

UND SMHS PANDEMIC GUIDELINES SPRING 2021

In view of the evolving pandemic situation with improving case numbers and increasing vaccinations available at this time, it is appropriate to outline the mitigation strategies that remain in effect for the remainder of the spring 2021 semester and to provide some expectations for the upcoming summer and fall semesters of AY 2022. It should be emphasized that the guidelines and required approvals may change over time as the pandemic situation demands.

Spring Semester 2021 (for simplicity, through May 30, 2021)

For the remainder of the spring 2021 semester, the current UND pandemic precautions remain in effect as outlined at: [COVID-19 Updates | University of North Dakota \(und.edu\)](https://www.und.edu/news/2020/12/01/covid-19-updates). Some key aspects include:

- **Face coverings** continue to be required and are to be worn:
 - When attending a class or event held indoors.
 - In indoor common spaces (e.g. lounges, hallways, elevators, study areas, bathrooms, etc.) used by other individuals, regardless of whether others are present at the time.
 - When interacting in-person with others.
 - In dining centers, except when eating or drinking.
 - When riding in a campus shuttle, bus, or van with two or more people.
 - By employees when representing UND in an official capacity at events held both on- and off-campus.
 - When participating in a campus tour.
 - When participating in workouts and other activities at the UND Wellness Center.
- **Physical distancing** requirements and **room capacity limitations** remain unchanged.
 - Instructors have developed different ways to accommodate physical distancing requirements. For example, some may assign students into smaller groups and rotate groups into the classroom while other groups participate via video conferencing. Students may be assigned seats and/or asked to sit in the same seat for each class period.
 - Educational activities that are valuable but are best categorized as “optional,” particularly clinical experiences for first-year medical and allied health students, will not be permitted.
 - All activities in specialized spaces within UND SMHS facilities may be subject to additional restrictions and/or approval process. Specialized spaces include the Gross Anatomy Lab, the Plinth Lab, the Physical Examination practice rooms, and the Simulation Center. For the Simulation Center, remote events using the mobile simulation vans, and the Plinth Lab, the following requirements apply:

- Face masks and eye protection to be worn at all times. Gloves are required when in direct contact with standardized patients but are optional when in contact with manikins and equipment.
 - All rooms, manikins and equipment used will be disinfected between sessions with an electrostatic sprayer; for the Plinth lab, a UND approved disinfectant spray shall be used. Soft surfaces, such as gowns, bedding, towels, etc. would be changed at the end of each day and would be replaced by clean items. Hand sanitizer and soap and water are available for use. Any equipment not being used for this event will be removed from the simulation area.
 - Tape will be used on the floor to designate 6-foot spacing requirements between participants as they care for the manikin (max. per room – 5). Facilitators are responsible to enforce distancing requirements.
 - For students who travel to the Simulation Center via commercial carrier (airlines, bus, train, cruise), they cannot enter the Simulation Center unless:
 - They have been N95 certified before the trip.
 - Used the N95 mask at all times during travel.
 - Continue to wear the N95 mask for a period of 14 days after the Simulation Center experience.
- **Minimization of on-campus population density** through the use of virtual and hybrid classes, on-campus and remote work schedules, and similar adjustments to limit the number people on campus at any one time shall continue.
- **Travel related to UND** by students, faculty, and staff requires approval through the UND SMHS except for students traveling to and from clinical rotations including away rotations that have been approved through the current curricular processes; such travel does not require additional specific approval as long as there is no associated request for reimbursement for travel expenses. Travel by residents or fellows that requires reimbursement will continue to be treated like travel by other UND employees and requires pre-approval.
 - When required, the travel form must be completed and approval obtained from the chair and respective Associate Dean prior to the proposed travel. Once those approvals have been secured, the travel request shall be sent to the Dean’s Chief of Staff for final review and approval at which point the proposed travel is authorized.
- **Non-compliant educational experiences**, either on- or off campus, that require an exception to standing UND pandemic policy must be approved ahead of time.
 - Approval requests shall go through the Senior Associate Dean for Medicine and Research/Associate Dean for Health Sciences for review at the school level prior to routing to the Vice President for Health Affairs for review and final approval.
 - New or optional student learning experiences that do not comply with current UND/SMHS policies likely are not going to be approved.
- **Events** (non-curricular activities) as defined by UND as all group activities, public lectures, symposiums, workshops, trainings, conferences, concerts, orientations, internships/co-ops and other campus activities held on-campus as well as virtually require approval.
 - An Event Approval Form shall be completed for all in-person and virtual/remote events held in or on UND-owned property at least two weeks in advance of the activity date.

