

Campus COVID Updates for Spring & Summer 2023

On April 1, after three years, New Mexico state Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham announced the end of the COVID-19 public health order in New Mexico. On May 11, the federal government will end the COVID-19 national public health emergency. These actions mark the formal end of programs and policies designed to help us survive the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Of course, the COVID virus remains active in our communities, and so the threat of illness has not ended. Health and safety remain high priorities for all of us at Southwestern College (SWC). COVID remains a highly transmissible viral infection, so we are asking for cooperation in keeping each other and our families as healthy as possible. We have survived so much, and we intend to continue to support each other.

SWC adopts the following COVID-19 policies and practices for Spring and Summer 2023. We will revisit this, and if necessary, make minor changes for Fall 2023. Thank you.

1. Masks are optional.

There is no requirement for mask-wearing. However, one-time-use paper masks remain available in the front office if you choose to wear one. We do recommend mask-wearing after possible exposure, including attending large indoor events and/or air travel.

2. Vaccination status is optional.

There is no longer any requirement for proof of vaccination for anyone coming to campus whether to attend on-ground classes, in-person meetings, campus tours, etc.

3. COVID tests are available in the front office for faculty, staff, and students. Please call ahead, and we can leave a test outside the main doors with your name on it for you.

4. Campus grounds and buildings are open to all students, staff, faculty, board members, and visitors during regular business hours Monday-Friday, 9 am to 5 pm.

Visitors are asked to check-in at the main office. If requesting a campus tour, please schedule an appointment ahead of time by calling toll free 1-877-471-5756 ext. 6815 or emailing info@swc.edu

Please come visit the remodeled Quimby Memorial Library, make art in our drop-in Art Studio, or have a meditative walk in the New Earth Labyrinth.

5. Staff and faculty with campus offices are returning to work on campus.

As ordered in March 2020, all staff shifted to working from home. Staff who could only work at the physical location of the campus returned to campus by Summer 2020. Now in Spring 2023 we are requesting all staff to make this transition and return to their offices over the coming weeks or make arrangements with their supervisors.

6. On-ground classes have resumed.

In March 2020, we had to shift our completely on-ground programs to fully online (Zoom synchronous). This was a dramatic transition. We then applied to the Higher

Learning Commission (HLC) and received permission to offer distance degree programs. We also resumed on-ground classes in Fall 2021.

Now we are both an on-ground and distance graduate school. We continue to learn how best to offer our transformational, experiential learning model via distance and meet the needs of both our on-ground and distance students.

Our Master of Arts academic degree programs and our New Earth Institute certificate programs offer courses either online or on-ground. Please check the quarterly class schedule for details.

The PhD in Visionary Practice and Regenerative Leadership offers classes via zoom synchronous technology and has three on-ground, in-person required residencies. See the website for additional details.

7. Campus reporting of a positive COVID test remains in effect.

If you are working or attending classes on campus, we require that you report a positive COVID test. We no longer report positive COVID cases to the state health department, but we still track this and notify anyone who was in close contact with you and give you return to work guidelines based on the latest recommendations from the CDC. Use the link below if you should test positive:

[link for covid positive case reporting](#)

8. COVID TESTING may be required in certain situations.

For example, the annual Wilderness Fast has participants in close contact, perhaps sharing tents, eating together, etc. over the ten-day wilderness experience. A negative COVID test may be required prior to participation.

9. Do not come to campus:

- a. If you are not feeling well. Please make arrangements with your supervisor or teacher to work or attend classes from home.
- b. If you have tested positive. Remain at home until you have no symptoms and have a negative test.
- c. If you have been exposed to someone who has tested positive, please wait 3-5 days before returning to campus. You must have a negative test before returning to work or classes on campus after known exposure.

Thank you and stay well,
President Ann Filemyr, PhD