



New Mexico Military Institute



DUTY – HONOR – ACHIEVEMENT

Fall 2022 Campus Plan and Protocols

RELATED TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

REVISION 08012022A

NMMI Fall 2022 Campus Plan and Protocols

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Purpose:

To analyze key influences and potential options relating to the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Academic period for the Fall of 2022.

“New Mexico's top health officials say COVID-19 cases are on the rise again but public health mandates are not likely to be imposed going forward.

Coronavirus cases are on the rise again in New Mexico, but top state health officials said Wednesday that a return to mask mandates or other widespread public health restrictions are unlikely because infections are becoming more mild.

Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. David Scrase said during his first briefing on the pandemic in months (June 2022) that the situation is very different now than it was over the winter. He noted that more tools and treatments are available and that infections are resulting in far fewer hospitalizations and deaths.

Scrase said no state government officials are even discussing a mask mandate or other restrictions. “I don’t think anybody’s even talking about that anymore, not even considering it, because we have the tools we need to fight the pandemic,” Scrase said.

“This isn't about infections. It's about serious disease, it's about hospitalizations, it's about deaths. That's what we need to pay attention to,” he said of the focus. “... Our deaths are only a fraction, our hospitalizations are only a fraction and that's really the sticking point for this state.” - By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN - Associated Press Jun 9, 2022 Updated Jun 9, 2022.

The U.S. lifted COVID tests for international flights in June, 2022.

Since news of the novel coronavirus hit New Mexico in March of 2020, NMMI’s Board of Regents and staff have developed and implemented four scenarios for the Fall of 2020, Spring of 2021, Fall of 2021 and Spring of 2022 to enable cadets to attend leadership, academic and athletic training at NMMI. The previous plans as well as this plan intend to provide a safe educational and instructional environment for the NMMI Corps of Cadets in accordance with our Constitutional mandate. NMMI is not a “public school” but rather a state educational institution as enumerated by Article 12, Section 11 of the New Mexico Constitution. NMMI is also unique because it houses 100% of the student body. As a result, the policies and protocols implemented reflect the unique nature of the NMMI experience.

In speaking with the NMHED, NMMI understands each institution will be responsible for the development and implementation of COVID protocols.

With the current status of COVID, NMMI is determined to apply protocols which continue to affect the greatest level of safety with the least impact to the normal environment of learning possible.

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The scenario for Fall 2022 combines face-to-face learning options with mitigating criteria based upon the status of COVID disease, impact of the disease upon the NMMI population, and input from the CDC, NMDOH and other official resources to include NMMI contracted medical staff advisories.

Principles of Protocol

NMMI has maintained contact with NMHED and NMDOH representatives and remains ready to cooperate with their efforts to provide guidance to NMMI.

These policies, and more, were promulgated with the approval and guidance of the NMMI Board of Regents in coordination with the staff and faculty of NMMI and with the assistance of NMHED and NMDOH personnel. NMMI is implementing this plan that was tailored to meet NMMI's unique educational mandate.

NMMI is dedicated to protecting the health and safety of our cadets, faculty, staff, and all New Mexicans.

NMMI is guided by three principles: the safety of all students, faculty, staff and their families; an ongoing commitment to offering an unsurpassed education that nurtures the mind, body and spirit; and an equal commitment to advancing human understanding through programs that heal, unify and enlighten.

Dealing with COVID-19 presents all with enormous challenges—not just as an educational institution, but also as a people and as a society. Now more than ever, NMMI seeks to deliver on its critical commitments to training the next generation and advancing the knowledge frontier, all shaped by its commitment to care for each person.

Creating a safe and healthy environment at NMMI for students, faculty, and staff is a shared responsibility that will require each of us to do our part and be accountable to one another for our behavior both on and off the Post.

This document includes revisions of protocols from the CDC, NMDOH, NMHED, NJCAA, NMAA as well as key lessons learned at NMMI during the prior COVID affected semesters.

As a condition of returning to the Post, community members are required to follow the COVID-19 related protocols, policies and requirements established by NMMI, and the New Mexico Department of Health.

Among the key responsibilities of each community member are

- Observing social distancing as defined by the CDC/ NMDOH
- Wearing face coverings when required
- Observing personal hygiene
- Participating in health monitoring
- Protecting the community by limiting potential exposure to COVID-19

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- Following NMMI expectations with respect to testing, contact tracing, quarantine, and isolation
- Reading and taking responsibility for adherence to NMMI's COVID-19 directives and communications
- Being vaccinated or testing as required by the NMDOH or NMMI BOR policies.

This document provides up-to-date health and safety information and links to a wide range of helpful resources as NMMI prepares for the reopening of the Post for the 2022-23 academic year. In the ever evolving environment of a global pandemic, the likelihood that NMMI may need to change, adapt and adjust various policies and protocols is likely. All members of this community are expected to read the COVID-19 related health and safety communications sent to them and to visit the NMMI.edu website regularly for updates and additional information. Flexibility and adaptability are essential, and the NMMI community must be willing to immediately adapt to changing circumstances by implementing more restrictions and/or returning quickly to shelter-in-place and/or remote instruction.

The policies and procedures listed herein are expected of all members of the NMMI Family, including students, staff, faculty, departments, and divisions. Individual elements may implement functional-specific plans with enhanced safety guidelines (e.g., additional protocol around food services, utilities, etc.).

