

BACK TO CAMPUS

Culture *of*
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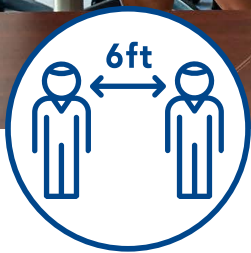
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GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Louisiana Tech University's policies and protocols for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic will be focused on working to ensure health and safety for all members of the Tech Family. Protecting the health of our campus community will require long-term effort and commitment, cooperation, teamwork, and understanding – all values that our community has shown in a multitude of ways in recent months.

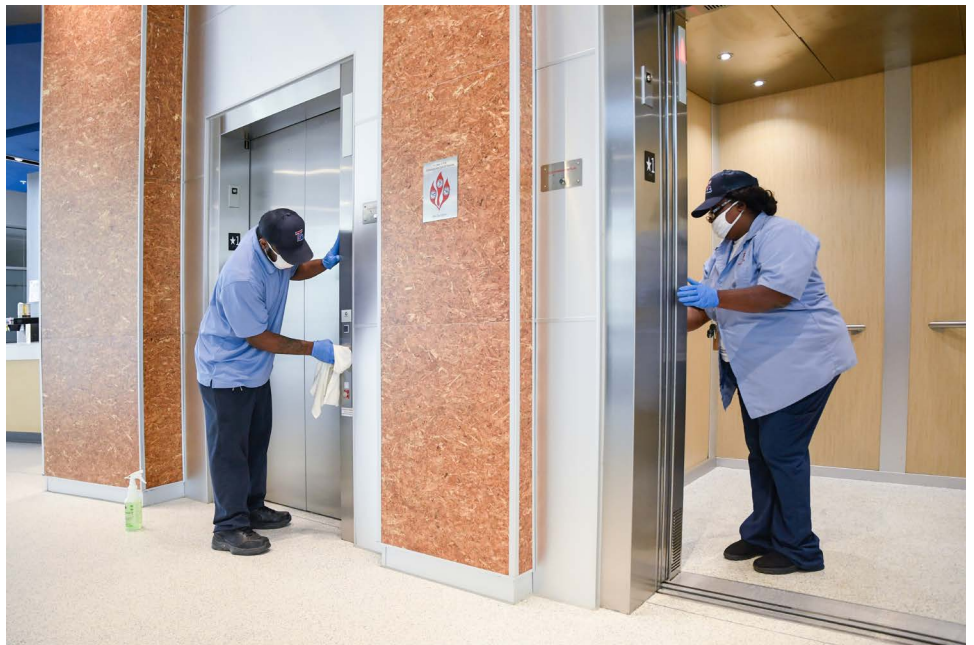
Louisiana Tech's plans for expanding operations and increasing the presence of faculty, staff, and students will be guided by the following criteria:

- The intentional effort by all faculty, staff and students to exercise both personal and community responsibility. The combined efforts by all members of the Tech Family will create a culture that sustains a healthy and safe on-campus environment.
- Existing and projected government restrictions (safer-at-home orders, masking requirements, physical distancing, gatherings, etc.).
- Public health status: recommendations from federal government, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and state and local authorities.
- Resource availability: including personal protective equipment for students, faculty and staff.
- Contact tracing and case management protocols.
- Physical-distancing strategies.
- Financial feasibility.
- Alignment with Louisiana Tech's strategic framework that the return to campus activities will support primary mission objectives of the institution (on-campus teaching and instruction; on-campus residential living and learning; on-campus research and economic development activities).

Plans are subject to alteration based on the evolving nature of COVID-19. Louisiana Tech will continue to follow local, state, federal, and CDC guidelines to protect the health and well-being of the Tech Family.

In charting a path forward amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Louisiana Tech is committed to providing students, faculty and staff with an environment where scholarship, research, leadership and creative expression can continue to thrive. The protocols listed here will serve as a guide for the University as it gradually reopens campus to these vital endeavors.

