

# Bacone



# College

August 26, 2021

Greetings from Bacone College!

We are excited to welcome all students and employees back to campus for the 2021 Fall Semester. As we begin this new school year, it is Bacone College's goal to promote health and safety in our learning and working environments so that our students can remain in full-time, in-person learning. To accomplish this goal, Bacone College's President, Dr. Ferlin Clark, has determined it is necessary to implement the COVID-19 Policy attached hereto.

While COVID vaccinations became available earlier this year—ensuring greater protections for those who choose to get vaccinated—the Delta variant of COVID-19 has significantly increased rates of transmission and serious illness for those who remain unvaccinated. Currently, 85% of Bacone College's employees are fully vaccinated, however, only 25% of Bacone's students are fully vaccinated.

The low rate of vaccination among our student body, coupled with the current increase in Delta variant COVID cases, increases the likelihood that Bacone will have to adopt a stricter Policy at some point in the future, including, but not limited to, a potential move back to remote learning.

In an effort to avoid more drastic measures, the attached COVID-19 Policy provides basic prevention strategies aimed at keeping our College community, as well as the surrounding communities and the tribal communities many of our students call home, safe and healthy.

Bacone College's Fall 2021 COVID-19 Policy builds upon the Medicine Wheel framework that guided our previous COVID-19 policies. Our Medicine Wheel framework is a circular, cyclical concept that is unending. It is an opportunity for teaching and learning, growth, and education. As we continue moving forward during this pandemic, we remember what each quadrant represents, including brainstorming, planning, implementing, and creating a home-like atmosphere for all students. Further, these Policies are consistent with those adopted in many of the tribal communities that are represented on our campus. With this in mind, we ask for your patience and compliance with these Policies. We encourage everyone to participate in our campus' "Honor your Education and Care Campaign." Together we can remain resilient as we move forward.

The following COVID-19 Policy issued by Bacone College's President is effective immediately. Because Bacone's President made this determination, this Policy does not conflict with Oklahoma law, 70 O.S. § 1210.189. This Policy may be modified at any time to provide greater protections for the health and safety of students and employees. For more information or questions regarding this Policy, please do not hesitate to contact the Vice President of Student Affairs at [lachancek@bacone.edu](mailto:lachancek@bacone.edu) or 918-360-7771.

Shared Governance Committee  
Bacone College

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## BACONE COLLEGE COVID-19 POLICY FALL 2021

**NOTICE: THE PRESIDENT OF BACONE COLLEGE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE OR MODIFY THESE POLICIES AT ANY TIME, SHOULD AN INCREASE IN COVID RATES OR OTHER COMPLICATIONS WARRANT STRICTER POLICIES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, REMOTE LEARNING FOR UNVACCINATED STUDENTS OR LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR UNVACCINATED EMPLOYEES.**

### COVID-19 Guidelines

#### **1. Mask Requirements**

To protect and safeguard the health and well-being of the Bacone College community, All individuals on campus are required to wear a face mask until further notice. This requirement applies at all times, both indoors and outdoors, except as outlined in this Policy or as otherwise authorized on a case-by-case basis by the administration. Additionally, all passengers in College-provided transportation to athletic or student events must wear masks.

Masks must be fabric or disposable surgical-style masks that cover the nose and mouth. Bandanas and scarfs are **not** acceptable. *Bacone College will make masks available at designated locations on campus.*

Individuals may remove their masks if:

- An individual is in an enclosed, private room or workspace with no one else present;
- Individuals are in their dorm rooms;
- Individuals in their vehicles with no passengers;
- Individuals participate in an activity where a face mask cannot be practically worn, such as eating and drinking (individuals should limit their conversation while the cover is removed);
- An individual is a student in a private dorm room (guests in private dorm rooms are required to wear masks, while students with guests in their private dorm room are encouraged to wear masks).

Visitors, vendors, and contractors must wear masks on campus and be asked to bring their own. If a staff member or Campus Police scheduled an appointment with a contractor, please inform them of this policy.

Bacone College will make disposable masks available to visitors, vendors, and contractors who do not provide their own approved masks.

#### **2. Vaccination**

##### Employees

*All* employees of Bacone College are required to submit one of the following documents to Human Resources within one week of the date of this Policy or within one week from the date of new employment with Bacone College:

- 1) submit proof of vaccination to the Human Resources Department; or
- 2) submit a signed waiver acknowledging that foregoing vaccination against COVID-19 may result in termination of employment in the event of increased COVID rates or other complications warranting stricter policies; or
- 3) submit a signed exemption form describing medical or religious reasons for not getting vaccinated.

At this time, vaccinations are discretionary for employees, however, mandatory vaccinations may be implemented at a later date, depending on COVID rates on campus and the surrounding communities, or other complications warranting stricter policies.

### Students

ALL STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BECOME FULLY VACCINATED.

IN-PERSON LEARNING AND PARTICIPATION IN COLLEGE EVENTS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES—INCLUDING SPORTS TEAMS—IS DEPENDENT UPON LOW INFECTION AND TRANSMISSION RATES.

At this time, vaccinations are discretionary for students, however, mandatory vaccinations may be implemented at a later date, depending on COVID infection and transmission rates on campus and in the surrounding communities, or other complications warranting stricter policies.