NMMI will plan and equip public space in all occupied and open buildings with informational signage/graphics and hand sanitizing stations.

General Protocol

NMMI is a unique educational institution housing 100% of the student body (cadets) during fall and spring sessions. NMMI staff and faculty interface directly with the corps on a daily basis, 24/7. The determination of this protocol is to provide this unique family circumstance as safe of an environment as reasonably possible with the resources and facts known.

NMMI intends to adhere to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website for COVID-19 related information pertaining to Colleges, Universities and Higher Learning as the basis for all protocols listed herein; [Considerations for Institutions of Higher Education \(IHEs\) \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/collegesuniversities/)

Prevention Strategies to Reduce Transmission of SARS-CoV-2

Multiple factors should inform the optimal implementation of layered prevention strategies. Consideration would be given to both the NMMI Post population as well as the surrounding community. The primary factors considered include:

- The level of community transmission of COVID-19

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- Covid-19 vaccination coverage in the community and among the corps members, faculty and staff
- Strain on the health system within the community
- Accessibility of COVID-19 viral testing resources for faculty, staff and corps members
- Use of a COVID-19 screening test program for faculty, staff and corps members. Testing provides an important layer of prevention, particularly in areas with moderate, substantial, or high community transmission levels
- COVID-19 outbreaks or increasing trends at NMMI or the surrounding community

Testing

NMMI has conducted approximately 15,000 COVID-19 tests on cadets, faculty, staff, contractors and volunteers, and established isolation and quarantine protocols in accordance with guidelines after direct consultation with NMHED and with NMDOH.

For the Fall 2022 academic term, NMMI will conduct both surveillance and symptom testing for returning cadets, staff and faculty. Based on a cadet staggered return schedule, NMMI will conduct an antigen, rapid COVID-19 test on cadets, faculty, staff, contractors and volunteers to establish a base-line. Additionally, isolate/quarantine rooms will be provided for cadets identified as positive cases beginning with the matriculation process and throughout the semester. NMMI's rapid test allows those results in approximately 10 minutes. Exceptions to the initial surveillance test will be those cadets or staff who provide the NMMI medical team with valid COVID-19 documentation showing the individual has been fully vaccinated or has been identified as COVID-19 positive within the previous 90 days.

In the event any person presents to the infirmary with COVID-19 symptoms, they will be immediately tested for COVID-19, flu, strep, and other maladies as determined by NMMI medical staff. NMMI medical staff will use a rapid test to affirm COVID-19 symptoms. NMMI medical staff may deploy additional PCR based tests to confirm the results. NMMI will comply with all reporting requirements to New Mexico agencies and parents of minors. The cadet who tests positive will be isolated and provided either PPE enabled direct or telehealth care to manage and treat symptoms. NMMI has adopted CDC recommended guidelines with respect to contact tracing.

If Positive COVID-19 Result

- [Isolate](#) for at least 5 days. Learn more about [isolation timelines and precautions](#)
- Seek a confirmatory, follow-up laboratory test if recommended by healthcare professional
- Monitor your symptoms

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If Negative Result

- If [up to update on vaccines](#): return to normal activities. Wear a mask indoors in areas where the [COVID-19 Community Level](#) is high.
- If not up to date on vaccines and have symptoms or exposure: [quarantine](#) for at least 5 days.
- If not up to date on vaccines and have no symptoms or exposure: return to normal activities. Take steps to get up to date on vaccines to protect yourself and others.

Close Contact

- A close contact is someone who was less than 6 feet away from an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinical diagnosis) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. For example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes. People who are exposed to someone with COVID-19 after they completed at least 5 days of isolation are not considered close contacts.

If you are exposed to COVID-19 and are up to date on COVID-19 Vaccinations:

No quarantine

You do not need to stay home **unless** you develop symptoms.

Get tested

Even if you don't develop symptoms, [get tested](#) at least 5 days after you last had [close contact](#) with someone with COVID-19.

Watch for symptoms

Watch for [symptoms](#) until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.

If you develop symptoms

[Isolate](#) immediately and [get tested](#). Continue to stay home until you know the results. Wear a [well-fitting mask](#) around others.

Take precautions until day 10

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Wear a well-fitting mask

Wear a [well-fitting mask](#) for 10 full days any time you are around others inside your home or in public. Do not go to places where you are unable to wear a well-fitting mask.

[Take precautions if traveling](#)

Avoid being around people who are [more likely to get very sick](#) from COVID-19.

If you were exposed to COVID-19 and are NOT up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations:

Quarantine for at least 5 days

Stay home

Stay home and [quarantine](#) for at least 5 full days.

Wear a [well-fitting mask](#) if you must be around others in your home.

[Do not travel.](#)

Get tested

Even if you don't develop symptoms, [get tested](#) at least 5 days after you last had [close contact](#) with someone with COVID-19.

After quarantine

Watch for [symptoms](#)

Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.

Avoid travel

It is best to [avoid travel](#) until a full 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.

If you develop symptoms

[Isolate](#) immediately and [get tested](#). Continue to stay home until you know the results. Wear a [well-fitting mask](#) around others.

