

# Bacone



# College

April 4, 2022

Greetings Bacone Students and Campus Community,

Please read the new COVID-19 policy and make note that masks are no longer mandated. We do encourage you to make informed decisions about vaccinations and make the best decision for your health and well being.

Due to the low rates of COVID-19 and variants in Muskogee County, the following revised COVID-19 Policy issued by Bacone College's Interim President is effective immediately. 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, students please contact Dr. Kelly LaChance, Vice President of Student Affairs at [lachancek@bacone.edu](mailto:lachancek@bacone.edu) or 918-360-7771. Bacone College employees contact Wil Lowe, Human Resources Director at [lowew@bacone.edu](mailto:lowew@bacone.edu) or 918-781-7277.

Best Regards,

Shared Governance Committee  
Bacone College

2299 Old Bacone Rd  
Muskogee, OK 74403



[www.bacone.edu](http://www.bacone.edu)  
Phone: 918-683-4581



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## BACONE COLLEGE COVID-19 POLICY Spring 2022

**NOTICE:** THE PRESIDENT OF BACONE COLLEGE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE OR MODIFY THESE POLICIES AT ANY TIME. SHOULD AN INCREASE IN COVID RATES, VARIANTS OR OTHER COMPLICATIONS WARRANT REVISING THIS POLICY.

### Revised COVID-19 Guidelines - April 4, 2022

#### Revised Mask Policy

Masks are no longer mandatory. Students and staff may wear a mask as a personal choice. This mask policy may be revised depending on COVID infection and transmission rates on campus and in the surrounding communities, or other complications warranting stricter policies.

#### Vaccinations

At this time, vaccinations are discretionary, 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.

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

*Vaccines continue to reduce a person's risk of contracting the virus that causes COVID-19, including other variants. The COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the United States are highly effective at preventing severe disease and death, including other variants. 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.*

#### Social Distancing

At the discretion of faculty they may use social distancing in their classroom.

The chapel will continue to use social distancing in some instances.

#### Personal Protection Equipment

Masks will still be available on campus for personal choice use.

Please use the hand sanitizing stations to continue preventative measures.

### **COVID-19 and Variant Protection**

- 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 touched objects and surfaces such as door handles, faucet, light switches, etc.
- Self-monitor for symptoms, including fever, daily.

### **What happens if there is a COVID-19 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 your dorm room or apartment.
- If the student has symptoms, call the Director of Housing at 918-360-9703 or the Vice President of Student Affairs at 918-360-7771.
- 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
    - Other

### **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 may have 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**

Bacone College looks to guidance from 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 includes:

- Monitoring the student
- 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 County 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