



# Brescia University Student COVID-19 Handbook

Fall 2021

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## **Introduction**

At the beginning of the pandemic I noted that we at Brescia will get through this with resilience and patience. I know that these changes pose a challenge for everyone but I believe they are in the best interests of everyone's health and safety. We have been continuously guided by the principle that we will do what we can to keep folks as safe as possible with a minimal disruption to the educational experience of our students. For that reason, we have been in constant contact with health officials and our higher education colleagues. All decisions have been made on the best information that we have to mitigate risk and provide a meaningful and substantive educational experience. I want everyone to know that our faculty and staff have worked incredibly hard all summer to make this fall semester successful. I know that they will continue to do so as we make our way through these historically unprecedented times. The Brescia spirit of resilience is strong and vibrant and I know that will translate into the experience of the next few months. Because of this incredible planning, the educational experience will be of the same high quality to which our students are accustomed. It will certainly be different but there was no decrease in the amount of work and dedication that our faculty and staff put into its design and implementation.

In the Spirit of St. Angela,

Fr. Larry Hostetter, President Brescia University

## **About This Handbook**

The policies and procedures outline in this handbook have been created to minimize the disruption of the educational experience of Brescia University students, and to protect the health and safety of our community.

Given the constantly changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, we learn new information about best practices on how to keep our community safe. This handbook will be reviewed and revised as the academic year unfolds. Updates on policies and procedures will be sent through Brescia email, the official means of communication for the University. Any policy or procedure updated via email will supersede this handbook until policies are reconciled. The Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students will be the final interpreter for student policies and procedures for students, and their judgement over which policy/procedure to follow is final.

## **Health and Safety**

### ***Coronavirus (COVID-19) Symptoms***

CDC: COVID-19 affects different people in different ways. Most infected people will develop mild to moderate illness and recover without hospitalization.

Most common symptoms include:

- Fever (100.4 or higher) and/or chills
- Dry cough
- Fatigue

Serious symptoms:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Abdominal or chest pain and/or pressure
- Loss of speech or movement

Less common symptoms:

- Muscle or body aches
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Diarrhea, nausea or vomiting
- Conjunctivitis
- Headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- Rash on skin, or discoloration of fingers or toes

Seek immediate medical attention if you have serious symptoms. Always call before visiting your doctor or health facility.

On average it takes 5–6 days from when someone is infected with the virus for symptoms to show, however it can take up to 14 days

Stay home or in your residence hall room if you are sick with COVID-19 symptoms or if you have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Students who are sick must contact the Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Joshua Clary at [josh.clary@brescia.edu](mailto:josh.clary@brescia.edu)

### ***Coronavirus (COVID-19) Prevention***

To prevent infection and to slow transmission of COVID-19, do the following:

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water, or clean them with alcohol-based hand rub.
- Maintain at least three feet of distance between you and other people.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Wear a mask indoors
- Stay home or in your residence hall room if you do not feel well.

### **COVID-19 Accommodations**

Students may request accommodations for COVID related issues (i.e. immunocompromised, high risk for COVID based on CDC guidance, and/or diagnoses covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act). Students will email the Office of Disability Services [disability.services@brescia.edu](mailto:disability.services@brescia.edu) to request a review for COVID related accommodations.

Students will follow instructions from their assigned Disability Services officer in submitting appropriate documentation and paperwork. Disability Services officers will follow their policies and procedures for notifying faculty and staff with a need to know.

***Any student who is required to self-isolate due to a positive COVID-19 test must notify the VPSA/DOS and may choose to request accommodations through the Office of Disability Services.***

## Face Coverings/Masks

**While indoors on Brescia University property, face coverings/masks will be worn unless alone in a residence hall room, while eating or drinking while stationary, or when it would interfere with curricular requirements and activities, including athletic practice or competition.** Students will wear face coverings/masks (as defined below) while attending in person courses, even if seating is socially distant. As of May 3, 2021, masks are not required to



be worn outdoors on any campus property, but wearing masks outdoors is still recommended, not required, for those who are not fully vaccinated.

Brescia is not requiring a specific uniform face covering/mask for students. In fact, we are open to students creative designs and creations provided they do not promote or wear any bias related apparel, sign or symbol which reasonably appears to offend, victimize or intimidate another

based on race, age, color, religion, sex, national origin, or disability and/or which disrupts or interferes with the educational setting and/or process.

**Face coverings/masks should cover the mouth and nose completely.**

N95 or respirators are not required. Neck gaiters, bandanas, surgical masks, cloth/fabric masks, or face shield are acceptable forms of face coverings. **For the best protection, cloth masks should be at least 2 layers and light should not shine through.** Masks with openings (crocheted) or tears are not to be worn.

Please note that masks with exhalation valves or vents are not permitted (not recommended by the CDC).

Any student who has a medical condition they believe prohibits them from wearing a face covering/mask should follow the COVID-19 Accommodations process in the COVID-19 Student Handbook and work with the Office of Disability Services.

The CDC recommends a face covering be worn whenever leaving your residence.