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Take precautions until day 10

Wear a well-fitting mask

Wear a [well-fitting mask](#) for 10 full days any time you are around others inside your home or in public. Do not go to places where you are unable to wear a well-fitting mask.

If you must travel during days 6-10, [take precautions](#).

Avoid being around people who are [more likely to get very sick](#) from COVID-19.

If you were exposed to COVID-19 and had confirmed COVID-19 within the past 90 days:

No quarantine

You do not need to stay home **unless** you develop symptoms.

Watch for symptoms

Watch for [symptoms](#) until 10 days after you last had [close contact](#) with someone with COVID-19.

If you develop symptoms

[Isolate](#) immediately and [get tested](#). Continue to stay home until you know the results. Wear a well-fitting mask around others.

Take precautions until day 10

Wear a well-fitting mask

Wear a [well-fitting mask](#) for 10 full days any time you are around others inside your home or in public. Do not go to places where you are unable to wear a well-fitting mask.

[Take precautions if traveling](#)

Avoid being around people who are [more likely to get very sick](#) from COVID-19.

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Calculating Quarantine

The date of your exposure is considered day 0. **Day 1 is the first full day after your last contact with a person who has had COVID-19.** Stay home and away from other people for at least 5 days. [Learn why CDC updated guidance for the general public.](#)

Protocol for Testing Symptomatic Patients

PCR-based testing and Antigen-based testing may be used to identify COVID with a patient who presents symptoms. A negative antigen test result with symptoms may be followed by a PCR-based test and the patient quarantined until the PCR results are known. NMMI medical staff shall determine the need for a follow-on PCR-based test. A positive Antigen-based test result will be accepted as a positive with no PCR test required.

Calculating Isolation

Day 0 is your first day of symptoms or a positive viral test. **Day 1 is the first full day after your symptoms developed or your test specimen was collected.** If you have COVID-19 or have symptoms, isolate for at least 5 days.

If you tested positive for COVID-19 or have symptoms, regardless vaccination status:

Stay home for at least 5 days

Stay home for 5 days and [isolate](#) from others in your home.

Wear a [well-fitting mask](#) if you must be around others in your home.

[Do not travel.](#)

Ending isolation if you had symptoms

[End isolation after 5 full days](#) if you are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and your symptoms are improving.

Ending isolation if you did NOT have symptoms

[End isolation after at least 5 full days](#) after your positive test.

If you got very sick from COVID-19 or have a weakened immune system

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You should isolate for at least 10 days. Consult your doctor before ending isolation.

Take precautions until day 10

Wear a well-fitting mask

Wear a [well-fitting mask](#) for 10 full days any time you are around others inside your home or in public. Do not go to places where you are unable to wear a mask.

Do not travel

[Do not travel](#) until a full 10 days after your symptoms started or the date your positive test was taken if you had no symptoms.

Avoid being around people who are [more likely to get very sick](#) from COVID-19.

Vaccines

According to the NMDOH, the majority of patients presenting with COVID symptoms are vaccinated and / or boosted. Additionally, the NMDOH acknowledges that current treatment protocols along with vaccinations have greatly reduced the risk of serious results from COVID-19. Thus, NMMI will no longer require proof of vaccinations.

Visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find out where students can get vaccinated in your community and identify locations near to campus. Also, **NMDOH Vaccine Information** - [COVID-19 Vaccine | NMDOH - Coronavirus Updates \(nmhealth.org\)](#)

Visitors to Campus

Campus visitors are permitted as per long-standing policies found in the NMMI O&P posted on the NMMI website.

Physical Distancing

Physical distancing means keeping space of at least 6 feet (about 2 arm lengths) between people. In general, the CDC recommends people who are NOT up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines should continue to practice physical distancing, especially if they are at high risk of getting sick with COVID-19.

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Screening Protocol

- Screening
 - Screening recommendations are based on the following:
 - Screening shall include the following per the CDC parameters:
 - Temperature
 - Pulse
 - Oxygen content (%)

Screening questions

- Have you had COVID-19?
- Have you been around someone who has had COVID-19?
- Do you have a fever?
- Masks are recommended to be worn at all times during the screening
- Hands shall be sanitized prior to use of pulse/ox testing.
- HIPAA restricts staff from discussing any results of the screening.
- Testing <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/index.html>
- Those required to be tested for COVID-19 shall be for a viral test to determine a current infection.
- Those required to be tested shall adhere to the 5-day quarantine procedures until the expiration of the 5-day period or the results of the test are “Negative”.

Learning, Classroom, and Academic Schedule Changes

VERIFY

Housing

Cadets are housed in double-occupancy rooms. Rooms for Isolation protocol are designated and set apart from other cadet rooms. Food service for those on isolation or quarantine status will be provided to the room/room area.

Dining

VERIFY

Sports

VERIFY

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Travel and Transit

No Restrictions

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

- NMMI is allows official travel in accordance with state and local regulations and guidance.
- NMMI requires staff or students to check CDC's destination-specific Travel Health Notices (THN) for information about the COVID-19 situation in the destination or host country. NMMI will restrict or postpone travel to destinations with very high COVID-19 levels (Level 4 Travel Health Notice). NMMI may consider requiring vaccinations to travel to and/or COVID-19 tests for travel to or from specific destinations.
- NMMI will encourage students, faculty and staff who use public transportation or ride sharing to use forms of transportation that minimize close contact with others (e.g., biking, walking, driving or riding by car either alone or with household members).
- NMMI will encourage students, faculty and staff who use public transportation or ride sharing to follow CDC guidance on how to protect yourself when using transportation. Additionally, encourage them to commute during less busy times and clean their hands as soon as possible after their trip.

