

COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDE

Updated April 2024

Touro University Nevada's (Touro) policies and protocols for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic are rooted in safety for students, Faculty, staff, patients, and visitors. The health and well-being of our campus and surrounding community are imperative. Protecting the health of our community will require long-term effort, commitment, cooperation, teamwork, patience, and understanding.

While protocols and recommendations at the national, state, or local level may change over time, the policies and procedures in this guide apply to all Touro University Nevada students and employees until revised by Touro University Nevada.

PRIORITIES AND BASIC PRINCIPLES

As Touro moves towards the reintegration of campus life, this guide is being developed, and decisions are being made, with the following priorities and principles:

- The **health and safety** of the campus community are our top priority.
- The engagement, retention, progression, and **success of our students** are principal drivers of planning.
- **Faculty engagement** and **academic success** are paramount, including scholarly activities, research, and service.
- We must also strengthen and expand the **University's outreach** and engage with external partners and other stakeholders.
- The Campus Master Plan, facilities, and **utilization of campus resources** must be included in ongoing planning efforts.

MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH

There is a lot of stress from the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic from the fear of the illness, financial insecurity, and a disruption to our routines. Touro has options to assist our students, faculty, and staff with mental and emotional health.

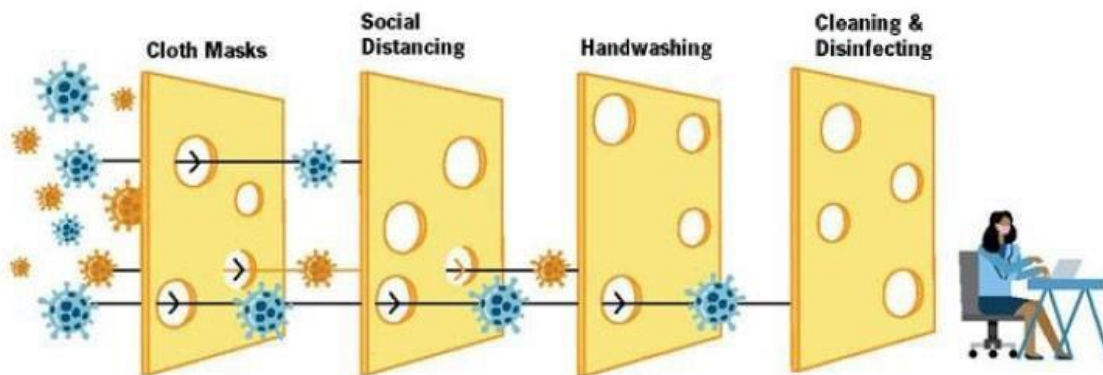
AnthemEAP (Employee Assistance Program) is available if you need support during this stressful time.

Telephone or video counseling is available. You can access this service using most smartphones, tablets, or computers with a camera. Visit <https://AnthemEAP.com> or call 1-800-865-1044 for confidential help.

Students needing mental or emotional support may contact Student Counseling Services (SCS@tun.touro.edu or call 702-777-9971). Students may also utilize AnthemEAP via AnthemEAP.com or call 1-800-865-1044 for confidential help.

CAMPUS HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDE

The individual responsibilities of each student, faculty, and staff member are essential in maintaining campus health and safety.



Credit: Cleveland Clinic, Return to Work Amid Covid 19: A Cleveland Clinic Guide

Although many aspects of the public health situation are improving, we still need to keep our community safe. Therefore, we need to practice multiple steps of protection, including vaccination, testing, and masks where appropriate. Touro is implementing these steps to maintain vigilance and reduce any future spread of COVID-19.

1. **Vaccination:**

- a. TUN is suspending the COVID-19 vaccination requirement of employees in order to be present on campus. We are still highly encouraging all community members to receive the vaccine. Employees who work in a clinical environment where the vaccine is required will need to become vaccinated per that site's policy.
- b. TUN is suspending the COVID-19 vaccination requirement of students in order to be present on campus. We are still highly encouraging all community members to receive the vaccine. If a student is required by a clinical site to have the COVID-19 vaccine, then they must immediately become COVID-19 vaccinated, if they are unvaccinated. A student who does not have an approved TUN medical or religious exemption may not request to be assigned to a clinical site that does not require the COVID-19 vaccine. It may happen that a student will not be able to be placed in a clinical experience if the site requires a COVID vaccine and the student does not have the vaccine. Students should coordinate with their clinical education faculty regarding this.

c. Students who wish to apply for religious or medical exemption from receiving a COVID-19 vaccine need to apply for that exemption at the time they are accepted to the institution or at the time they first become aware that their medical condition necessitates it.

