**Evangel University**

**COVID-19, This Fall (2021)**

This fall, Evangel University will require unvaccinated students living on campus to submit a negative COVID-19 test prior to moving into the residence halls. Students will have two testing options - they can test at home within 72-hours of the planned “move-in” date or take a rapid test upon arrival at Evangel (note, rapid tests will be provided by the university). Vaccine cards or test results must be made available to Evangel officials prior to moving into assigned residence halls.

Students whose tests comes back positive for COVID-19 will be moved to isolation housing, unless they choose to isolate at home. They will not be able to move into their assigned residence halls until they have completed their isolation requirements. Non-vaccinated students who have come into close contact with someone who has tested positive will be placed into quarantine. For more information, please see the FAQ section below. All contact tracing is done by Evangel University personnel in cooperation with the Springfield (MO) – Greene County Health Department.

Evangel University is aware of the significant impact that COVID-19, and specifically the delta variant of this virus, is making within our region. This situation is fluid, and Evangel is committed to caring well for students, faculty, and staff. As vaccination opportunities are readily available, the university intends on following a normal schedule for the fall semester, and encourages all students, faculty, and staff to get vaccinated.

Contingency plans are in place in order to make the campus community as safe as possible. Evangel continues to monitor the situation throughout the region and will adjust procedures accordingly, in coordination with local and federal public health guidelines.

**FAQ**

Do students or employees have to wear masks?

No, at this time masks are not required on campus or in the Springfield (MO) community. However, Evangel continues to monitor the situation. If the campus reaches 7% or more of students/employees absent due to COVID-related reasons, the university may reissue a mask requirement for a minimum of 2 weeks or until those numbers drop to fewer than 4% for 2 consecutive weeks.

Are vaccines required for students?

Although strongly encouraged, vaccines are not required or mandated at Evangel.

After the first shot (Moderna or Pfizer), do students still need to be tested?

Yes, students must be fully vaccinated to avoid testing. Fully vaccinated is considered to be two-weeks after the final dose.

Can students isolate or quarantine on campus?

Yes, there are designated floors within the residence halls for students who may be required to isolate or quarantine.

Who needs to quarantine?

Unvaccinated students who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19-excluding students who have had COVID-19 within the past 3 months or who are fully vaccinated.

What counts as close contact?

* You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period.
* You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
* You had direct physical contact with an infected person (hugged or kissed them)
* You shared eating or drinking utensils with an infected person
* An infected person sneezed or coughed and you were close enough for their droplets to land on you

Are there options to reduce the length of the quarantine?

Yes. The quarantine period is 10 days from the determined date of close contact exposure. Individuals can reduce the length of quarantine to 7 days after receiving a negative test result (the test must occur on day 5 or later). Day 1 considered the day after contact. You can return after the quarantine period (i.e., on day 11 or day 8, if tested).

**Overarching Principles**

Evangel University will:

* Continue to follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the State of Missouri, Greene County, and the City of Springfield
* Develop and implement a set of standards and protocols to promote the campus community’s health and safety
* Put into place protocols for self-assessment and monitoring of the campus
* Work to mitigate the resurgence risks of the virus to the best extent possible
* Plan with the understanding that COVID-19 will be present into the foreseeable future.

**Prevent and Protect**

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid exposure to the virus. The primary way the virus spreads is through respiratory droplets produced when someone coughs, sneezes or talks. In consultation with the Springfield-Greene County Health Department and the City of Springfield, protocols have been put into place to limit exposure. These include the following.

* Practicing regular hand hygiene as advised by the CDC.
* Locking all campus buildings to prevent unnecessary foot traffic.
* Encouraging community members to follow immunization recommendations.
* Having community members do a self-check for symptoms daily and if necessary, seek medical care.

July 13, 2021