

**LENOIR-RHYNE  
UNIVERSITY**

**“PROTECTING OUR DEN”  
A SAFE RETURN TO CAMPUS**

**PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE COVID-19  
LENOIR-RHYNE UNIVERSITY**

**Recommendations, Policies and Procedures**

**March 12, 2021**  
(Updated and Revised)

# LENOIR-RHYNE UNIVERSITY

## Message from the President

Dr. Fred Whitt, President of Lenoir-Rhyne University (LR) appointed a Presidential Task Force (PTF) in March 2020 to address issues in and around campus disruptions to normal operations. Disruption examples include, but are not limited to, unusual weather affecting unsafe travel, power outages, building shutdowns, or health issues. The charge to the PTF was to focus their work involving the issues related to COVID-19 and preparing the campus for a safe return in Fall 2020. The PTF has been meeting weekly for almost five months and will continue to meet as needed to revise and update these recommendations, policies and procedures.

The primary factors in the development of these recommendations are and will continue to be the health, safety and well-being of our faculty, staff and students. Lenoir-Rhyne's administration and the PTF are in continuing conversations and dialogue with health experts including the CDC, NC Department of Health, and the Catawba County Department of Health and they have helped guide our recommendations and will be consulted in any changes to our plan.

In an effort to enhance communication and to solicit input, President Whitt has held over 16 Zoom listening sessions during the past few weeks specifically with faculty groups and staff representing all three campuses, vice presidents, deans and cabinet level administrators. In addition Zoom sessions have been scheduled to solicit input and answer questions from students and parents including new incoming students, international students, and student athletes.

I am profoundly thankful to the members of the PTF. Their commitment and dedication to researching best practice and developing a thorough and thoughtful plan for LR is most appreciative.

Lenoir-Rhyne is a special place and the collaborative and caring spirit of our entire LR community has been remarkable during these unprecedented times of uncertainty. The commitment of our faculty and staff to do all they can to create and facilitate a campus environment that will provide for the safe return of our students has been extraordinary. I am proud to be a part of the LR Family and to live and integrate our core values in our processes as we navigate these challenging times. I have included our LR Core Values statement at the end of this message. I hope you will read it and embrace our culture as we work through these challenging times together.

Stay safe and Go Bears!

Fred Whitt, President

Lenoir-Rhyne University espouses a set of values designed to inform us, as members of this educational community, in our personal development and our interactions with others. These values establish our principles of operation as an organization. They furnish guidance and assurance to each member of our community, and they help us to see how everyone's contributions improve the life of our college.

These principles are made manifest through our daily actions, and they are fully realized only when embraced by everyone in our community. Constant and consistent attention to these core values will cultivate the continuous improvement of our institution, will assist us in the achievement of our mission, and will direct us toward realizing our vision as a college.

- **Excellence**... We will strive for excellence in everything we do. We will continuously cultivate our intellectual, physical, and spiritual growth. We will develop our talents and abilities to their fullest extent.
- **Integrity**... We will act with integrity at all times. We will respect and be honest with each other. We will take personal responsibility for our words and our actions.
- **Care**... We will care about others in our learning and working relationships. We will be responsible stewards of our resources. We will support each other and work together toward the common good.
- **Curiosity**... We will learn from our community, past and present. We will confront important issues with humility and open minds. We will embrace the gains attained from the diversity of people and perspectives.

# Presidential Task Force Lenoir-Rhyne University

## COVID-19 and Operations Plan for Campus Disruption

### Co-Chairs:

Rachel Nichols  
Donna Whitt

VP of Enrollment Management  
Nurse Educator and First Lady

### Members:

Gary Johnson  
Cat Niekro  
Amy Wood  
Katie Fisher  
Jonathan Rink  
Robyn Marren  
Michael Dempsey Jenny  
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Randall Bergman  
Alex Davis  
Iris Riddle  
Jessica Stewart  
Leah Beth Hubbard

University Provost and Representing Study Abroad  
VP Institutional Advancement (Marketing and Communications)  
Assistant Provost & Dean of Graduate and Adult Education  
Assistant Provost & Dean of Student Life  
Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Residence and Campus Life  
Chief Operations Director, Columbia Campus  
Dean and Director of the Center for Graduate Studies of Asheville  
Associate Dean of Students and Director of Cornerstone Wellness Center  
Chief Information Officer, Ellucian  
SGA President  
Professor & Director of Center for Teaching and Learning  
Professor of Nursing  
Associate Professor of Public Health  
Director of Dining, Aramark  
Service Response Coordinator, Aramark  
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Physician Assistant, Cornerstone Health/Catawba Valley Medical Senior  
Associate Athletic Director and Head Athletic Trainer  
Director of Catawba County Public Health  
Director of Emergency Management Services, Catawba County  
Administrative Associate, Office of Provost

