THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

CAMPUS READY
RETURN TO CAMPUS PLAN FOR FALL 2020

June 30, 2020
Overview

In the face of the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Mississippi has undertaken extensive and exhaustive planning efforts in order to resume daily operations and return to instruction on campus for the Fall 2020 semester. “Campus Ready” is a comprehensive plan encompassing all aspects of campus life from academics and student experiences to offices and research labs.

The parameters and protocols for Fall 2020 operations are aligned and consistent with government orders and public health recommendations from the Safe Return order of Gov. Tate Reeves’s reopening plan, the City of Oxford’s Serving Oxford Safely recovery plan, the IHL Safe Start Task Force, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), and the American College Health Association (ACHA).

“Campus Ready” plan will evolve as additional public health recommendations and direction from local, state and federal governing bodies is provided. Please visit the online version of “Campus Ready” to read all components of the plan.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Prevent the spread of the virus to safeguard our community by following guidance of public health officials and agencies,
- Resume an on-campus learning, residential and working environment that prioritizes the safety and well-being of the campus population,
- Fulfill our core mission of education, research, and service, and
- Enable our students to maintain progress toward earning their degrees.
Highlights for Fall 2020

- **Preventing Spread of the Virus:** Properly wearing facemasks or appropriate cloth face coverings, maintaining six feet of physical distancing, and practicing proper hand hygiene will be required and essential to prevent virus spread.

- **Modified Academic Calendar:** To mitigate the potential impact of COVID-19 during the late fall months, the Fall 2020 semester calendar has been modified so that classes and final exams will conclude Tuesday Nov. 24, which falls on the week of Thanksgiving.

- **Course Delivery:** Deans, chairs, and faculty are evaluating each course section using a set of considerations and factors to decide how a course can be offered.

- **Mandatory Training:** Before returning to campus, all employees and students will be required to complete an online training module related to COVID-19 protocols.

- **Daily Symptom Checker:** To ensure that we are all “campus ready” each day, all faculty, staff and students will be required to use the university’s [COVID-19 Daily Symptom Checker](#) to assist in self-monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms.

- **Testing and Tracing:** University Health Services (UHS) will continue to provide services to students, faculty, and staff via in-person and virtual visits. Additionally, UHS will conduct contact tracing in collaboration with MSDH.

- **Compliance:** Compliance with the parameters and protocols by all members of our university community will be essential to our success in the upcoming academic year. If we all do our part to prevent the virus from spreading using the protocols, our level of activity on campus in the fall can be greater.
Health and Safety Protocols

Our parameters and protocols are based upon recommended preventive measures issued from the public health community. Follow these [CDC guidelines](https://www.cdc.gov) to protect yourself and others:

- Stay at least six feet from other people.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick, even inside your home.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow and do not spit. Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- Be alert for symptoms. Watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19.
- Take your temperature if symptoms develop.
Are you campus ready?

- **Social distance**: at least SIX FEET
- **Wear cloth face coverings**
- **Cover coughs and sneezes** with a tissue, then discard tissue
- **Monitor temperature** for a fever above 100.4 DEGREES F (38 DEGREES C)
- **WASH HANDS OFTEN** with soap for 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer
- **DISINFECT** frequently touched surfaces
- **STAY HOME** if you or your family are ill
- **AVOID** touching your face
- **AVOID** close contact with people who are sick
- **Watch for cough, troubled breathing, or other signs of respiratory infection**
University Health Services

COVID-19 Testing
- Students, faculty, and staff who develop symptoms of COVID-19 or who have been exposed to someone suspected of or confirmed with COVID-19 should call UHS or a medical provider immediately.
- At UHS, a provider will assess and determine if you need to be tested at the clinic.
- You will be asked to quarantine until you receive your test results from a UHS provider. You will be given instructions for what to expect next along with CDC guidance for at home care.