NMMI and the CDC promote:

- Get fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before traveling.
- Follow CDC guidance for international travel.
- Follow general public health considerations such as handwashing, cleaning/disinfection and respiratory etiquette.

International Students

International students vaccinated outside of the United States should refer to [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States](#) for the need for vaccinations upon arrival in the United States.

Spring 2022 KEY Documents and Dates

<https://www.nmmi.edu/#1605734011936-b770682d-cb71>

- **Reopening Plan**
- **Academic Calendar**

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- **Matriculation Timeline**
- **Plan of the Day**

Cadets

Cadet Evaluation Protocols

Initial steps for CADET: COVID-19 SUSPECTED/CONFIRMED

1. Cadet reports to the infirmary with COVID-19 symptoms
2. Assessment performed by nursing staff using proper PPE
3. Cadet will be tested for:
 - a. FLU-rapid test
 - b. Strep-rapid test
 - c. COVID-19-sample collected by RN
 - i. Infirmary will obtain results
4. Symptoms will be treated based upon results and according to standing orders
5. If symptoms are life-threatening or if they become life-threatening at any time, cadet will be transported to the ENMMC ER for further evaluation and possible admittance to ENMMC
6. Parent(s) and or Guardian(s) of minor cadets will be notified via phone. If there is no answer, the Nurse Administrator will send an email
7. Adult cadets will be responsible for notifying parents

CADET CARE IF COVID-19 suspected/confirmed:

1. Cadet will be isolated in a room in a designated area in the barracks
2. A thermometer and a pulse oximeter will be provided to cadet for assessments by the infirmary staff
3. The infirmary staff will make EITHER direct contact or Telehealth contact with the cadet during the followings times for assessment of symptoms: temperature, oxygen saturation, pulse and overall well-being of cadet
 - 0545, 1000, 1400, 1730, and 2000
 - Cadet may contact the infirmary at any time if symptoms worsen or if cadet has any questions or concerns
4. DAILY:
 - The infirmary will update the TLA log with the names and room numbers of cadets who are isolating in one of the rooms in the barracks
5. Cadet(s) will remain on infirmary status for the duration of their isolation and the infirmary will be the primary contact and responsibility of the cadet
6. Commandant staff will assist the infirmary with welfare checks as needed
 - Infirmary staff will order meals for cadets and arrange for delivery with SODEXO to cadet room

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- In the event that a Cadet tests positive AND lives in the State of New Mexico or is sponsored by a family living in New Mexico, may at the legal guardian's determination depart NMMI and reside with the family. Parent(s) or guardian(s) are required to pick up their minor-aged Cadet. Arrangements for this to be completed within 24 hours in order for Cadet to isolate and recover at home.
- This Cadet's Plan of Care will be under the supervision of the Charge nurse and Nurse Administrator of Marshall Infirmary

Quarantine vs. Isolation

- Quarantine keeps someone who might have been exposed to the virus away from others. Quarantined cadets will be managed by the Commandant staff with assistance from Infirmary Staff.
- Isolation separates people who are infected with the virus away from people who are not infected. Isolated cadets will be managed by Infirmary Staff.

Staff and Faculty

- All NMMI staff and faculty are required to follow all COVID-19 related protocols to include proper handwashing, disinfecting, social distancing, mask, and testing protocols. Staff and faculty who fail to adhere to the COVID-19 requirements are subject to disciplinary actions to include suspension from NMMI.
- NMMI staff and faculty are expected to transition in and out of the NMMI community on a daily basis. As such, it is further expected that NMMI staff and faculty will take extra precautions to mitigate risk to the NMMI community.
- Staff and faculty are encouraged to stay at home if they feel ill.
- For those staff and faculty who have not been vaccinated, you may obtain a COVID-19 test at the infirmary at your expense or at a COVID-19 testing site of your choice.
- In addition to the requirement to wear a face mask indoors and in congregate settings unless the student or staff / faculty member has provided NMMI with proof of their fully vaccinated status, NMMI will be providing COVID-19 testing for the protection of NMMI employees and cadets. If an employee refuses to take a COVID-19 test (with the CDC exceptions for vaccinated or prior positives) or wear a face mask, the employee will not be able to work for NMMI.

Initial steps for STAFF/FACULTY: COVID-19 SUSPECTED/CONFIRMED

- STAFF/FACULTY member reports to the infirmary with COVID-19 symptoms
- Assessment performed by nursing staff using proper PPE
- Staff and faculty with the above symptoms will be referred to the NMDOH for guidance
- New Mexico Department of Health COVID 19 Hotline-1-855-600-3453
- STAFF/FACULTY member, responsible for notifying HR and/or supervisor

Staying Home or Self-Isolating when Appropriate

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- Faculty and staff who are sick or have recently had a close contact with a person with COVID-19 are required to remain at home.
- Before coming to campus, staff and faculty who have been sick with COVID-19 symptoms, tested positive for COVID-19, or have been potentially exposed to someone with COVID-19 (either through community-related exposure or international travel) to follow CDC guidance to self-isolate or stay home.
- To contact your primary medical provider for proper guidance on personal health.
- To call, not come in, your supervisor with any updates.
- To provide some form of medical clearance upon your return to work.