We will continue to focus on two objectives for our University – continuing to keep our campus community healthy and safe and ensuring our students meet their academic goals. In order for us to achieve these goals, every member of the Tech Family will need to take personal responsibility for their behavior. This includes wearing masks, maintaining physical distance, washing hands regularly, using proper sneeze and cough practices, helping maintain clean academic and office areas, and monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19.





GENERAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

As we return to campus, we expect everyone to adhere to the protocols listed here to minimize risks and protect the well-being of the Louisiana Tech University community. The following guidelines are applicable to all students, faculty, staff, and campus visitors. We appreciate your efforts to nurture a Culture of Caring for our Tech Family.

SAFETY PROTOCOLS

- **Physical distancing** – Maintain physical distancing of six feet whenever possible.
- **Face coverings** – Face coverings or masks are required indoors throughout campus (except when alone in a private office) and outdoors when appropriate physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- **Hand washing** – Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- **Coughing and sneezing etiquette** — If you are in a private setting and not wearing your face mask or covering, remember to always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. Throw used tissues in the trash.
- **Cleaning** – We will continue to operate using the increased cleaning protocols recommended by the CDC.
- **Symptom monitoring** – Members of the Tech Family will monitor themselves for symptoms that may indicate they have COVID-19. If a student, faculty member, or staff member displays symptoms, they should self-isolate.

To learn more about our Return to Campus plans, please visit latech.edu/return-to-campus.



INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

One of the primary goals for our operations as we return to campus is to ensure you safely continue toward your academic goals.

We are offering face-to-face classes where possible according to guidelines and restrictions issued by federal, state, and local authorities and health professionals.

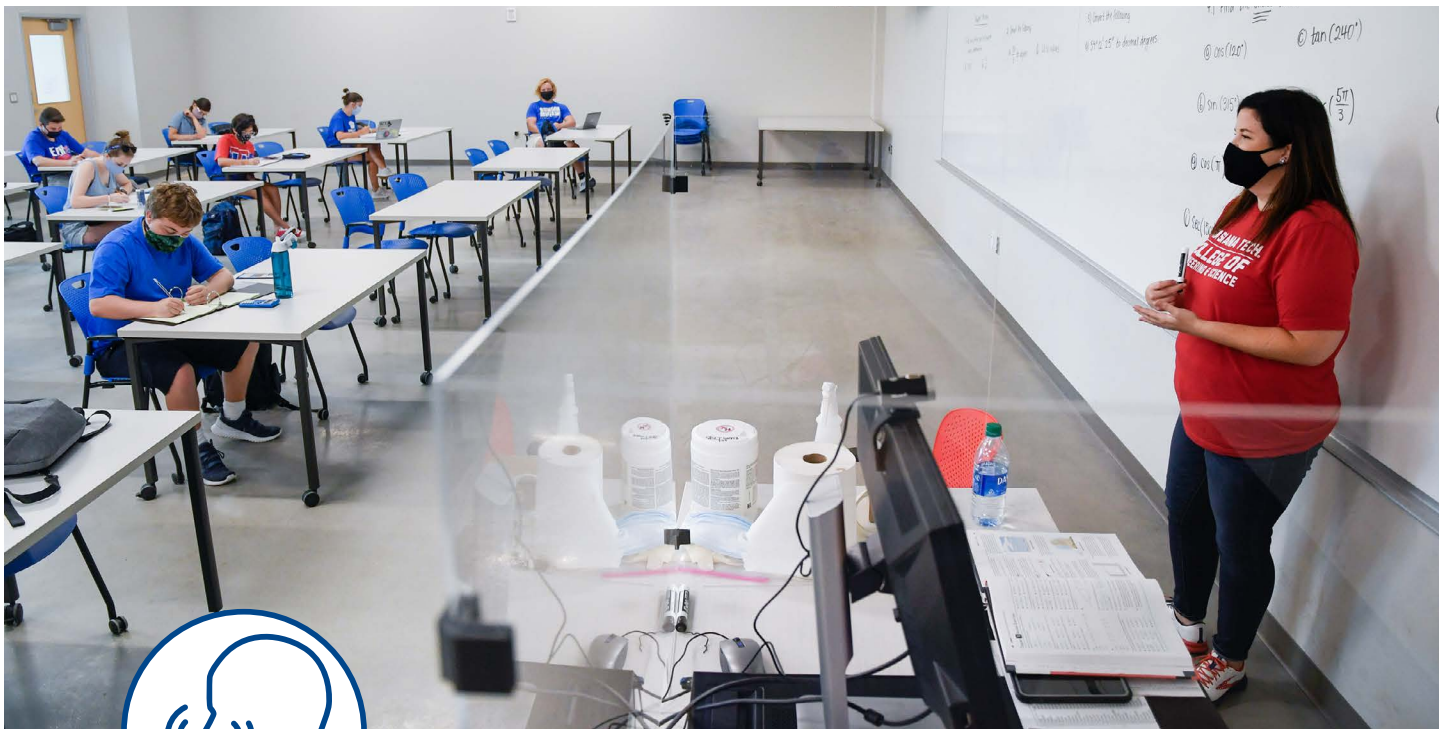
We are not altering the academic calendar.