Reporting COVID-19 Positive Cases
- Employees must report positive tests to their supervisors and Employee Health, 662-915-6550. Students must report positive tests to Student Health, 662-915-7274.
- The university COVID-19 Response Task Force will be activated to communicate with the MSDH and appropriate campus departments to ensure that proper safety precautions including but not limited to contact tracing, isolation procedures, and disinfecting of workspaces/departments can be conducted.
- The anonymity and confidentiality of persons with COVID-19 will be protected, and their identity will not be disclosed publicly.
If you test positive for COVID-19

Employees **MUST** report positive tests to their supervisor and Employee Health, 662-915-6550

Students **MUST** report positive tests to Student Health, 662-915-7274

- The anonymity and confidentiality of persons with COVID-19 will be protected during this process.
- University Health Services will collaborate with Mississippi State Department of Health for contact tracing and to determine additional precautions that may be warranted.
- This is for the protection of the health and safety of the campus community.

[learn more at coronavirus.olemiss.edu](https://coronavirus.olemiss.edu)
Cleaning of Campus Spaces

- Frequently touched surfaces and objects in common areas will be cleaned/disinfected throughout the day by Facilities Management custodial staff; these include entry/exit door handles, push plates and crash bars, interior doors, automatic door operators, stair hand rails, elevator buttons, common area tables and countertops, faucets and sinks, drinking fountains, flush valves, light switches, public telephones, public touchscreens, furniture armrests (non-porous material only), vending machines, etc.

- Hand sanitizer dispensers will be provided at all building entrances, elevators, classrooms, restrooms, breakrooms, and other high-traffic areas within buildings.

- A sufficient supply of disinfectant wipes will be made available in conference rooms, break rooms, etc. so departments and employees can wipe down tables, chairs, appliances, office equipment, and other frequently touched surfaces and objects as needed throughout the day.

- A sufficient supply of disinfectant wipes will be made available in classrooms, study rooms, breakout rooms, computer labs, and other frequently used areas so individuals can wipe down the various surfaces and objects that they need to touch within these spaces (e.g., tables, chairs, markers, lecterns, keyboards, a/v controls, equipment, etc.). It is expected that students, faculty, and staff will take individual responsibility for wiping down the objects that they need to use or touch.

- Appropriate signage will be developed and posted throughout campus to educate and promote adherence to public health practices, including hand hygiene, physical distancing, proper cough/sneeze etiquette, frequent disinfection of common and high traffic areas, symptom assessment, temperature checks, and face masks/coverings in public.
Academic Calendar

• For Fall 2020, the university will operate under a modified academic calendar as part of efforts to protect the health and safety of the campus community.

• The modified calendar reflects the university’s efforts to mitigate the potential spread of the virus, account for other health threats that manifest during the winter (e.g., flu), and acknowledge the increased likelihood of travel during the late fall months.

• For more details, visit the Office of the Registrar website. **For Law and Pharmacy professional programs, consult your school’s website.
Student Responsibilities

• **Face Masks or Cloth Face Coverings**: Properly worn face masks or cloth face coverings (covering both the nose and mouth) will be required in all classrooms, hallways, auditoriums, instructional spaces, laboratories, common areas, shared spaces, and restrooms. A face covering is required in the presence of others in all indoor spaces. In addition, face coverings will be required outside when adequate social distance cannot be maintained and you are within 6 feet of another person. Any exceptions to these requirements will be outlined in the protocols. All faculty, staff, students, and visitors are required to comply with this requirement.

• **Social Distancing**: In addition to face masks/cloth face coverings, people should make every effort to stay 6 feet from other people. Please remember that wearing a face covering is not a substitute for social distancing.

• **Cleaning**: All of us must share responsibility for cleaning public surfaces to decrease touch risk of spreading the virus. Disinfectants, hand sanitizer and other supplies will be available across campus. Students and faculty will both play a role in disinfecting and keeping surfaces in classrooms clean.

• **Mandatory Student COVID-19 Training in Blackboard**: All students will be expected to complete a COVID-19 training module before coming to campus. All employees are completing a similar training because it will take all of us adhering to the protocols and parameters to continue our activities.

• **Health Monitoring and Symptom Screening**: Students must use the university’s COVID-19 Daily Symptom Checker to assist in self-monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms. The purpose of this self-checker is to help you make decisions about seeking appropriate medical care. This system is not intended for the diagnosis or treatment of disease or other conditions, including COVID-19. Your responses are completely anonymous, and no personal information, IP address, or geolocation will be collected.
Classes and Instruction

- Classroom capacities will be reduced to comply with CDC and national public health recommendations.
- Deans, chairs, and faculty are evaluating each course section using a principled set of considerations or factors to decide whether a course should be offered in one of four formats: face-to-face, hybrid, remote, or online.
- Given the space limitation necessitated by the protocols, some classroom changes and use of large spaces will be needed.
- Course delivery modes will be updated in the scheduling system over the next couple of weeks. We anticipate having all course delivery information updated in the system by July 20th.

