



## COVID-19 POLICY

Effective 8/30/22

The newest guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) makes it clear that the way we can return to a more normal on-campus experience is through vaccination and masking. These links provide further information on the COVID-19 vaccine.

- Finding a Vaccine: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>
- How to Protect Yourself and Others: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>
- Variants: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/variant.html>

At Viterbo University, the health and safety of our students and employees is our highest priority. This policy has been developed to help maintain the health and safety of all Viterbo community members, in accordance with the current Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and recommendations. Note: this policy is subject to change based on guidance from the CDC and/or DHS.

### **POLICY COMPLIANCE**

It is the expectation of the university that all Viterbo community members behave responsibly with respect for the health and safety of others.

Enforcement is based on the honor system and is supported by the institutional core value of integrity. This is about doing what is right and honest.

### **REDUCING SPREAD**

Due to COVID-19's primary mode of transmission through person-to-person contact with an infected person, regardless if the person is symptomatic or asymptomatic, Viterbo has identified the following procedures to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 on campus:

- Vaccination and boosters (encouraged)
- Masking (as outlined below)

Viterbo reserves the right to isolate COVID-19 positive individuals until arrangements can be made to leave campus, and/or cancel or reschedule work or class.

### **VACCINATION**

Health professionals agree that the best approach to a safe campus environment is through vaccination against COVID-19. All COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the U.S. have been shown to be safe and effective in preventing COVID-19 or minimizing its effects, including the COVID-19 variants.

You are considered up to date when you have received the primary series and any boosters, when eligible. The effectiveness of the current vaccines diminishes over time, especially against the currently circulating variants. For this reason, it is important to stay up to date as new vaccines become available.

Everyone who has been vaccinated at a location other than Viterbo University is reminded to complete this form <https://etcentral.viterbo.edu/#/form/1081>. Your confidential participation will help us maintain a safe campus environment.

As students and community members consider whether vaccination is the right choice for them, the Campus Health Advisory Committee encourages everyone to consider vaccination to help reduce symptom severity, reduce the threat of hospitalization, or death.

Viterbo health services will continue to offer vaccination on campus as supplies allow and demand dictates. Other vaccine locations can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/How-Do-I-Get-a-COVID-19-Vaccine.html>

Athletics, nursing, and other student programs may still be required to test before participation, based on organizational requirements.

## **TESTING**

Students showing any symptoms of COVID-19, as determined by health services, can be tested in health services. Students exposed to a known positive case of COVID-19 will also be tested. Employees who are exposed to COVID-19 as part of their work function can be tested in health services.

## **PROTOCOL FOR A COVID-19 POSITIVE TEST RESULT**

- Isolate for five days and mask for an additional five days
  - Limited isolation housing will be available for resident students testing positive for COVID-19.
  - Viterbo will initiate the standard contact tracing protocol to identify any other affected individuals.
- Faculty will work with students to provide alternative modes of course content delivery and adjusted time frames so the student can complete the course successfully.

## **PROTOCOL FOR EXPOSURE TO A PERSON WITH COVID-19**

If you were exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19 or have been told by a health care provider or public health authority that you were exposed, you should wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days, and test on the fifth day after exposure, unless symptoms develop sooner.

## **RETURN TO CAMPUS**

Students and employees who are ending their isolation period may return to campus upon authorization from their health care provider to return to normal campus activity AND approval from human resources (employees) or health services (students). In each of the scenarios listed below, students and employees will be expected to mask for five days following their isolation window to minimize the risk of infecting others.

- Return from isolation for a student/employee who tests positive for COVID-19 will occur once the student/employee:
  - is fever-free ( $<100.4^{\circ}$ ) and has improvement in other symptoms for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.
- Return from isolation for a student/employee who has moderate to severe symptoms will occur once the student/employee:
  - completes an extended isolation of 10 days.
- Return from isolation for a student/employee who has a weakened immune system will occur once the student/employee:
  - receives guidance from a health care provider.
  - coordinates return with health services.

After ending isolation, if COVID-19 symptoms worsen, individuals will restart isolation at day zero.

### **FACE MASK USAGE** (when required)

Face masks must cover nostrils and mouth, and:

- should be well-fitting.
- are required when entering health services.

Acceptable masks/face coverings are as follows:

- Cloth face masks, such as handmade/sewn cloth masks;
  - Cloth masks should be properly cleaned on a regular basis and manufacturer directions on care should be followed.
  - Cloth masks should be discarded and replaced if worn or frayed; or
- Disposable face masks, such as non-medical grade paper or procedure masks; or
- Buffs/neck gaiters if they include a replaceable filter; or
- Higher ply masks, like KN95 or KN94 are recommended, if possible

### **PERSONAL HYGIENE**

Simple hygiene measures can help protect student and employee health. Viterbo University recommends employees and students:

- wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- cover their mouths and noses with a tissue when coughing or sneezing or use the inside of their elbow.
- throw used tissues in the trash and immediately wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

### **CLOSE CONTACTS**

For the purpose of this policy, a close contact is defined as a person who has had prolonged contact with a positive COVID-19 individual. Viterbo employees or students who are identified as close contacts will be notified by health services or human resources. Testing is recommended on the fifth day after exposure.

### **COMMUNICATION**

In collaboration with the Campus Health Advisory Committee, CDC guidance, DHS recommendations, La Crosse County Health Department, and other reputable sources, university leadership will determine appropriate college-wide and/or public notifications. This policy is effective Aug. 30, 2022, and will remain in effect until further notice. The situation with COVID-19 is fluid and thus this policy is subject to change at any time. Visit <https://www.viterbo.edu/health-services/covid-19-information-and-resources> for the most updated policy. Employees who have questions or concerns with this policy should contact human resources ([humanresources@viterbo.edu](mailto:humanresources@viterbo.edu), 608-796-3931/3932). Students who have questions or concerns with this policy should contact Kirsten Gabriel, vice president for student life ([kkgabriel@viterbo.edu](mailto:kkgabriel@viterbo.edu)) or health services ([healthservices@viterbo.edu](mailto:healthservices@viterbo.edu)).

### **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

Viterbo University Health Services .....	608-796-3806
Viterbo University Human Resources .....	608-796-3931 or 608-796-3932
Viterbo University Counseling Services .....	608-796-3808
La Crosse County COVID-19 Hotline .....	608-785-6240
Gundersen Nurse Advisor Line .....	1-608-775-4454
Mayo Nurse Advisor Line .....	1-608-785-0940 (ask for the nurse line)
FEI-Employee Assistance Program .....	1-800-638-3327