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COVID-19 Task Force updates

1 message

NEIU Targeted Announcement <No-Reply@neu.edu>

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AUGUST RETURN TO CAMPUS: Northeastern has adopted an [Interim COVID-19 Return to Campus Policy](#), which we encourage all to review prior to coming to campus. The University expects all employees to return to campus on or before Aug. 16, 2021. All remote operations will also conclude at this time. Several area Vice Presidents have asked their units to return to campus no later than Aug. 2, 2021. Other units will return on the date designated by their area Vice President or designee in accordance with University policies and collective bargaining agreements. If you are unsure about your return date, you are strongly encouraged to contact your supervisor and follow their instructions.

RETURN TO CAMPUS WORKSHOP FOR SUPERVISORS: Interim Executive Director of Human Resources Abby Murray, Acting Assistant General Counsel, Director of Equal Opportunity and Ethics Compliance Natalie Brouwer Potts, and University Ombuds Tyler Smith are collaborating to offer NEIU supervisors a special return-to-campus session titled "Leading Through Change: Managing Return-to-Work Concerns" via Zoom from 12:30-2 p.m. on Thursday, July 22. Discussion will focus on information and strategies to address challenging return-to-work scenarios. Anyone who manages or supervises employees at NEIU is encouraged to attend this session. If you are interested in attending, please [sign up](#). The Zoom meeting information will be shared in a separate email after signing up. Contact Tyler Smith at ombuds@neu.edu or (773) 442-4527 if you have any questions about the session.

FACE COVERINGS: [Face coverings](#) are still required in all indoor common areas and in all classrooms, regardless of vaccination status. Face coverings are no longer required in outdoor areas, so long as social distancing can be appropriately maintained. Northeastern is providing one free mask to all employees and students who need to be on campus. Students may collect their mask at the Welcome Desk in Village Square on the Main Campus. Employees who have not already done so may collect their mask by using the [Facilities Management request form](#).

PPE REQUESTS: Facilities Management has [created a form](#) to request personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies such as disinfectant wipes and face coverings. Requests must be made at the unit level by chairs or directors, and must be approved by deans and vice presidents. Deliveries will generally be made within one week of the request's approval.

DOOR ENTRANCES: Northeastern continues to restrict the access points to [specific entrances](#) through July 2021. Identifying specific doors for entering buildings enables Northeastern to better provide security by monitoring who is coming and going, and keeps foot traffic restricted to specific areas where the University can concentrate its cleaning resources. The COVID-19 Task Force has [developed a map](#) to indicate which entrances will be open.

Here are more information items the Task Force would like to share:

GRUBHUB GIFT CARDS FROM THE CITY OF CHICAGO: The City of Chicago is offering [\\$50 GrubHub gift cards](#) to Chicago residents who choose to get vaccinated through the City's new Protect Chicago at Home program, which brings the your choice of the Pfizer or Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine directly to your home and is open to city residents 12 years of age and older beginning June 28. Gift cards are limited to one per household. Appointments can be made [online](#) or by calling (312) 746-4735.

COVID-19 VACCINES ARE AVAILABLE FOR EVERYONE AGES 12 AND OLDER: COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and now widely available for Illinois residents 12 years of age and older by appointment and walk-in at the more than [900 locations in the state's provider network](#). The COVID-19 vaccine is free to everyone in the United States, regardless of insurance or immigration status. You can view the State of Illinois [vaccination progress](#) website to track current vaccine administration and distribution data.

NEW HEARTLAND HEALTH CENTER VACCINATION HOURS AT NORTHEASTERN: [Heartland Health Centers](#) (HHC) is now offering the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to everyone 12 years of age and older regardless of immigration status or health insurance coverage. You do not need to be a patient of HHC to receive the vaccine. The [Heartland Health Centers COVID-19 vaccination site](#) is open 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Monday and Friday; 8 a.m.-noon on Tuesday and Wednesday; and noon -4 p.m. on Thursday through Aug. 16, 2021, in the atrium of the College of Business and Technology (formerly the College of Business and Management). Please call (872) 250-6637 for an appointment. It is best to schedule an appointment but walk-ins will be accommodated based on vaccine availability.

CITY OF CHICAGO VACCINATION SITES: [City of Chicago vaccination sites](#) offer the Pfizer or Johnson & Johnson vaccine, depending on location, and can accommodate walk-ins. Sites offering the Pfizer vaccine are open to anyone 12 years of age and older. A parent or guardian must accompany any minor under age 18.

COOK COUNTY VACCINATION SITES: [Cook County Health vaccination sites](#) are open to everyone 12 years of age and older by appointment or walk-in. A parent or guardian must accompany any minor under age 18.