We are suspending the practice of requiring unvaccinated individuals (employees and or students) to be COVID-19 tested on a weekly basis in order to be present on campus.

2. **Follow the protocols if you are symptomatic or believe you have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19** (see grid further down in this document). **DO NOT COME TO CAMPUS IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ANY OF THE SYMPTOMS RELATED TO COVID-19.** Stay home, take a home rapid covid test and quarantine if positive. Variants of COVID-19 are proving to be highly transmittable. If you are experiencing symptoms that are related to another medical condition (i.e. seasonal allergies, etc.), then you may come to campus.

2. Personal Protective Equipment

- a. **Face Coverings:** Mask wearing is optional in nonlab and nonclinical spaces. In lab and clinical settings, individuals may be required to wear masks per their faculty member's instruction.
 - b. **Gloves:** Faculty, staff, and students working in high-risk areas such as the Touro Health Clinic or Student Health may wear gloves as part of their PPE where appropriate. Gloves should be worn as prescribed by clinical or lab procedures, policies, or normal use situations.
 - c. **Goggles/Face Shields:** You are not required to wear goggles or face shields as part of general activities on campus. Goggles or face shields may be appropriate when in close contact, such as in teaching labs and research labs.
3. **Social Distancing:** While distancing is not required inside campus buildings, it is recommended to be aware of your proximity to others. Keeping space between you and others is one of the tools available to avoid being exposed to the COVID-19 virus and slowing its spread. Because people can spread the virus before they know they are sick or without ever developing symptoms. If you are unvaccinated, you may wish to keep your distance from others. Physical distancing practices – such as staying 6 feet away from other people; minimizing group size, staying out of crowded places, and avoiding gatherings - are helpful to help protect people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.
4. **Handwashing:** Washing our hands is one of the easiest and most important things we can do to stay healthy and stop the spread of bacteria and viruses. You should wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place, touched a surface, or after blowing your nose, coughing, sneezing, or touching your face.

If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Wash your hands after touching your face.

5. **Coughing and Sneezing Hygiene:** If you are in a private setting and are not wearing a face covering, always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow if a tissue is not available. Throw used tissues in the trash.
Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not immediately available, clean your hands with alcohol-based hand sanitizers with greater than 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol.
6. **Cleaning & Disinfection:** An advanced cleaning protocol has been developed detailing the daily and weekly cleaning of campus spaces. Cleaning and disinfecting processes are consistent with the CDC public health recommendations and OSHA guidelines for disinfection.
 - a. **Spaces & Schedules**
 - i. Faculty and staff offices, suites, cubicle areas, and research labs will be cleaned in a standard janitorial schedule .. This includes faculty and staff offices in the HC, CADD, and SHC. The facilities and janitorial team will NOT be cleaning desks, keyboards, touch screens, or remote controls. Touro will provide disinfecting wipes for this purpose. Vacuuming and cleaning of floors in offices and suites will continue once per week.
 - ii. Practice Stations (OMM tables, Ultrasound stations, and Task trainers) should be cleaned between uses.
 - iii. Common Spaces (building entries, lobbies, elevators, hallways, restrooms)
 1. Lobbies, hallways, and entry areas will be cleaned daily.
 2. High Touch surfaces (restrooms, elevators, doors, and door handles, light switches, hand railings, sink handles, and grab bars) will be cleaned frequently.
 3. Outdoor items (bicycle racks, doors and door handles, electric chargers, picnic tables, and blue security lights) will be cleaned frequently.
 4. Mobile Healthcare Clinics will be cleaned daily.
 5. Touro Health Center, Student Health Center, and the Center for Autism will be cleaned throughout the day and overnight.
 - iv. The campus will undergo a deep cleaning during holidays or extended closures.
 - b. **Process & Products**
 - i. **Cleaning & Disinfecting Supplies:** The Asset Management Department will centrally stock COVID-19-related cleaning supplies. Departments and units should place orders for gloves, hand sanitizer, and CAVI Wipes /disinfectant wiping materials with Asset Management...
 - ii. **Sanitizer Stations:** The Facilities Department will maintain hand sanitizer stations throughout the campus.

7. **Follow the protocols if you are symptomatic or believe you have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19** (see further down in this document). DO NOT COME TO CAMPUS IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ANY OF THE SYMPTOMS RELATED TO COVID-19. Stay home and quarantine. Variants of COVID-19 are proving to be highly transmittable. If you are experiencing symptoms that are related to another medical condition (i.e. seasonal allergies, etc.), then you may come to campus.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Touro University Nevada recognizes the responsibility to provide a safe campus is a responsibility we all share. We have always taken that responsibility seriously and have implemented protocols to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Leadership from each department/school/college has been involved in developing plans for campus safety.

