

**PFW Ready**  
**COVID-19 Response Actions, 2021-22**

**Planning and Preparation**

During the Spring 2021 semester, Purdue Fort Wayne engaged in two aligned planning processes to develop recommendations on an appropriate response to COVID-19 for the 2021-22 academic year. An expanded PFW Prepared Committee developed recommendations for university operations. A task force created in conjunction with the Fort Wayne Senate developed recommendations in the areas of academics and student support. These planning efforts informed all of the actions outlined below. Throughout the summer, these recommendations have been implemented and updated as appropriate to meet evolving CDC guidelines and local and regional virus and vaccine conditions.

Three principles animated these planning processes: (1) live our core value to put Students First by maintaining student-centered expectations for all units, (2) create a better normal for Purdue Fort Wayne, and (3) embrace a wellness mindset.

**Planning Overview**

**Classroom and residential space density:** Classrooms will return to traditional seating densities for the 2021-22 academic year. Due to the apartment-style nature of PFW Student Housing, we operated at normal densities throughout the previous academic year and will continue to do so in the upcoming year. Twenty-four beds will be set aside to accommodate student quarantine and isolation needs related to COVID-19.

**Academic calendar:** At the recommendation of academic and student leaders, PFW maintained its traditional academic calendar in 2020-21 and will keep that calendar in place for 2021-22.

**Course delivery:** Pedagogical considerations have been the primary factor in determining course modalities for 2021-22; the distribution of face-to-face, hybrid, and online courses generally reflects pre-pandemic norms. A small number of instructors will remain online due to necessary ADA accommodations. While all general usage classrooms are now equipped to support the live-streaming and/or recording of in-person class sessions, the recommendation of our academic task force is to generally limit the use of this tool to the support of students who are unable to be in class due to quarantine or illness rather than allowing all students to attend class remotely at their discretion.

**Student, faculty, and staff accommodations:** Students at elevated risk from COVID-19 will work with PFW's Disability Access Center to identify appropriate accommodations in face-to-face and hybrid courses. All employees who continued to work remotely or on hybrid schedules during the pandemic are expected to return to campus by Monday, August 9, 2021. Employees requiring COVID-19-related accommodations can go through the ADA accommodations process with Human Resources. PFW has also released updated remote work/flexible work guidelines and processes to reflect that the pandemic has opened expanded opportunities to reconsider traditional work modalities.

**Face coverings and other health and safety protocols:** Face masks are optional in all indoor on-campus locations for individuals fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Face masks remain required in all indoor on-campus locations for individuals who are not fully vaccinated. Face masks are optional for everyone in all outdoor on-campus settings.

In addition to regular communication of university face mask protocols, PFW will continue to regularly promote good public health behaviors, including frequent washing of hands, staying home while ill, and following all public health guidelines regarding self-quarantine and isolation, especially for individuals who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19. We maintain two temperature kiosks in high-traffic areas on campus to support individuals who are concerned that they might be getting sick.

***On-campus events and large gatherings:*** On-campus events and gatherings, student activities and programming, and community engagement efforts will once again take place in traditional sizes, locations, and varieties. Events involving food service must continue to adhere to COVID-19 safety protocols.

***Plan for sanitizing buildings:*** Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes will remain stocked in all classrooms and in a variety of offices around campus. As was the case during the last academic year, PFW has contracted with Reliable Cleaning to supplement the university's Building Services staff and provide continual cleaning services throughout the day, especially in high-traffic areas.

***Intercollegiate Athletics:*** Student-athletes and all athletics staff must be voluntarily fully vaccinated or participate in safety guidelines outlined in the 2021-22 Purdue Fort Wayne Athletics COVID-19 Protocols. Once fully vaccinated, student-athletes and athletics staff are subject to fewer restrictions in athletics facilities. Student-athletes and staff who are unvaccinated will continue to participate in regular COVID-19 mitigation testing. While Purdue Fort Wayne Athletics strongly recommends the vaccine, valid religious or medical declination are acceptable, but those individuals are still subject to the same testing and face mask protocols as unvaccinated individuals.

***Collaboration with Indiana University Fort Wayne:*** As has been the case throughout the pandemic, PFW will continue to regularly communicate and collaborate with IU Fort Wayne to ensure a consistent and effective campus response to COVID-19. PFW will continue to provide accessible space for required IUFW mitigation testing on campus.

***Campus protection plan:*** PFW has been providing information about and encouragement to all students, staff, and faculty to get the COVID-19 vaccine since they first became available in December 2020. We are currently scheduled to provide two on-campus vaccination clinics associated with our welcome back week activities in August 2021 and will continue to promote the effectiveness and importance of getting fully vaccinated.

We will continue to promote the university's face mask protocols through signage and relevant university communication channels. We will also continue to monitor CDC, Indiana State Department of Health, and other relevant public health guidance with regard to face masks, especially as it relates to the spread of the Delta and other variants, and will update university face mask protocols as appropriate.

PFW's Campus Health Clinic will continue to provide COVID-19 testing for symptomatic individuals and we will continue to provide resources on local testing availability for asymptomatic individuals. We will continue to implement a classroom contact tracing program in collaboration with the Allen County Department of Health and the Indiana State Department of Health.

Finally, a new PFW Ready website has been launched as a single source of up-to-date information for our university community, and both our PRW Ready Committee and university COVID-19 point of contact remain in place to advise the administration, answer questions, and coordinate effort across campus.

## **Purdue University Northwest Fall 2021 COVID-19 Update**

**Classroom and residential space density** –Classrooms, residence halls and common areas are all back to pre-pandemic capacity.

**Academic Calendar** –PNW will follow our 2021-22 academic calendar. PNW did not make changes to their academic calendar in 2020-21.

**Course delivery** –Course delivery methods will reflect pre-pandemic methods as well as pushing for more face to face classes than usual.

**Student, faculty, staff accommodations** – Revert to long-established processes for identifying, assessing and providing accommodations for students and employees at greater risk of serious illness from COVID-19

**Face coverings** – Follow the CDC guidance for face coverings on all university property.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

**On-campus events and large gatherings** – Revert to normal programming as deemed safe

**Plan for sanitizing buildings** – PNW will still disinfect public areas including classrooms and labs nightly as well as wiping down surfaces in public areas and entranceways with disinfectant daily as we conduct our cleaning and servicing. We are also providing disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizers in all those areas as well. We have included these tasks as part of our normal cleaning standards going forward.

### **Campus Protection Plan**

- 1) PNW has strongly recommended that you get vaccinated. Individuals who decide not to not get vaccinated are strongly encouraged to participate in the surveillance testing program on campus. We offered 5 weeks of vaccination clinics in the summer and will host another clinic in the beginning of the Fall semester. We will also host a vaccine lottery for student and staff throughout the Fall semester to try and incentivize getting vaccinated. Flu shots were mandatory in housing last year and will be again. We will also host a free on campus flu shot event and encourage participation.
- 2) Face covering protocol will follow CDC guidelines for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. We will enact stronger face coverings protocols if need be.
- 3) PNW will offer free COVID-19 testing on both campuses for faculty, staff and students. Unvaccinated individuals are strongly encouraged to participate. Higher risk populations like housing, nursing and athletics will participate. PNW will also continue the reporting system from last semester and positive cases will be reported to the Dean of Students (students), Provost Office (Faculty) and Human Resources (Staff). These numbers will be reflected in a dashboard on the website. PNW will also receive contact tracing information from the surveillance testing to track cases in our campus community.