
Office of the Provost

Dear faculty colleagues,

As we start the Spring 2022 semester, I want to provide you with guidance to help us keep the campus safe while also providing academic continuity for our students.

We will start the semester with the same protocols we had in place in the fall:

- Masks are required in all classrooms and laboratories during class time.
- If you want people to wear a mask in your office, please post a sign asking them to do so.
- Masks are encouraged, especially indoors.
- Testing twice per week is required for all students, faculty and staff who have not applied for exemption by submitting a vaccination card.

In these first few weeks of the semester, as the Omicron variant begins to peak in Texas, we ask faculty to make their courses as flexible as possible to accommodate students in isolation or quarantine.

- Please make your lecture slides and notes available to students online and record lectures for students who cannot attend class.
- The University Attendance policy requires faculty to work with students who are absent because of “serious illness, accident, or death in the family.” If a student were to test positive for COVID-19 or be quarantined by the University, the University Attendance policy requires faculty to work with these students.

While we are starting the semester with face-to-face classes, it is important to provide as many accommodations as reasonable for students with COVID-19 during the semester.

As we all know well, faculty and staff may also be impacted by the spread of the Omicron variant in the community. Due to this reality, **if a faculty member tests positive for COVID-19 or is quarantined and feels well enough to continue teaching, they may move their course online for up to one week.** If you need to move your classes online for more than one week, we ask that you notify your chair and work with them on an appropriate longer-term solution. This same flexibility should also be available to a faculty member who needs to stay home with a child or a family member due to COVID-19. These accommodations will allow faculty to stay home as needed for their personal well-being and to keep the Baylor community safe.

The good news is we have made noteworthy progress in protecting our community. As we start this semester, more than 80% of our faculty, staff and students are vaccinated. If you haven't done so, I strongly encourage each of you to consider getting your booster since it has been shown to be highly effective in fighting serious disease due to the Omicron variant.

The COVID-19 outlook appears to be much more positive once we get into February. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we all work together for a successful start to the semester.

Sincerely,

Nancy Brickhouse, Ph.D.
Provost