FACULTY, STAFF & STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Community Responsibility Acknowledgement

Before coming to campus or an academic clinical education site (e.g., rotations, clerkships, practicums, fieldwork), all Faculty, staff and students must be aware of the following points:

- The serious nature of COVID-19
- The importance of each individual's knowledge of the risks presented by the COVID-19 virus
- The importance of monitoring their health
- The need to follow all applicable policies and procedures as they are updated
- Their responsibility to notify appropriate personnel if they have been exposed to COVID-19 or have received a positive COVID-19 test result:
 - Students must notify the Office of Student Health at 702-777-9970 or student.health@tun.touro.edu. It is strongly recommended that students contact their program as well. As a matter of protocol, the Office of Student Health will alert the student's academic program.
 - Employees must notify the Office of Human Resources at 702-777-3855 or tplutz@touro.edu as well as their direct supervisor.

Concerns about Returning to Campus

- Employees who have been instructed to return to work on-site and have concerns about doing so due to a medical condition that places them in a higher risk group, those who are pregnant, or those who wish to request ADA Reasonable Accommodations related to returning to the campus should first consult with TUN's Office of Human Resources at 702-777-3855 or tplutz@touro.edu
- Students required to be on campus who have concerns about doing so due to a medical condition that places them in a higher risk group, those who are pregnant, or those who wish to request ADA Reasonable Accommodations should consult with TUN's student ADA Compliance Officer, Mr. Michael Mikkleson (by email at mmikkels@touro.edu or by phone at 702-777-3853).

- Students required to be on campus who have concerns about doing so for reasons unrelated to their own personal health should contact the following representative from their program or school:
 - School of Education: Dr. Robert Askey (raskey@touro.edu)
 - School of Nursing: Dr. Catie Chung(cchung6@touro.edu)
 - School of Occupational Therapy: Dr. Shannon Martin (smartin@touro.edu)
 - School of Physical Therapy: Dr. Steve Liaos (sliaos@touro.edu)
 - School of Physician Assistant Studies: Professor Amie Duford (aduford@touro.edu)
 - Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine: Dr. Terrence Miller (tmiller@touro.edu)
 - Master of Medical Health Sciences: Dr. Vladimir Bondarenko (vbondare@touro.edu)
- If the student and the program cannot reach an agreement, they should work with the Dean of the College.

CAMPUS SCREENING AND ENTRY

Touro continues to be a campus with key-card badge access with limited entry points. You have your badge for entry. Temporary badges are available. However, if you repeatedly forget your badge, you may be asked to return home to get your badge.

Individuals who have COVID-19, suspect they may have COVID-19, or who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 may not enter campus.

HEALTH MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Symptom Monitoring

COVID-19 is highly transmissible and can easily be spread by people who do not know that they have the disease. The CDC has identified several symptoms associated with COVID-19. At present, symptoms associated with the virus include one or more of the following:

- Fever
- Chills or shivers
- Muscle pains or aches (not due to exercise)
- Cough (worse than usual if you have a daily cough)
- Shortness of breath or trouble breathing
- Headache (worse than usual if you have headaches)
- Scratchy or painful sore throat
- New loss of taste and smell
- Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea/stomach cramps
- Dizziness and lightheadedness
- Sneezing, runny nose, or congestion (worse than usual if this is common for you)
- Fatigue that is unusual or more severe than normal
- Eyes are unusually red or painful

You should monitor your health daily. If you have questions about your exposure, have a recorded temperature of greater than 100.4 degrees, or have any of the symptoms mentioned above, you should contact Student Health or Human Resources (as appropriate), as well as your medical provider for an

assessment and possible COVID-19 testing. You should also self-isolate and maintain at least 6 feet of distance from others while you are symptomatic as a precaution.

Access to Campus

Before entering campus buildings, all individuals (students, faculty, staff, and visitors) should assess their health. The University guidelines and protocols presented in this guide will help TUN reduce the risk of a flare-up of virus transmission among faculty, staff, students, families, patients, visitors, and others. One of the most critical elements of achieving this goal is to identify people with suspected COVID-19 based on their symptoms or exposure status.

Therefore, there are multiple scenarios in which we will ask you not to come to campus. These conditions may include:

- You have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (noted in the symptom monitoring section above).

Under these circumstances, you may not come to campus. If you have been exposed to COVID-19, you should consult your healthcare provider and get tested for COVID-19 if you have not already done so. You also must report your exposure to the Office of Student Health or Office of Human Resources (as noted below under *Reporting Requirements*).