Faculty are developing teaching strategies that are adaptable to whatever situation the virus presents.

Faculty will be encouraged to account for the fact that attendance could be affected by quarantine or isolation.

This “resilient pedagogy” will enable our faculty to keep teaching their courses in whatever format is necessary ensuring that we get our new students started off well as they start their academic journey and will keep our current students on track toward their degrees.
## Course Delivery Modes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COVID 19 Mode of Instruction</th>
<th>On-Campus Interaction in Course</th>
<th>Face to Face Component</th>
<th>Synchronous Component</th>
<th>Assessment Proctoring (if used)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FACE TO FACE &quot;Room&quot;</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>50% to 100% FACE TO FACE IN CLASS</td>
<td>Varies to 100% FACE TO FACE and ZOOM</td>
<td>FACE TO FACE or ELECTRONIC PROCTORING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HYBRID &quot;Uses Room AND Zoom&quot;</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Up to 50% FACE TO FACE IN CLASS</td>
<td>Varies to 100% FACE TO FACE and ZOOM</td>
<td>FACE TO FACE or ELECTRONIC PROCTORING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMOTE &quot;Converts Room TO Zoom&quot;</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NONE</td>
<td>Varies to 100% SYNCHRONOUS - ZOOM ONLY</td>
<td>ELECTRONIC PROCTORING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONLINE &quot;Fully Online&quot;</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NONE</td>
<td>NONE</td>
<td>ELECTRONIC PROCTORING</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Teaching Format Glossary

| FACE TO FACE | **Face-to-Face Instruction** – students and faculty are physically in a room together, at the same time, to engage the subject matter. |
| HYBRID | **Hybrid Instruction** – Room AND Zoom. Includes HyFlex; a course designed to teach some elements face-to-face and some remotely using technology with the instructor and the students in the same place at the same time for some aspects of instruction and remote for others. Some Room Some Zoom |
| REMOTE | **Remote Instruction** – the synchronous delivery of a course designed or developed to teach face-to-face using technology where the instructor and student are not physically in the same space at the same time. Room TO Zoom |
| ONLINE | **Online Instruction** – a course is designed specifically for delivery to students who are not physically present with the instructor. The pedagogy is designed to teach the material using technology. It may include synchronous and asynchronous engagement with the instructor. |
The university continues to evaluate classrooms and seating capacity. Seating chart offered as a sample classroom with physical distancing.
The Student Experience

Recognizing how important the opportunities for engagement and campus involvement are to the collegiate experience and mission, the university has diligently planned for a fall semester taking into account the range of needs and concerns of our community while remaining flexible to the changing public health guidance at the federal, state and local levels.

Student services — which includes advising, the Center for Student Success and First Year Experience, the University Counseling Center, the Student Health Center, UMatter, Student Disability Services, Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct, academic support and access, and others — will be fully operational in accordance with health and safety standards.

Programs and services such as Fraternity and Sorority Life recruitment, Student Union programming, Campus Recreation, Registered Student Organization activities, Career Services, and others will all be available this fall with appropriate protocols to mitigate virus spread.

The university will continue to review and evaluate our offerings, and we encourage you to routinely visit our student affairs website. In addition, we encourage you to visit departmental websites frequently to obtain up-to-date information.

Formats for offering services, events, activities and programs

- Fully virtual offerings utilizing Zoom and/or other digital platforms
- Hybrid offerings that will offer some components virtually and others in-person
- In-person offerings that adhere to social distancing and public safety guidelines
Student Housing / Fall 2020 Move-In

The “Groovin’ at Move-In” fall 2020 opening is scheduled for August 15-21. Student Housing will facilitate move-in through an appointment-based system over the seven-day period. Programs that require an early move-in timeframe are being communicated with through Student Housing, who will provide details about early arrival needs and dates.

Students will be expected to wear face coverings and be limited to no more than two guests per resident who can accompany them during move-in. The number of volunteers will be significantly reduced this year and will not be able to assist with moving personal items. All procedures will follow social distancing and other public health guidelines.