***Where should I wear a mask on campus?***

- Classrooms, lecture halls, and labs
- Conference, meeting, and break rooms
- Personal, faculty, and staff office space
- O'Bryan's Dining Hall, when not eating or drinking
- Residence Hall hallways and lobbies
- Public restrooms
- Residence hall communal bathrooms
- Cardio Room and Weight Room
- Locker rooms and indoor practice spaces

In short, if you are indoors, you mask!

**COVID-19 Testing Information**

**Any student who tests positive for COVID-19 must notify the Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students, Dr. Joshua Clary ([josh.clary@brescia.edu](mailto:josh.clary@brescia.edu)). This includes BU Online students.**

**Testing Sites in Owensboro Area**

**Saint Camillus Urgent Care**: 3600 Frederica Street Owensboro, KY **Phone - (270) 684-0023**

Saint Camillus provides “walk-in” COVID-19 tests. Anyone needing a test calls the clinic, and they will provide information on when to arrive at the clinic. Tests are performed in your vehicle so you do not need to enter the clinic. Saint Camillus does take insurance, and as long as you have health insurance, a COVID-19 test is free. There is a small fee if you do not have proof of insurance.

Saint Camillus is open 8am-6pm, Monday-Friday, Saturday 8am-12pm, closed on Sunday.

**Green River District Health Department**: **Phone: 1-800-722-5725 (state COVID-19 hotline)**

The Green River District Health Department schedules COVID-19 tests by appointment. Check their website (see the blue link above) for information on drive-up test sites and dates. These test sites change every few weeks, so please always check their website or call the state COVID-19 Hotline for testing locations in our area 1-800-722-5725.

**Owensboro Health** (hospital): **Phone: 1-877-888-6647 (24-Hour Hotline)**

Owensboro Health has a 24-hour COVID-19 hotline (see above) where a nurse will answer questions or refer you to a physician if you have COVID-19 symptoms. Note that Owensboro Health only provides COVID-19 tests with a note from a doctor, unlike Saint Camillus which

will take “walk-in” patients. If the triage nurse determines that you should seek medical care, they will give you instructions on where to go and what to do.

**[First Care Clinic \(Henderson, KY\): Phone: 270-854-3197](#)**

First Care Clinic in Henderson, KY (approximately 25 minutes from campus) provides rapid tests. While PCR tests remain the “gold standard” for COVID testing, rapid tests are acceptable in some instances. Students wanting to sign up for a rapid test must use the link above and register online.

Other testing sites may pop in the area, so be on the lookout for more information as it becomes available.

*Transportation:* Brescia University will not transport students who are sick or think that they may be sick to a testing site. This is protect the health and safety of Brescia employees.

Students who need transportation to a testing site for COVID-19 or are sick with COVID-19 and need transportation, the only service in Owensboro that will transport you is [Owensboro Lyft](#). The only requirement from Lyft is that passengers are required to wear a mask while in the vehicle. While not required, Lyft asks that students notify the driver of your health status so they know to properly sanitize their vehicles. Using the Lyft app is required to use their service.

In emergency situations, local EMT will transport patients with COVID-19, but this 9-1-1 services should not be used for routine testing or doctor’s visits. If students would not have called for an ambulance prior to COVID-19 for their health condition, they should not call just because for COVID-19.

**COVID-19 Vaccines**

The single best way to avoid becoming seriously ill with COVID-19 is to become vaccinated. Below are some options to find a vaccination site in Owensboro:

- Green River District Health Department: [GRDHD Registration Link](#)
- Owensboro Health: [OH Registration Link](#)
- Nation’s Pharmacy: [Nation's Pharmacy Registration Link](#)
- Danhauer Drugs: [Danhauer Drugs Registration Link](#)
- Students can also check out Kroger, Wal-Mart, CVS, and Walgreen’s for additional vaccine sites.

**Isolation Protocol**

Sick students should stay home or in their residence hall room if they have fever and/or any of the following COVID-19 symptoms:

- Fever
- New cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Muscle aches or body aches

- Vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell

Sick students should notify their instructors and not attend classes in person until 24 hours symptom free. Sick students may go to the Dining Hall to pick up go orders.

***Persons who test positive for COVID-19:***

- COVID-19 test results that involve use of an “at-home” test kit and for which the specimen collection is not monitored by a trained healthcare provider are not reportable to public health or Brescia.
- Students who test positive for COVID-19 through a non-medically proctored “at-home” test should be recommended to self-isolate and obtain an additional test from a medical provider to confirm the result.
- Sick students who are not tested for COVID-19 may return when their 24 hours after symptoms resolve.

***Quarantine and Contact Tracing***

Brescia will work with the local health department to facilitate case investigation and contact tracing to identify individuals who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19. A close contact is someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes starting 48 hours before the person began feeling sick.

- **Exception:** The close contact definition excludes students who were at least >3 feet away from an infected student if both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of face coverings.