If you develop COVID-19 symptoms while on campus, you must leave campus. If exposure to COVID-19 is suspected, you should contact your health care provider for evaluation and testing.

In all cases, affected individuals must meet clearance criteria (see below) before entering campus.

Access to Academic Clinical Education Sites (e.g., rotations, clerkships, practicums, fieldwork)

Students should follow the policies of the academic clinical education sites, if they have been exposed to COVID-19.

Academic clinical sites: If you are assigned to an academic clinical education site (e.g., rotations, clerkships, practicums, fieldwork), we ask you to not go to the site if these conditions apply:

- Have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (noted in the symptom monitoring section below). You must report to the Office of Student Health if you have tested positive or have symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
- If you have been exposed or identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, you should follow the policy of the academic clinical site as to attendance.

Reporting Requirements for Exposure and Positive COVID-19 Test Results for All Students and Employees:

Individuals who are exposed to COVID-19 or who receive a positive COVID-19 test result must notify Touro as soon as possible.

- Students must notify Student Health at 702-777-9970 or student.health@tun.touro.edu. It is strongly recommended that students contact their academic program as well. As a matter of protocol, the Office of Student Health will alert the student's academic program.
- Employees must notify the Office of Human Resources at 702-777-3855 or tplutz@touro.edu as well as their direct supervisor.
- All others – contact the Touro Health Center at (702) 777-4809

Touro will cooperate and support the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) in their contact tracing efforts following any positive test. If a faculty, staff, or student who has been on campus is confirmed to have a COVID-19 infection, persons who were identified as being in contact with that individual will be notified.

Criteria Regarding Being On Campus

If a student is COVID 19 positive they should contact Student Health, students should also inform their academic program of their situation. After speaking with the Office of Human Resources, employees should inform their supervisor of their situation.

Employees: Office of Human Resources Contact: Tammy Plutz, 702-777-3855 tplutz@touro.edu

Students: Office of Student Health Contact: 702-777-9970 student.health@tun.touro.edu

When you may have a respiratory virus...

Stay home and away from others (including people you live with who are not sick) if you have respiratory virus symptoms that aren't better explained by another cause. These symptoms can include fever, chills, fatigue, cough, runny nose, and headache, among others.

- You can go back to your normal activities when, for at least 24 hours, both are true:
 - Your symptoms are getting better overall, **and**
 - You have not had a fever (and are not using fever-reducing medication).
- When you go back to your normal activities, take added precaution over the next 5 days, such as taking additional [steps for cleaner air](#), [hygiene](#), [masks](#), [physical distancing](#), and/or [testing when you](#) will be around other people indoors.
 - Keep in mind that you may still be able to spread the virus that made you sick, even if you are feeling better. You are likely to be less contagious at this time, depending on factors like how long you were sick or how sick you were.
 - If you develop a fever or you start to feel worse after you have gone back to normal activities, stay home and away from others again until, for at least 24 hours, both are true: your symptoms are improving overall, and you have not had a fever (and are not using fever-reducing medication). Then take added precaution for the next 5 days.

CDC Last Reviewed: March 1, 2024

<https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/prevention/precautions-when-sick.html>

Per CDC guidelines if an individual has tested positive on a PCR test for COVID-19 and then recovers and is asymptomatic that individual may return to school or work. Within the next 90 days if the same individual tests positive on a PCR test and then tests negative on a rapid antigen and is asymptomatic, they will not be required to quarantine. These individuals will be allowed to work on campus (employees), attend classes on campus (students) and/or attend their clinical education requirements. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>

PERSONAL SAFETY PRACTICES

Personal Protective Equipment

Employees may be required to wear personal protective equipment (gloves, gowns, face shields, etc.) or respiratory protection due to the nature of their work.

Research Department will order PPE as needed through the established procurement procedures. All other departments should submit PPE requests to the Accounting/Procurement Office.

ADDRESSING NON-COMPLIANCE

Students, Faculty, and staff will be expected to comply with all university policies and protocols designed to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus and promote health and safety.

Intentional or reckless disregard for these policies and protocols by students will be addressed through the Division of Student Affairs using existing sanctioning considerations found in the University Catalog, including reviewing the potential impact on the community in the evaluation of the nature and severity of the incident, which may support an enhanced sanction.

The TUN Faculty Handbook provides that Faculty may be disciplined for violations of the University's standards of conduct. The process for reaching a decision to discipline a faculty member is overseen by the Dean in consultation with the Provost.

The TUN Administrative Employee Handbook provides that a staff member may be disciplined for violations of the University's standards of conduct. University policies outline processes for correcting single and repeated failures to comply with policies and protocols. Violations will be handled according to approved processes.