The university will share additional details about on-campus housing for Fall 2020 through direct communication to all 2020-21 residents of Student Housing.
Dining Services

- On-campus dining services are open and serving customers with protocols in place to help ensure the safety of campus operations.
- Protocols include:
  - adjusted dining area seating to accommodate social distancing requirements and to stay compliant with local seating occupancy restrictions,
  - adjusted menu and station strategy to alleviate crowding, and
  - extra and frequent cleaning of high customer contact areas.
- The protocols are available on the dining website.
Fraternity and Sorority Life

- Fraternity and sorority recruitment will proceed in a hybrid format. New member education will consist of a combination of in-person and virtual offerings.
- Move-in windows for residents of sorority houses will begin August 16.
- Move-in windows for residents of fraternity houses will begin August 21.
- Chapters will not be permitted to host social events in chapter facilities.
- Chapters will be able to register off-campus events through the Student Union event registration process and must adhere to current state and local executive orders and public health advice regarding hosting events safely.

For more information including FAQs, visit the FSL website.
greek.olemiss.edu
The Ole Miss Student Union

• Seating in all common and dining areas of the Ole Miss Student Union will be reduced to promote social distancing. Face coverings will be mandatory while inside the building.

• Reservations for on-campus spaces will begin no earlier than Wednesday, July 15. Please note that maximum occupancy for these spaces is significantly reduced from prior years.

• All on- and off-campus gatherings, including events sponsored by registered student organizations, will adhere to the Events protocols, which are based on current executive and local orders as well as public health recommendations.

For more information, consult union.olemiss.edu. For information about student organizations, visit the ForUM website.
Center for Student Success and First Year Experience

• **The Center for Student Success and First Year Experience** will offer academic advising and support services both in-person and virtually.

• EDHE 101, 105, 106, 201, 202, 203, and 305 will have in-person, hybrid, and online sections available for students.

• Large CSSFYE events such as the Veterans Gala and Convocation have been postponed or will be delivered in an alternative format.
University Counseling Center

• The University Counseling Center will provide hybrid services this fall. Students have the option of in person or tele-mental health services.

• For more information, visit the UCC website for specific information about how to access services.

UMatter

• CARE support meetings will occur both in-person and virtually, based on student needs.

• The Food Bank is currently operating via grab and go bags.

• Violence Prevention Program support is currently fully operational.

• For more information, visit the UMatter website.
Student Disability Services

- Student requests for accommodations related to pre-existing medical conditions or other disabilities should still be made to the SDS Office.

- For those students requesting accommodations or exemptions with regards to face coverings, face shields will be required and will be available through the SDS office.

- Students are strongly encouraged to submit their requests as soon as possible.

- The Testing Center will remain available to students during the fall semester though at a reduced capacity in adherence with social distancing guidelines.
Office of Financial Aid

- **The Office of Financial Aid** will be available to students and guests via phone, email, virtual sessions, and in-person appointments.

- Please note that students who have received freshman scholarships will lose that aid should they opt to attend class at another two-year or four-year institution. Once a student has taken classes as a freshman at another school, they are considered a transfer student at UM.

Office of Admissions

- For prospective students, **the Office of Admissions** will host three in-person campus visit sessions per weekday.

- Virtual campus visits are also available to those students and families who are unable to visit in person.

- Saturday weekend visit programs will be offered at reduced capacity and with a condensed schedule. Browse fairs and meals will not occur.
Highlights of Employee Responsibilities

- **Face Masks or Cloth Face Coverings:** Wear a face mask or face covering at all times while in a shared work space/room. Face masks/coverings are not required when people are outdoors unless they are within 6 feet of another person.

- **Required Training:** All employees (including faculty, administrators and supervisors/managers) are required to complete the “Return to Work on Campus” presentation that is accessible at blackboard.olemiss.edu.

- **Understanding of Employee Responsibilities regarding COVID-19:** All employees (including faculty, administrators and supervisors/managers) are required to review the expectations of employees related to return to work on campus and certify via the digital attestation that it has been read and the expectations are understood.

- **Self-Monitoring:** All employees (including faculty, administrators and supervisors/managers) are required to complete the UM COVID-19 Daily Symptom Checker which is based on current CDC guidance. Employees will use this interactive tool daily to check for coronavirus symptoms and learn about resources available to help protect yourself and others from the spread of COVID-19.

