

**Sandhills Community College**  
**Safety Protocols for slowing the spread of the COVID-19**  
**Virus**

Sandhills Community College (SCC) is following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and recommendations as well as directives and mandates from the North Carolina Governor and the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) to slow the spread of COVID-19. The College is dedicated to protecting the health and safety of our employees, students, and the community while fulfilling its mission of providing educational programs of the highest quality to all the people of the Sandhills.

Following these safety protocols is a shared responsibility of the College and all members of the college community.

**Using Masks**

Effective August 5, 2021, masks that cover the nose and mouth are required indoors on all SCC campuses.

- CDC recommends that people wear masks indoors in public, whether vaccinated or not.
- Masks may help prevent people who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others.
- Masks are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when they are widely used by people in public settings.
- Masks should NOT be worn by children under the age of 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, is incapacitated, or is otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

**Social distancing**

SCC is requiring the practice of social distancing - staying at least 6 feet away from other people. Social distancing, also called “physical distancing,” means keeping a safe space between yourself and other people who are not from your household. To practice social or physical distancing, stay at least 6 feet from other people who are not from your household in both indoor and outdoor spaces.

COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact (within about 6 feet) for a prolonged period. Spread happens when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks, and droplets from their mouth or nose are launched into the air and land in the mouths or noses of people nearby. The droplets can also be inhaled into the lungs. Recent studies indicate that people who are infected but do not have symptoms likely also play a role in the spread of COVID-19. Since people can spread the virus before they know they are sick, it is important to stay at least 6 feet away from others when possible, even if you—or they—do not have any symptoms. Social distancing is especially important for people who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

To assist with social distancing, service-desk barriers/sneeze guards are in place in high traffic areas.

Elevator use is restricted to one person at a time.

The bookstore is physically open while adhering to SCC safety protocols.

## **Cleaning**

- Social distancing should be practiced in combination with other everyday preventive actions to reduce the spread of COVID-19, including avoiding touching your face with unwashed hands, and frequently washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Frequently used surfaces are to be cleaned and disinfected between users. Maintenance staff perform a deep clean in all buildings every evening using EPA-regulated disinfectants and foggers.
- Campus-wide wipe-downs of doors and surfaces are performed twice daily.
- Purifying devices on all air ventilation systems are in place.

## **Self-screening**

If you are sick with COVID-19, have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, it is important to stay home and away from other people. Please see COVID-19 Campus Exposure Procedures. Students and employees will understand and follow the communication expectations outlined in these procedures, including reporting possible exposure incidents to your instructor (for a student) or to your direct supervisor (for an employee) and possibly participating in contact tracing as requested.

Please do not attempt to come to campus if the following are present:

- Symptoms of COVID-19 –
  - ✓ Fever (equal to or higher than 100.4F) or feeling feverish (chills, sweating)
  - ✓ New cough
  - ✓ Headache
  - ✓ Fatigue
  - ✓ Congestion/runny nose
  - ✓ Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
  - ✓ Sore throat
  - ✓ Muscle aches or body aches
  - ✓ Vomiting, diarrhea, or nausea
  - ✓ New loss of taste or smell
- Are under evaluation for COVID-19 (for example, waiting for the results of a viral test, for you or someone you have been exposed to, confirming infection)
- Have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and not yet cleared to discontinue

isolation Employees should contact Human Resources for applicable leave policies.

## **Travel**

Non-essential business travel is prohibited at this time.

Personal travel/time off should be coordinated with immediate supervisors.

## **Wellness**

Several resources are available to assist faculty, staff and students during this pandemic.

**Timothy Hunt**, Director, Personal Counseling Services

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**Email:** [huntt@sandhills.edu](mailto:huntt@sandhills.edu)

**Rosa McAllister-McRae**, Director, Student Services Hoke Center, Personal Counselor

**Phone:** (910) 878-5804 or 246-4944

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**Employee Assistance Program (EAP)** with McLaughlin Young Group, an independent provider of EAP services. To seek assistance through the EAP, simply call **704-529-1428** or **800-633-3353**.

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