Gov. John Bel Edwards has temporarily reinstated Louisiana’s statewide mask mandate indoors for all people ages five and older as COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continue to rise across Louisiana, threatening the ability of Louisiana’s hospitals to deliver care during this fourth surge of COVID. Louisiana is currently in the worst surge of the COVID-19 pandemic so far in terms of case growth rate, percent positivity and hospitalizations. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also released data that shows that while vaccination reduces one’s chance of becoming infected with COVID-19, those who do become infected with the Delta variant, despite being fully vaccinated are likely at risk of transmitting it to others. In an effort to help transfer information to our campus community, we will use the 1st Quarter Safety meeting to forward the most recent information on COVID-19 and help answer the most common questions:

Do universities in Louisiana still have to follow COVID-19 safety protocols?

Yes, universities still must follow protocols established by the [Governor’s Office](https://gov.louisiana.gov/). The most current proclamation published was on August 28, 2021 (proclamation [137 JBE 2021](https://gov.louisiana.gov/assets/Proclamations/2021/137-JBE-2021-StateofEmergencyOCR.pdf)). The proclamation ensures mitigation measures statewide by a mask mandate. Masks are required (indoors) on campus by students, faculty and staff, regardless of vaccination status: [University’s Interim Face Covering Policy](https://policies.louisiana.edu/sites/policies/files/Face_Covering_Policy_-_OpRvw_2021_08_03v3_-_Final%20-%20Executed.pdf). Employees needing information on accommodation request can visit the [Human Resources](https://humanresources.louisiana.edu/about-us/americans-disabilities-act-ada) website for guidance. Students needing information on accommodation request can visit the [Office of Disability Services](https://disability.louisiana.edu/student-information/covid-19-response-updates) website for guidance.

UL Lafayette has put into place [COVID-19 response protocols for employees](https://louisiana.edu/covid-19-response?utm_source=website&utm_medium=home-spotlight&utm_campaign=covid-updates), as well as [COVID-19 response protocols for students](https://louisiana.edu/covid19/students). The highlights to help guide our campus community include:

* Do not come to campus if you have any [Common Symptoms](https://louisiana.edu/covid19/health-safety-info#symptoms)
* All employees (on campus) must self-report, using the [COVID-19 Employee Daily Self Check](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=zrCzE3XNpEm_6goDsB_xq45L1j2hXhBOvNSbXXOM-o1UMjY1TVJXRU44UTU1T1I4STFFMzRPWDNWQS4u)
* Employees who test positive must complete the [COVID-19 Positive Test Reporting Form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=zrCzE3XNpEm_6goDsB_xq45L1j2hXhBOvNSbXXOM-o1UNEhKVzQ1MFdZVlhUN0k2VUpGWDBWSk04NC4u)
* Employees who have been exposed to a positive must complete the [COVID-19 Employee Daily Self Check](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=zrCzE3XNpEm_6goDsB_xq45L1j2hXhBOvNSbXXOM-o1UMjY1TVJXRU44UTU1T1I4STFFMzRPWDNWQS4u)

contact their supervisor, and if additional information is needed regarding leave and pay options, email Human Resources at [hrconsultancy@louisiana.edu](file:///C:\Users\ctw6975\Desktop\hrconsultancy@louisiana.edu)

* Students with signs, symptoms, or COVID-19 direct exposure should call Student Health Services at 2-1328 for an appointment and must complete the [Student COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation Form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=zrCzE3XNpEm_6goDsB_xqz29DxokH-9JgZUmqPPdCA5UOFZOOUkzSjQ4VlQ0RU9VWlIxQVEyM1hLTi4u&dlv-emuid=7c55d650-1e54-457b-8adf-f2f93de50a5a&dlv-mlid=2293233). Students should provide a Return to Class/Work form (from Student Health) to be allowed to return to class/work.
* Supplies may be ordered by dept. heads, deans, directors or DSC’s using the [Online Work Order Form](https://facilities.louisiana.edu/report-issue/campus-building-grounds-non-residence-halls/online-work-order-form)
* Safety training is available on Cornerstone and in Moodle. The course is titled “Preventing COVID-19”
* Information on Preventing the spread of possible infection information is available: [Disinfecting and Cleaning](https://louisiana.edu/covid19/health-safety-info#sanitation) [Cleaning your personal/shared workspace](https://humanresources.louisiana.edu/sites/humanresources/files/Workplace%20Cleaning.pdf)  , [cleaning your Lab](https://humanresources.louisiana.edu/sites/humanresources/files/Lab%20Cleaning.pdf), & [surface cleaning reminders](https://humanresources.louisiana.edu/sites/humanresources/files/Surface%20Cleaning%20Reminders.pdf)
* [Approved COVID-19 Signs](https://humanresources.louisiana.edu/coronavirus-resources-employees/checklists-templates-signs) may be downloaded and printed for campus buildings
* All rented spaces and outside events on campus must follow the [Campus Events Framework](https://policies.louisiana.edu/about/campus-events-framework)
* Employees and students may be tested and obtain vaccinations here on campus. The test and vaccine site will be located at Burke-Hawthorne Hall, [231 Hebrard Blvd. Lafayette, LA 70503](https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=231+Hebrard+Blvd.+Lafayette%2C+LA+70503+)

Where is the best place to keep up with the latest information on COVID-19 in our state?

The Louisiana Department of Health has implemented a [COVID-19 Webpage](https://ldh.la.gov/Coronavirus/), in which information on symptoms, virus spread, virus anxiety, information on the vaccine and locations to obtain the vaccine, testing information, contact tracing and a comprehensive COVID-19 dashboard, which includes the latest on new cases, total cases, new deaths, total deaths, patients in hospitals, and on ventilators in our region, parish and at the state levels.