RETURN TO WORK PROTOCOL:

- If you have tested positive for COVID-19:
 - You are required to report at a minimum to your supervisor and NMMI HR of your status. NMMI is required to report any staff positive cases to the NMEVD and NMHED.
 - You are required to isolate for 5 days minimum.
 - You will be asked to identify any close contacts following the CDC guidance for close contacts.
 - You will be required to log your symptoms, if any, following CDC symptom tracking schedule.
- If you have no symptoms over the past 24 hours, per CDC/NMDOH guidance, you are released from isolation.
 - You can be with others after:
 - 24 hours with no fever and
 - Respiratory symptoms have improved (e.g. cough, shortness of breath) and
 - 5 days since symptoms first appeared

Depending on availability of testing, you might get tested to see if you still have COVID-19.

- If you have had symptoms over the past 24 hours, you will be required 5 additional days isolation.

Back-Up Staffing Plan

All NMMI departments are encouraged to monitor absenteeism of employees and students, cross-train staff, and create a roster of trained back-up staff.

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Staff Training

NMMI has committed to train students and staff on all COVID-19 related safety protocols.

NMMI will conduct training virtually or ensure that social distancing is maintained during training.

Signs and Messages / Communications

- NMMI will post COVID-19 related signs in highly visible locations (e.g., building entrances, restrooms, dining areas) that promote everyday protective measures and describe how to stop the spread of germs (such as by properly washing hands and properly wearing a cloth face covering).

Providing for a Healthy Environment (CDC)

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

- All cadets, visitors, staff and faculty will adhere to proper handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, often.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used.
- Faculty and staff are required to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of your elbow. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Cloth Face Coverings

- The wearing of face coverings or masks are optional.
- Any time at least a 6 foot distance cannot be assured, such as in hallways or restrooms, use of cloth face coverings are an option. Face coverings should be worn as feasible and are most essential in times when physical distancing is difficult. Individuals should not touch the face covering and to wash their hands frequently.
- Note: Cloth face coverings should not be placed on:
 - Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious
 - Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance
- Cloth face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms. Cloth face coverings are not surgical masks, respirators, or other medical personal protective equipment.

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Adequate Supplies

- NMMI supports healthy hygiene behaviors by providing adequate supplies, including soap, hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol, paper towels, tissues, disinfectant wipes, cloth face coverings (as feasible), and no-touch/foot pedal trash cans (where available).
- Contact NMMI Facilities Department regarding any cleaning, disinfecting or sanitary materials needs.

Protections for Students, Faculty, and Staff at Higher Risk for Severe Illness from COVID-19

Vaccines and HR review

Regulatory Awareness

- NMMI will work to remain aware of state or local regulatory agency policies related to group gatherings to determine if events, including sporting events, can be held.

Designated COVID-19 Point of Contact

The NMMI office responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns is the President/Superintendent.

Participation in Community Response Efforts

NMMI is participating with state and local authorities in broader COVID-19 community response efforts (e.g., sitting on community response committees).

Recognize Signs and Symptoms

NMMI will ask faculty, staff, and students to conduct self-checks (e.g., temperature screening and/or symptom checking).

Symptoms of Coronavirus:

Symptoms reported vary widely from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.

- People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough

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- 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
- Staff and faculty with the above symptoms will be referred to the NMDOH for guidance
 - New Mexico Department of Health COVID 19 Hotline-**1-855-600-3453**

Cadet(s) with the above symptoms will be treated by the infirmary staff

When to Seek Emergency Medical Attention

Look for emergency warning signs* for COVID-19. If someone is showing any of these signs, seek emergency medical care immediately

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

*This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

Call 911 or call ahead to your local emergency facility: Notify the operator that you are seeking care for someone who has or may have COVID-19.

Sharing Facilities

NMMI will require any organizations that share or use NMMI facilities to also follow these protocols.

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Mental Health and Well Being:

NMMI has developed a resource document, Let's Talk which lists local, regional, state and national resources. The Let's Talk document will be provided to cadets and posted throughout the Post.

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
- New Mexico Crisis Access Line
- NMMI
 - Cadet Counseling Center (CCC)
 - Infirmary
 - Commandant
 - Police

CDC's Support Coping and Resilience guidelines include:

- Encourage employees and students to take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories, including social media if they are feeling overwhelmed or distressed.
- Promote employees and students to eat healthy, exercise, get sleep, and find time to unwind.
- Encourage employees and students to talk with people they trust about their concerns and how they are feeling.
- Communicate with faculty, staff, and students about mental health support services available at the IHE.
- Offer an employee assistance program (EAP) through which faculty and staff can get counseling.
- Share facts about COVID-19 regularly with students, faculty, and staff through trusted sources of information to counter the spread of misinformation, reduce stigma, and lessen fear.
- Positive, pro-active messaging, education, and role-modeling is encouraged. Consistent with applicable laws and IHE policies, address negative behaviors that stigmatize individuals who test positive for or are exposed to COVID-19, including negative statements on social media, by promoting positive messaging that does not discourage vaccination, prevention behaviors, and testing.
- Consider posting signs for the national distress hotline: 1-800-985-5990, or text TalkWithUs to 66746.
- Ensure continuity of mental health services, such as offering remote counseling.
- Encourage students, faculty, and staff to call 911 or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255), 1-888-628-9454 for Spanish, or Lifeline Crisisexternal icon if they are feeling overwhelmed with emotions like sadness, depression, anxiety, or feel like wanting to harm themselves or others.