PFIZER VACCINE AVAILABLE AT SWEDISH HOSPITAL: Everyone 12 years of age and older is eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine at Swedish Hospital. A parent or guardian must accompany any minor under age 18. Appointments can be scheduled through NorthShoreConnect. Walk-ins are welcome at all NorthShore's vaccination clinics. For more information, please visit [Swedish Hospital's COVID-19 Vaccine website](#) or call (773) 907-7700.

STUDY SPACES: The Student Union and Ronald Williams Library are offering students [study spaces by reservation only](#). These spaces offer access to Wi-Fi, computers and copiers/scanners/printers. A color copier/scanner/printer is available in the Ronald Williams Library only. The Student Union is open 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday. [The Ronald Williams Library](#) will be open throughout the summer from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. The Library Chat service is available 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday; and 4-8 p.m. Sunday.

El Centro is offering students study spaces/computer workstations from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. El Centro study spaces are open now and throughout the summer sessions. Students may reserve a study space at El Centro by completing the [El Centro Study Space Request form](#).

More information about resources for students is available on the [COVID-19 Student FAQs](#) site.

POSITIVE TESTS: During the week of June 30, 2021, no employees and no students reported positive COVID-19 tests. Since March 2020, a total of 58 employees and 248 students have self-reported to the University that they tested positive for COVID-19. Employees and students who feel sick should stay home. If you test positive for COVID-19, students should immediately notify Student Health Services, and employees should notify their supervisors and the Office of Human Resources. Additionally, faculty and staff are required to report positive and presumptive student COVID-19 cases and exposures to [Student Health Services](#). When someone who has been on campus tests positive, Northeastern works with the Chicago Department of Public Health to determine the appropriate response, which differs greatly depending on the situation. We continue to follow Chicago Department of Public Health and CDC guidelines as we ensure proper protocols and preventative measures are in place for the health and safety of our students and employees.

SHIELD COVID TESTING OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY: Student Health Services has partnered with [SHIELD Illinois](#) to provide free saliva-based COVID-19 tests to Northeastern students, faculty, staff, alumni, family and household members, and the surrounding community. Testing is conducted from 9-11 a.m. Monday through Wednesday and 1-3 p.m. Thursdays on the Main Campus in the University Bookstore space in Building E. Enter through the Bryn Mawr Avenue entrance. Parking is available in Lot A.

Scheduling an appointment

In order to get tested, individuals need to [create an account on the SHIELD portal](#) and schedule their test appointment.

Please use the Agency Code **df5brbrj** to create your one-time portal account. Complete your registration and submit. You will receive a special code via text and email to confirm your identity. Enter that code as indicated. **Do not delete this email until you have set up your account.**

Walk-ins will be accommodated if appointments are available, but must still register through the online portal upon arrival.

Testing instructions

Please bring a photo ID and the QR code that was sent when your appointment was confirmed.

Individuals should not eat, drink (including water), chew gum, smoke or use tobacco products within 60 minutes of providing a saliva sample. Doing any of these things within 60 minutes of providing a sample could produce an inconclusive result and require the individual to re-test. Test results will be posted in the patient portal after the lab results are completed.

GETTING TESTED: The first step in determining whether a test is advised is to contact your primary care provider (PCP). If you do not have insurance or a PCP, [testing](#) is still available. Here are some recommended resources:

- [State of Illinois](#)
- [City of Chicago](#)
- [Swedish Hospital drive-through testing](#)
- [Erie Family Health Centers](#)

- [Heartland Health Centers](#)
- [Community Organized Relief Effort](#)

Rapid testing is available on a fee-for-service basis from [Physicians Immediate Care](#).

SPECIAL REQUESTS: With rare exceptions that follow a process established by the COVID-19 Task Force, Northeastern does not permit on-campus events or meetings. This includes office hours for faculty, which must take place remotely. Special requests may be [submitted via online form](#) to the COVID-19 Task Force, which reviews requests on Tuesdays.

SELF-CARE: Whether you have been following our self-care updates or just getting started with a self-care routine, there is an abundance of online resources to help you learn different ways to manage your emotional, physical, mental and spiritual well being. It is important to take time for yourself, and to continue doing so. Here are two recommendations from [Student Counseling Services](#):

- [“5 Ways to Make Self-Care Work For You”](#)
- [“Self-Care 101”](#)

COVID-19 Q&A: At 11 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday, CDPH Commissioner Dr. Allison Arwady answers your COVID questions live on [Facebook](#). Use [#AskDrArwady](#) to post your question.

The COVID-19 Task Force provides weekly updates on Fridays. Students, faculty and staff should continue to visit [neu.edu/coronavirus](#), which is constantly updated with new information. You may provide feedback or ask questions of the Task Force by emailing coronavirus@neu.edu or filling out the [online form](#).

Posted on behalf of the COVID-19 Task Force by J. Matt Byerly, Creative Director, Marketing and Communications.