#### *\*NOTE:*

*Vaccines continue to reduce a person's risk of contracting the virus that causes COVID-19, including the Delta variant. The COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the United States are highly effective at preventing severe disease and death, including against the Delta variant. But they are not 100% effective and some fully vaccinated people will become infected (called a breakthrough infection) and experience illness. For such people, the vaccine still provides them strong protection against serious illness and death.*

## **1. Social Distancing**

Bacone College encourages all individuals on campus to adhere to social distancing recommendations and maintain a distance of six feet from other individuals whenever possible and practical.

In any situation where social distancing is not possible or practical, individuals shall, at a minimum, wear a mask, except as outlined in this policy or as otherwise authorized on a case-by-case basis.

## **2. Temperature Monitoring, Checkpoints & Campus Entry**

Temperature checks will be mandatory at specific checkpoints on campus. If an individual has a fever, they will not be permitted into class and will be required to submit to a COVID screening.

Bacone College's north end entrance will be closed until further notice. All vehicles must enter through the Shawnee Bypass entrance (south entrance).

### **3. Personal Protection Equipment**

Masks and hand sanitizer are available on campus in designated locations.

#### **Stop the spread of COVID-19**

- Per the CDC and WHO guidelines, individuals who feel sick, should stay home or remain in their dorm room.
- Wash hands with soap and warm water and/or using a hand sanitizer.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, throw the tissue in the trash, and wash hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces such as door handles, faucet handles, light switches, etc. Self-monitor for symptoms, including fever, daily.

**REMINDER- Face masks must always be worn. For more information on when a face mask is required, please refer to the Face Mask Policy.**

All individuals should respect others' level of comfort regarding social distancing.

#### **What happens if the COVID-19 has an outbreak in Muskogee, Oklahoma?**

Bacone College, in conjunction with the local, tribal, state, regional, and international authorities, will determine the level of the outbreak and take appropriate action which may include but not be limited to, the following:

- Modification of classes, sporting events and/or other public events
- Closure of the campus, revised student housing arrangements
- Quarantine of affected student(s) and employees

#### **Symptoms of COVID-19**

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

#### **If experiencing symptoms:**

- Avoid public contact: stay home, in dorm or apartment.

- If the student has symptoms, they will call Director of Housing at 918-360-9703 or the Vice President of Student Affairs at 918-360-7771.
- The student will provide Bacone College staff & Muskogee County Health Department with a list of all close contacts (being within approximately 6 feet of an individual for a prolonged period; close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a classroom)
- College officials will contact emergency medical services if needed, Oklahoma COVID Hotline, and the Muskogee County Health Department.
- EMS personnel or the COVID hotline will immediately respond and determine if symptoms require:
  - Transport to emergency room/hospital
  - Isolation

**Off-campus students who experience symptoms:**

- Avoid public contact: stay home.
- Call your Primary Care Provider for an appointment immediately, call a local testing site (contact info is on the last page of this letter), or call 911 in case of an emergency.
- Notify the student's advisor or the Vice President of Student Affairs to initiate contact tracing if the individual has been on campus.

**Local testing sites**

Cherokee Nation Three Rivers-FREE for tribal members  
1001 S. 41<sup>st</sup> East  
Muskogee, OK 74403  
918-781-6500

Muskogee County Health Department-FREE to public  
530 S. 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
Muskogee, OK 74401  
918-683-0321

Xpress Wellness-Rapid Testing-Free with signed uninsured waiver  
2525 Chandler Road  
Muskogee, OK 74403  
918-681-7533

W.W. Hastings Hospital-24 hours-FREE for tribal members  
100 Bliss Ave.  
Tahlequah, OK 74464  
918-458-3100

**How much does it cost to get screened for COVID-19?**

The government has a program that allows all uninsured US residents to be screened for COVID-19. Please note that if you have private insurance, the doctor or hospital may bill your insurance provider and/or require a copay.

**If COVID-19 is diagnosed for a student or employee**

We follow the guidance of local, state, and national health officials and our local medical providers. When we receive confirmation that a Bacone student or employee has had a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, there are necessary measures to be promptly taken, including contact tracing, communication, and facility disinfection.

If quarantined in campus housing, the student support program will include:

- Monitoring student medical needs by the Muskogee County Health Department •

Bacone College will provide students with:

- Food and supplies
- Academic support with online instruction, supplemental instruction (virtual), or other instructional needs
- Tutoring for students after quarantine
- Academic and financial aid guidance for prolonged class absence or withdrawal
- Student privacy and safety protection

If isolated off-campus

- Bacone College will provide students with:
  - Academic support with online instruction, supplemental instruction (virtual), or other instructional needs
  - Tutoring for students after quarantine
  - Academic and financial aid guidance for prolonged class absence or withdrawal
  - Student privacy and safety protection

**IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION**

Bacone College Housing	918-360-9703
Bacone College Campus Police	918-360-5814
Muskogee Country Health Department	918-683-0321
Oklahoma COVID Hotline	2-1-1
Xpress Wellness Clinic- Rapid Testing	918-681-7533
Three Rivers Health Center	918-781-6500
Green Country Behavioral Health	918-682-8407
Cherokee Nation Behavioral Health	918-207-4977
MCN Crisis Text Line- text CREEK	741-741