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Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick

Advise Sick Individuals of Home Isolation Criteria

- Sick faculty, staff, or students should not return to in-person classes or NMMI facilities, or end isolation until they have met CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation.

Isolate and Transport Those Who are Sick

- Make sure that faculty, staff, and students know they should not come to NMMI if they are sick, and should notify NMMI officials (e.g., NMMI designated COVID-19 point of contact) if they become sick with COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case.
- Immediately separate faculty, staff, and students with COVID-19 symptoms (such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath). Individuals who are sick should go home or to a healthcare facility, depending on how severe their symptoms are, and follow CDC Guidance for caring for oneself and others who are sick. NMMI will follow CDC's Guidance for Shared or Congregate Housing for those that live in NMMI housing.
- Work with NMMI administrators and healthcare providers to identify an isolation room, area, or building/floor (for on-campus housing) to separate anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive but does not have symptoms. NMMI healthcare providers should use Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions when caring for sick people. See: What Healthcare Personnel Should Know About Caring for Patients with Confirmed or Possible COVID-19 Infection.
- Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone who is sick to their home or to a healthcare facility. If you are calling an ambulance or bringing someone to the hospital, try to call first to alert them that the person may have COVID-19.

Clean and Disinfect

- NMMI will close off areas used by a sick person and will not use these areas until after cleaning and disinfecting
- NMMI will ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from children.
- NMMI will adhere to the CDC's guidelines regarding cleaning and disinfecting.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/clean-disinfect/index.html>

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Notify Health Officials and Close Contacts

- In accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, NMMI will notify local health officials, faculty, staff, and students immediately of any case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)external icon, FERPA or and other applicable laws and regulations.
- Inform those who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home or in their living quarters and self-monitor for symptoms, and follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.

NMMI Medical Room Protocol

- NMMI recognizes a scenario where NMMI will be unable to send an infected cadet home to recover and an on-campus, quarantine option, other than the on-post infirmary, may be required. As a result, housing leaders planned for COVID-19-infected students who would recover on campus, by expanding a "medical rooms" concept.
- Unused rooms would be available at times to accommodate students who were determined to need to be quarantined. Students who were required to do so, could self-isolate in one of these rooms.
- NMMI has 965 beds in 475 rooms which house at least two cadets on three floors. There are 46 common sink rooms with showers and toilets serving up to 24 cadets. One or more of these would be identified and set aside for the medical rooms and off-limits to the remainder of the corps.
- NMMI Commandant's staff would contact those students daily (usually via phone) for a non-medical check-in. NMMI's medical provider would make required contact with medical need students. Quarantined students would be provided food to the rooms during regular meal schedules. NMMI will stock in-room refrigerators with sports drinks and healthy snacks. The rooms will have linens, furniture, and internet. Daily trash removal, linen cleaning services and sink room cleaning protocols will be instituted.
- Students could stay for the full course of their illness; others stayed until a parent transported them home.
- In addition to medically supervised beginning of term Hygiene training, NMMI will have signs posted throughout about hand-washing, not sharing drinks, and covering coughs. Disinfectants will be kitted and provided in all sink rooms for cadets to use. These same precautions protect students many other diseases such as COVID-19.

Contact Tracing Protocol

Ref. CDC Guidelines <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/contact-tracing.html>

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- Close contacts **who were diagnosed with COVID-19** positive RT-PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 RNA **within the last 90 days** and **no current symptoms** of COVID-19, as well as those individuals who have been vaccinated, **do not have to quarantine, and retesting is not recommended.** Ref. CDC Guidelines <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/contact-tracing.html>

Summary of COVID-19 Specific Practices

- Contact tracing will be conducted for close contacts (any individual within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) of **laboratory-confirmed or probable COVID-19 patients.**
- Remote communications for the purposes of case investigation and contact tracing should be prioritized; in-person communication may be considered only after remote options have been exhausted.
- Testing is recommended for all close contacts of **confirmed or probable COVID-19 patients.**
- Those contacts who test positive (symptomatic or asymptomatic) should be managed as a confirmed COVID-19 case.
- Asymptomatic contacts testing negative should self-quarantine **for 10 days from their last exposure** (i.e., close encounter with confirmed or probable COVID-19 case)
- If testing is not available, **symptomatic** close contacts should self-isolate and be managed as a probable COVID-19 case.
- If testing is not available, **asymptomatic** close contacts should self-quarantine and be monitored for 10 days after their last exposure, with linkage to clinical care for those who develop symptoms.
- For COVID-19, a close contact is defined as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.
- The public health evaluation of close contacts to patients with laboratory-confirmed or probable COVID-19 may vary depending on the exposure setting. Contacts in special populations and/or congregate settings require additional considerations and may need handoff to a senior health department investigator or special team. Additional guidance on managing these contacts can be found in Outbreak Investigations.
- Close contacts **who were diagnosed with COVID-19** by either (1) a positive RT-PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 RNA within the last 90 days or (2) a healthcare provider based on their symptoms, and 90 days or less have passed since their symptoms began.

