplied with personal protective equipment (PPE). PPE packets containing reusable cloth face coverings, refillable personal hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes have been delivered to offices and residence halls across campus. Students who don’t live on campus can pick up their PPE packet on the third floor of the University Center through August 21st. More information at info.wcu.edu/cleaning.

Face Coverings

The use of face coverings is required on campus. Those not wearing face coverings may be asked to leave a classroom, workplace or public event.

Face coverings are REQUIRED in the following settings:

* All classrooms and instructional spaces (labs, simulation rooms, etc.)
* Walking inside any campus building
* Any other public indoor setting where physical distancing isn’t possible
* Walking outside on campus in the company of others where physical distancing isn’t possible

Face coverings are RECOMMENDED but NOT REQUIRED in the following settings:

* Alone in your private office
* Alone or with a roommate in a residence hall room
* Walking on campus with others and physical distancing is maintained
* In an outdoor public setting where physical distancing from others is maintained

Campus Communication

HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and state personnel laws, as applicable, protect the identity and medical information of people with communicable diseases. WCU Health Services will continue to follow WCU policies and procedures for patient and student confidentiality. Health Services is required to notify the patient and the Jackson County Health Department when a COVID-19 test returns positive.

Jackson County will begin contact tracing on an as needed basis and will manage the contact process. Jackson County Public Health Department is responsible for officially reporting confirmed cases and clusters (outbreak is defined as 5 or more cases with a shared origin) of COVID-19. Students, faculty and staff will continue to be sent important information on an as needed basis via Campus Updates emails. Current information on fall operations and procedures is available online at info.wcu.edu/fall2020.  Information on reporting, resources, and campus updates related to coronavirus can be found at info.wcu.edu/coronavirus.

Monitor your Health

Anyone, regardless of age or health status, can experience mild to severe symptoms of COVID-19.  It is important to watch for symptoms by monitoring your own health daily. Track your temperature and your symptoms. People with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms that usually appear within 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.

If you think you may have been exposed to COVID-19, stay home and [follow CDC guidelines](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html) to prevent further spread. Be sure to call your medical provider for any symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

Health Services will require patients to call for an appointment for any healthcare services requested this semester. Walk-in appointments are not available. This will allow for individuals to be screened for COVID-19 symptoms and directed to the most appropriate location to access Health Services. Call 828.227.7640 to make an appointment or visit healthservices.wcu.edu for more information.

Reporting Positive Test Results

On guidance from Human Resources, faculty and staff should notify their supervisor of the need to self-isolate to make work arrangements. Faculty and staff members have the right to privacy as a patient, and as such, medical information will remain private and only will be revealed by contact tracing notifications. Even then, the employee will not be specifically identified.

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, they should use the self-reporting tool at info.wcu.edu/selfreport.

WCU Public Safety