Course delivery will take a variety of modes, including face to face, online, and hybrid. Each of these modes depends on occupancy requirements in classrooms as well as the needs of each class and academic program. Classrooms will be modified to accommodate for delivery methods as needed, and training will be provided for faculty to ensure quality courses are delivered.

We know you will play your part in sharing the Culture of Caring with your peers and others on the campus.

SAFETY PROTOCOLS

- Masks are required.
- If you refuse to wear a mask, you are subject to discipline under the Student Code of Conduct.
- Do not come to class if you have symptoms, have received a positive COVID-19 test result, or are waiting on test results.
- Report to Student Affairs if you have been in direct contact (within six feet for a time period of 15 minutes or more) with someone who has COVID-19, have symptoms of COVID-19, or have tested positive for COVID-19.
- You will not be penalized for following University guidelines. Your professors will provide appropriate accommodations, including make-up work and accessible course materials.



INFORMATION FOR FACULTY AND STAFF

Louisiana Tech will phase in a return of faculty, staff, students, and visitors in a coordinated process to ensure appropriate physical distancing, availability of protective gear, and federal and state guidelines for COVID-19. Individuals will return to campus based on the core activities they support and their demonstrated need to be on campus.

These efforts will mitigate potential risks and ensure the safety of our campus community and the other communities we serve. Once decisions to expand on-site levels of return in certain areas are made, individuals should follow the campuswide policies and protocols detailed in this guide for returning to work on campus.

Compliance with the policies and protocols outlined here, as well as those from your supervisor, is required for continued access; violation (e.g., blatant disregard for infection prevention measures) may result in disciplinary action or other interventions.

If you work in an open environment, be sure to maintain at least six feet of distance from any others. Consider staggering chairs or desks to achieve six feet of distance. You should wear a face covering at all times while in a shared workspace or room. You should use your own computer, phone, headset and equipment, and not use colleagues' equipment.

HIGH-RISK EMPLOYEES

While everyone is at risk for getting COVID-19 if exposed to the virus, certain populations may be at greater risk for serious complications, according to the CDC. Among those are older adults, particularly those 65 or older, and people with underlying health conditions such as:

- Chronic kidney disease
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, or other lung impairments
- Immunocompromised conditions
- Heart conditions
- Diabetes
- Obesity (BMI of 30 or higher)
- Sickle cell disease
- High blood pressure
- Cystic fibrosis

Please refer to the [CDC website](#) for more information on underlying conditions and COVID-19. If you have a documented health issue that you believe prohibits your return to campus, contact the Office of Human Resources to discuss accommodations.