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- Those **with no current symptoms** of COVID-19 do not have to quarantine, and retesting is not recommended.
- Those **with symptoms**, should begin self-isolation immediately for 10 days after symptom onset and consult with a medical provider to determine if they may have been re-infected with SARS-CoV-2 or if symptoms are caused by another etiology. Contacts with no primary healthcare provider will need to be connected to telemedicine (e.g., videoconference or phone consultation). Negative test results for contacts do not change the length of quarantine.

Close Contact Evaluation and Monitoring Priorities

- In jurisdictions with testing capacity, symptomatic and asymptomatic close contacts to patients with confirmed and probable COVID-19 should be evaluated and monitored. For areas with insufficient testing support and/or limited public health resources, the following evaluation and monitoring hierarchy (Box 4) can be used to help guide prioritization. The hierarchy is based on the assumption that if close contacts listed in Priority 1 *become infected*, they could potentially expose many people, those at higher risk for severe disease, or critical infrastructure workers. If close contacts in Priority 2 *become infected*, they may be at higher risk for severe disease, so prompt notification, monitoring, and linkage to needed medical and support services is important.
- When prioritizing close contacts to evaluate and monitor, jurisdictions should be guided by the local characteristics of disease transmission, demographics, and public health and healthcare system capacity. Some states require mandatory testing for specific circumstances. Local decisions depend on local guidance and circumstances.

State Reporting and Testing Requirements

An emergency amendment was added to 11.5.1 NMAC, Section 16 effective 05 August, 2020. Explanatory note: The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) issued a temporary emergency amendment which is effective for 120 days. The temporary emergency amendment is in response to the current state of public health emergency regarding COVID-19. Key elements include:

- Within four (4) hours of learning that an employee tested positive for coronavirus disease (COVID-19), each employer shall report the positive test to the bureau.
 - a. Nmenv-osh@state.nm.us; (505) 476-8700 (tel.), (505) 476-8734 (fax)

It is the employer's responsibility to ensure that all identified **close contacts** to a positive case are sent for testing and it is the employer's responsibility to obtain proof of a negative result prior to allowing staff back to work.

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Ref. Checklist for Business/Facility Compliance in Response to one or more COVID-19 Positive Employee(s) in the Workplace.

Reporting Positive COVID-19 Cases among Student Employees, Faculty and Staff Members

If a student employee (including a student conducting work study), faculty or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, NMED's emergency amendment requires higher education institutions to report the case to the agency via email.

- To: Occupational Health and Safety Bureau, New Mexico Environment Department o Email: NMENV-OSHA@state.nm.us

Please include the Department on these notifications via email as well.

- CC: Office of the Secretary, New Mexico Higher Education Department o Email: NMHED.COVID@state.nm.us

Reporting Positive COVID-19 Cases within the Student Population

If a student tests positive (whether it is a student residing on or off campus), you must report the case to the Department via email.

- To: Office of the Secretary, New Mexico Higher Education Department o NMHED.COVID@state.nm.us

Reporting Information

The following information must be included when reporting a positive case:

- Name of the higher education institution
- Address, city, state and zip code of the higher education institution
- Employer representative contact, email and telephone number
- Number of people employed and number of students enrolled at the higher education institution
- Number of individuals who tested positive
- Identifier for the positive COVID-19 case(s) o Example: Student (on-campus resident, off-campus resident, student athlete and/or student employee), faculty or staff member o Please do not include names or personally identifiable information.
- Date of COVID-19 test(s)
- Date each positive individual was last on campus
- Date each positive individual began to self-quarantine

Please feel free to use the template from the Department's website and attach it to the email to the State's agencies.

The Department will contact a designated employee at your higher education institution to discuss the full scope of the case(s). Questions and considerations will include, but are not limited to, the following:

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- Does it constitute a rapid response? o A rapid response may require the immediate closure of facilities and testing of individuals.

- What facilities did the individual(s) visit on campus? o Based on the answer, we will discuss proper cleaning and sanitizing protocols.

- Are impacted individuals self-quarantining or isolating?

In addition, the designated employee(s) on your campus will be contacted by one or both of the following divisions from NMDOH to complete their investigations related to a positive case:

- Contact Tracing Division, New Mexico Department of Health o To learn more about contact tracing, [click here](#).

- Epidemiology and Response Division (ERD), New Mexico Department of Health o To view ERD's Policies for the Prevention and Control of COVID-19 in New Mexico, [click here](#). This guide establishes an overview of policies and procedures for containing COVID-19. Additional technical resources are included for healthcare providers, businesses and employers responsible for protecting the general public against the spread of COVID-19.

If you have any questions, please contact the Department at **NMHED.COVID@state.nm.us**. The email is monitored regularly and a representative will respond promptly.