Individuals who are not fully vaccinated must isolate as follows:

- 1. Isolate for 5 days from your last exposure and if exhibiting NO symptoms; continue to wear a mask for additional 5 days around others; test on day 5, if possible.**
- 2. In multifamily homes, if the positive case can isolate, then close contacts can quarantine for 5 days; however, if there are multiple family members positive or showing symptoms, the health department may be consulted for input.**
- 3. Those who have tested positive in the last 3 months and have recovered, do not have to quarantine unless showing symptoms.**

Individuals who are fully vaccinated\* and test positive must isolate as follows:

- 1. Isolate for 5 days regardless of vaccination status. The student may return to campus after 5 days if they have no symptoms or symptoms are resolving. Students must continue to wear a face covering at all times while on campus for an additional 5 days. If the student has a fever, they must continue to isolate away from campus until the fever resolves.**

\*An individual is considered fully vaccinated if they've completed the primary series of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months or completed the primary series of the J&J vaccine within the last 2 months. Fully vaccinated individuals who were exposed to someone

with Covid-19 should wear a mask around others for 10 days, and it is recommended they test on day 5 and should monitor for symptoms. If any symptoms develop, the student must test and isolate away from campus.

**Note for resident students: if a resident student has a roommate, they will be required to isolate away from their primary room for 10 days, since strict masking is not possible. The positive student may be moved so they are in a single room and may then follow strict mask wearing. Such instances will be taken on a case-by-case basis and isolation decisions will be made by the Vice President of Student Affairs.**

Employees and students must self-screen at home prior to heading to school or work.

**\*\*\*Brescia University will not house students in University housing who are required to quarantine because they are unvaccinated.\*\*\***

**All decisions of isolation status are made by the Vice President of Student Affairs and are final.**

### **Residence Life**

Students are expected to be responsible for their conduct at all times. This includes compliance with CDC regulations to maintain a safe and healthy environment. Healthy protocols are encouraged for all students. This includes but, is not limited to, frequent handwashing for at least 20 seconds; the use of hand sanitizer; and avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth.

**Face masks are MANDATORY anytime you are outside of your personal living space (room in Merici/Saffer/St. Ann/Greenwell/Reisz/Philby; apartment unit in Young/Trustees).**

Roommates/suitemates/apartment mates are encouraged to interact with each other as they do with their families while thoughtfully practicing good healthy habits.

Visitation hours have been adjusted to create a healthier climate — (Mon-Thurs: 4 pm-10 pm; Friday: 4 pm-12 midnight; Saturday: 12 noon-12 midnight; and Sunday: 12 noon-10 pm).

Residents will complete a revised roommate agreement in which they are able to share any concerns and agree upon conditions related to Covid-19. With the space in the room, residents will be able to social distance with the understanding that they may come in contact with their roommate - which will be considered a member of their household or family unit.

In residence halls with common bathrooms, students will be assigned to use designated bathroom to reduce cross contamination. Signage will be posted in Merici and Saffer Halls designating which rooms are assigned to which bathrooms.

Hand sanitizer stations have been installed at the entrances of all facilities including residence halls. Residence Life staff will perform random safety checks to assure students are maintaining a safe, clean living environment. It is everyone's responsibility to help maintain the cleanest environment possible.

## **Dining Services**

Fresh Ideas will continue to provide quality dining options for students. Sick students, even those without a positive COVID-19 test result, should not dine-in but rather grab a to go meal.

The daily menu can be viewed at: <https://bresciadining.nutrislice.com/>

Normal operating hours for Dining Services are:

### **O'Bryan's Dining Hall**

Monday- Friday:        Breakfast 7:30am-9am  
                                 Lunch 11am-1pm  
                                 Dinner 4:30pm-7pm

Weekend:                Brunch 10:30am-1:30pm  
                                 Dinner 5pm-7pm

## **Cardio Room and Weight Room**

During Covid-19, a commitment to your health and wellness has never been more important. The Athletics Department supports this commitment and will continue to hold normal hours of operation with noticeable adjustments to comply with state health department regulations.

### ***General Information on Cardio and Weight Room***

- All users are responsible for wiping down their equipment thoroughly after each use.
- Face coverings must be worn at all times while in the Cardio and Weight Rooms.
- Wash hands before entering and using equipment
- If you have any COVID symptoms, do not use the Cardio Room or Weight Room
- Hours will be adjusted throughout the semester, look for signage at each facility for up to date information

## **Gym and Walking Track**

Face coverings must be worn at all times while using the Gym or Walking Track.

Guidelines for Athletic Team practices are different than general student use, which is the intent of the following section.

## **Athletics**

Please reference the Brescia Athletics webpage for the most up to date information on Brescia University Athletics. The Athletic Department will post updates on games, travel, and other information for student athletes there.

Basic Precautions being taken for Student Athletes include:

- Face coverings will be worn indoors to and from all athletic activities and worn as much as possible without interfering with practice or activities
- Face coverings will be worn inside all university vehicles in which more than one person is traveling.

- Athletics COVID Policies for Face Coverings:
  - Students and coaches are required to wear a face covering while indoors on Brescia University property, including the Weight Room and Cardio Room.
  - All coaches and students are required to wear face coverings while training or conditioning indoors.
  - Like last year, for games indoors, face coverings are not required during competition but face coverings should be worn on the sidelines, on the bench, and in the Locker Room.
- **\*\*\*All guests to any indoor competition must wear a face covering.\*\*\***