As staff presence increases and operations resume on campus, officials will closely monitor and assess the potential spread of the virus, as well as existing policies and procedures to mitigate it. If localized outbreaks emerge, tighter restrictions and reduced on-campus staffing may need to be implemented again.
Travel

There are still travel restrictions in place in accordance with CDC recommendations and to ensure compliance with the protocols that are recommended by health officials. Some travel will simply not be possible in the fall, and other elements of travel will happen with protocols to prevent virus spread. This information will be updated as CDC guidance changes. The current travel policies in place and updates can be found on coronavirus.olemiss.edu.

Current travel policies

- All university-affiliated international and domestic travel is prohibited until further notice.
  - Faculty who believe their travel is essential must apply for a waiver with the Office of the Provost.
  - Staff who believe their travel is essential must apply for a waiver through their respective Vice Chancellor.
- All personal international travel is strongly discouraged.
Events

In-person events on campus and sponsored by the university will comply with current executive and local orders and guidelines (Safe Return order of Gov. Tate Reeves’s reopening plan and the City of Oxford’s Serving Oxford Safely), as well as public health recommendations:

- **Group Gatherings (Where Social Distancing IS NOT Possible)**
  - Indoor: Public and private social gatherings and recreational activities shall be limited to groups of no more than 20 people in a single indoor space
  - Outdoor: Public and private social gatherings and recreational activities shall be limited to groups of no more than 50 people in an outdoor space where individuals are in close proximity (less than 6 feet) to each other.

- **Group Gatherings (Where Social Distancing IS Possible)**
  - Indoor: Public and private social gatherings and recreational activities shall be limited to groups of no more than 50 people in a single indoor space
  - Outdoor: Public and private social gatherings and recreational activities shall be limited to groups of no more than 100 people in an outdoor space where individuals are able to maintain a minimum of 6 feet separation.

- **Outdoor and Indoor Arenas**
  - The number of guests in the arena shall be no greater than 25 percent of the maximum seating capacity.
For Athletics, planning for the fall has involved two phases. The initial focus involved the parameters and protocols required to support a return to campus for voluntary workouts for student-athletes and coaches competing in fall sports and Athletics Department staff.

More recently, Athletics planning has expanded to focus on events, based on guidance from the CDC, MSDH, state and local authorities and more. Athletics is working hard to ensure our stadiums can accommodate student athletes, fans, and game personnel while adhering to the recommendations by experts. Final decisions regarding fall sports will be forthcoming, and those decisions will be made in conjunction with the NCAA, the SEC and their member institutions.
Campus Transportation

• Buses and campus shuttles will be operational for the fall semester.
• Face coverings will be mandatory when entering and during transport. When riding the bus or campus shuttle, individuals should put on their face mask/covering before entering the bus and they should avoid touching surfaces (hand rails, straps, poles, etc.) with their hands.
• Upon disembarking, riders should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol as soon as possible and before removing their face mask/covering.
• Hand sanitizer dispensers will be provided either on the busses or at bus stops for disembarking riders.
• Bus drivers will use disinfectant wipes to wipe down hand rails, bars, seats, and other frequently touched surfaces frequently throughout the day.
• Bus drivers will wear a face mask/covering at all times while driving the bus.
• Find more information at the Parking and Transportation website.
Future Planning Task Force

Starting in March, the university’s response to the global pandemic was guided by the Incident Response Team representing many areas of campus operations. When it became clear that the response to COVID-19 would require more extensive and long-term planning, the Future Planning Task Force was established with working groups focused on six areas:

• Academic Planning and Experiences,
• Athletics,
• Financial Planning/Implications,
• Parameters and Protocols,
• Public Education and Awareness, and
• Student Services and Support.

The university is grateful to the many faculty, staff and students who contributed to the development of the operational framework for the Fall 2020 semester, monitored the numerous variables that evolved daily, and developed the recommendations based on guidance outlined by federal, state and local government agencies as well as state and local health officials. The “Campus Ready” plan reflects their commitment to upholding our highest priority of safeguarding the health, safety, and well-being of the university community.

Visit coronavirus.olemiss.edu for the latest updates.