Medical / Infirmary Operations, news for parents:

- The infirmary will conduct business as usual
- The infirmary will open and available to cadets 24/7
- Offsite medical appointments are still available
- Clinic times with our on-site providers, Tuesday 1600-1800, Friday 0800-1000. Attending Doctor's clinic schedule varies for the infirmary; however, times are always listed ahead of time on the infirmary clinic calendar
- Sick Call – 0700 for all cadets with the exception of Isolation cadets who have a call number.
- Scheduled medical appointments - Cadets with appointments offsite are handled as usual.

Key Terms (CDC)

- **Post or Campus:** The grounds and buildings of NMMI. The grounds include classrooms, libraries, outdoor and indoor common areas, sports stadiums, auditoriums, dorms and other housing, campus recreation centers, cafeterias, dining halls, etc.
- **People who are not fully vaccinated:** People who are not fully vaccinated are individuals of all ages, including children, that have not completed a vaccination series to protect against COVID-19.

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- **Fully vaccinated people/People who are fully vaccinated:** People are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 ≥ 2 weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or ≥ 2 weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson [J&J]/Janssen)±.
- †This guidance applies to COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized for emergency use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson and Johnson (J&J)/Janssen COVID-19 vaccines. This guidance can also be applied to COVID-19 vaccines that have been authorized for emergency use by the World Health Organization (e.g. AstraZeneca/Oxford).
- **Mixed campus:** A mixed campus includes people who have completed their COVID-19 vaccination series and people who have not completed their vaccination series to protect against COVID-19.

Revision Control

07232021 - Modified the definition of close-contact from the DOH definition of last spring of 3 minutes to the current definition:

- OLD – “Per the NMDOH, Close-contact is defined as being less than 6 feet for more than 3 minutes (10 minutes with a mask) two (2) days prior to the contact being identified as having the COVID-19 virus.”
- NEW - “Close contact” means spending a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period, within 6 feet of someone who is confirmed to have COVID-19 when that person was in their infectious period. Wearing a mask or cloth-face covering does not affect the definition for close contact.”

07282021 – Referencing State guidelines from PED, released 07/26/2021, which allow High School and Middle School students and staff who have provided proof of being fully vaccinated, are no longer required to wear a mask in the classroom. Thus, NMMI has revised the mask protocol throughout the document to reflect language as: “unless the student or staff / faculty member has provided NMMI with proof of their fully vaccinated status”

END OF DOCUMENT



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RESOURCE / REFERENCE GUIDE:

APPLICABLE FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL AND ASSOCIATION RULES, REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE RE: COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY

FEDERAL

1. **CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic** - [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) | CDC](#)
2. **CDC Guidance for Work and School** - [Community, Work, and School | COVID-19 | CDC](#)
3. **CDC Guidance for Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs)** - [Considerations for Institutions of Higher Education \(IHEs\) \(cdc.gov\)](#)
4. **National Law Review, CDC's Guidance for Workplace Vaccination Program (June 28, 2021)** - [Workplace Vaccination Program CDC Guidance \(natlawreview.com\)](#)
5. **Guidance for U.S. Healthcare Facilities about Coronavirus (COVID-19)**
6. **U.S. DOE COVID-19 Resources for Schools, Students, and Families** - [COVID-19 Resources for Schools, Students, and Families | U.S. Department of Education](#)
7. **Guidance for Institutions of Higher Education with Students Participating in International Travel or Study Abroad Programs, CDC (March 9, 2020)**
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/student-foreign-travel.html>

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

1. **NMDOH CV-19 Site** - [NMDOH - Coronavirus Updates | Coronavirus Updates in New Mexico \(nmhealth.org\)](#)
2. **Public Health Orders, New Mexico Department of Health, Cabinet Secretary Kathyleen M. Kunkel (May 15, 2020)** [Public Health Orders and Executive Orders | NMDOH - Coronavirus Updates \(nmhealth.org\)](#)
3. **NMDOH CV-19 Safe Practices** - [COVID Safe Practices | NMDOH - Coronavirus Updates \(nmhealth.org\)](#)

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4. **NMDOH Vaccine Information** - [COVID-19 Vaccine | NMDOH - Coronavirus Updates \(nmhealth.org\)](#)

LOCAL

1. **City of Roswell COVID-19 Updates**
<http://roswell-nm.gov/1242/COVID-19-Updates>

HIGHER EDUCATION ASSOCIATIONS

1. **American College Health Association (ACHA), COVID-19 Community of Practice** - [HECCOP Home Page \(acha.org\)](#)
2. **New Mexico Athletic Activities Association**, [COVID-19 Guidelines & Resources – NMAA \(nmact.org\)](#)
3. **Core Principles of Resocialization of Collegiate Sport, NCAA** [COVID-19 Coronavirus | NCAA.org - The Official Site of the NCAA](#)
4. **National Junior College Athletic Association COVID-19 Information**, [NJCAA COVID-19 Update - Safety Protocol Recommendations - NJCAA](#) (19 June, 2021)

NMMI Documents

1. **SODEXO's RISE WITH NMMI RE-OPENING PLAN** - <https://www.nmmi.edu/> (June 2021)
2. **WELLPATH's (Infirmary) PROTOCOL PLAN**
3. **NMMI Policies** - <https://www.nmmi.edu/nmmi-policies/>
4. **NMMI 2021 Matriculation LOI**