- In addition, events involving UND students, faculty, and/or staff held off-campus require UND SMHS approval.
- **Restrictions while on clinical rotations** will follow the guidelines of the sponsoring institution, although the UND mask requirement will apply regardless.
- **Away clinical rotations for medical students** shall follow the guidelines of the Coalition for Physician Accountability unless otherwise specified by the UND SMHS through the Office of the Dean.
- **Spring commencement** will be a hybrid event with in-person recognition of graduating medical student and graduate health sciences students with live video streaming of the event virtually to family and friends of the graduates (note in draft: pending approval by President Armacost)

Summer Semester 2021 (for simplicity, June – August 23, 2021)

No definite guidelines will be promulgated until later in the year once more information regarding the pandemic becomes available. Nevertheless, to assist in planning, the summer semester likely will be one of transition from the full level of restrictions during the spring 2021 semester to a more normal expectation for the fall semester. For planning purposes, members of the UND SMHS family can use the following as the guidance we can provide at this time, subject to change as conditions warrant:

- **Face coverings** will continue to be required.
- **Physical distancing** requirements will continue, but **room capacity limitations** likely will be relaxed from the current six-foot spacing requirement while still ensuring fire code compliance, dependent on guidance from the UND Office of Safety.
- **Educational activities that are valuable but are best categorized as “optional,”** particularly clinical experiences for first-year medical and allied health students, will be permitted conditionally on the continued utilization of face coverings and compliance with all of the safety requirements of the affiliated health care institution providing the clinical experience.
- **Minimization of on-campus population density** through the use of virtual and hybrid classes, on-campus and remote work schedules, and similar adjustments to limit the number people on campus at any one time will continue, but likely at reduced level. The ultimate decision as to the utilization of in-person, hybrid, or virtual classes and related educational experiences will reside with the instructor and course director in concert with the relevant Associate Dean.
- **Travel related to UND** by students, faculty, and staff will continue to require approval through the UND SMHS.
 - When required, the travel form must be completed and approval obtained from the chair and respective Associate Dean prior to the proposed travel. Once those approvals have been secured, the travel request shall be sent to the Dean’s Chief of Staff for final review and approval at which point the proposed travel is authorized.
- **Non-compliant educational experiences**, either on- or off campus, that require an exception to UND policy must be approved ahead of time.
 - Approval requests shall go through the Senior Associate Dean for Medicine and Research/Associate Dean for Health Sciences for review at the school level prior to routing to the Vice President for Health Affairs for review and final approval.

- New or optional student learning experiences that do not comply with current UND/SMHS policies likely are not going to be approved.
- **Events** (non-curricular activities) held on-campus will continue to require approval (this requirement antedated the pandemic and is expected to continue after the pandemic has quieted down).
 - Events involving UND students, faculty, and/or staff held off-campus will continue to require UND SMHS approval.
- **Restrictions while on clinical rotations** will follow the guidelines of the sponsoring institution, although the UND mask requirement will apply regardless.
- **Away clinical rotations for medical students** shall follow the guidelines of the Coalition for Physician Accountability unless otherwise specified by the UND SMHS through the Office of the Dean.
- **Summer commencement** likely will be a “live” in-person event for graduates and families (contingent on UND policy).

Fall Semester 2021 (Aug. 23 -Dec. 31, 2021)

As noted above, no definitive guidelines can be given at this time; however, the following are some expectations as to what likely will be the case:

- **Face coverings** likely will no longer be required.
- **Physical distancing** requirements and **room capacity limitations** likely will be relaxed or eliminated.
- **Educational activities that are valuable but are best categorized as “optional,”** particularly clinical experiences for first-year medical and allied health students will be permitted.
- **Minimization of on-campus population density** through the use of virtual and hybrid classes, on-campus and remote work schedules, and similar adjustments to limit the number people on campus at any one time likely will be reduced or eliminated.
- **Non-compliant educational experiences, either on- or off campus, that require an exception to UND policy must be approved ahead of time.**
 - Approval requests shall go through the Senior Associate Dean for Medicine and Research/Associate Dean for Health Sciences for review at the school level prior to routing to the Vice President for Health Affairs for review and final approval.
 - New or optional student learning experiences that do not comply with current UND/SMHS policies may request SMHS approval through the usual channels.
- **Travel related to UND** by students, faculty, and staff likely will no longer require approval through the UND SMHS. However, travel by trainees (students, residents, and fellows), faculty and staff that involves a request for reimbursement will continue to require pre-approval prior to the date of the proposed travel.
 - When required, the travel form must be completed and approval obtained from the chair and respective Associate Dean prior to the proposed travel. Once those approvals have been secured, the travel request shall be sent to the Dean’s Chief of Staff for final review and approval at which point the proposed travel is authorized.

- **Events** (non-curricular activities) held on-campus will continue to require approval (this requirement antedated the pandemic and is expected to continue after the pandemic has quieted down).
 - It is likely that events involving UND students, faculty, and/or staff held off-campus will no longer require UND SMHS approval.
- **Restrictions while on clinical rotations** will follow the guidelines of the sponsoring institution.
- **Away clinical rotations for medical students** shall follow the guidelines of the Coalition for Physician Accountability unless otherwise specified by the UND SMHS through the Office of the Dean.
- **Winter commencement** will be a “live” in-person event for graduates and families.

Note: Although the UND SMHS academic calendar doesn’t necessarily coincide with the UND academic calendar, this memo references the UND calendar since university mitigation efforts typically are tied to the UND academic calendar dates.