## **POLICY LIST**

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## 1. Policy Title: Infection Control: Face Coverings, Social Distancing and Handwashing

**Individuals Affected:** Faculty, staff, students and visitors at all Lenoir-Rhyne University (LR) campus locations.

**Purpose and Scope:** Implement the requirement that all students, faculty, staff and any visitors to campus wear an appropriate protective face covering and practice at least six foot social distancing when in the presence of others.

**Policy:** Faculty, staff, students and visitors to all campus locations are required to provide and wear an appropriately sized face covering when in the presence of others while on the campuses of Lenoir-Rhyne University. Additional infection control measures such as the practice social distancing at a minimum of six feet and frequent handwashing daily will be practiced by all students, faculty, staff and visitors to our campuses.

If there is a need for an accommodation:

Students will contact the Director of Disability Services, Sherry Proctor with appropriate documentation prior to arrival on campus. Email: [sherry.proctor@lr.edu](mailto:sherry.proctor@lr.edu) Office: 828-328-7296

Employees, faculty and staff, will contact the Lenoir-Rhyne Human Resources Department, Leah Beth Hubbard at [leah.hubbard@lr.edu](mailto:leah.hubbard@lr.edu); Office: 828-328-7443 for more information.

This policy will remain in effect until deemed appropriate to cease by the Administration of Lenoir-Rhyne University.

### **Procedure:**

#### 1. Face Covering:

Cloth face coverings that can be laundered daily are preferred, however, disposable one time use face coverings are acceptable.

Face shields may be used by faculty and staff when approved to facilitate more effective communication. Students requesting to wear a face shield will need to contact the Director of Disability Services with appropriate documentation prior to arrival on campus.

#### General considerations for the use of cloth face coverings:

##### **Construction:**

The face covering should fit snugly so that there are no gaps on the sides. It should fit across the bridge of the nose, extend across the cheekbones and at least one inch under the tip of the chin. The face covering may be tied or otherwise secured to prevent slipping.

Face coverings should be made of **at least** two layers (more layers increases effectiveness). Research has shown that a high quality tightly woven cotton (600 threads/inch) with linings of cotton flannel or cotton polyester fabric make an effective combination. The inferior performers in studies consisted of double-layer lower quality, lightweight cotton.

##### **Wearing a face covering:**

Face coverings will be worn when in the presence of others while on the campuses of Lenoir- Rhyne University. Hands should be washed before putting on the face covering, if touched while wearing, and when removed.

Do not touch the front of the face covering while wearing it or removing it.

When a face covering becomes damp or humid, replace it with a new face covering.

Wash face covering with soap and water after wearing and allow it to dry completely.

Hands washing after removing a mask is recommended.

Inspect face coverings regularly and replace when the fabric becomes frayed or construction compromised.

Do not reuse a disposable (single use) mask.

## 2. Social Distancing

Limiting face-to-face contact with others is the best way to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Social distancing, also called “physical distancing,” means keeping space between people. **To practice social or physical distancing stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms’ length) from other people in both indoor and outdoor spaces.**

Practicing social distancing is one of the best tools available to avoid being exposed and slowing its spread.

## 3. Hand Washing

Hands should be washed frequently. Hand sanitizers can be used when access to soap and water is limited.

Follow these five steps.

1. **Wet** hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
2. **Lather** hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of hands, between fingers, and your nails.
3. **Scrub** your hands for at least 20 seconds while humming the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice.
4. **Rinse** hands well under clean, running water.
5. **Dry** hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

### Sources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/fs-Important-information-cloth-face-covering.pdf>

<https://newsroom.wakehealth.edu/News-Releases/2020/04/Testing-Shows-Type-of-Cloth-Used-in-Homemade-Masks-Makes-a-Difference>

## 2. Policy Title: Infection Control: Required COVID-19 Testing for Return to Campus

**Individuals Affected:** Lenoir-Rhyne University students, faculty, and staff

**Purpose and Scope:** In order to ensure the safest campus environment possible as we resume the 2020-2021 academic year, Lenoir-Rhyne University will implement a required return to campus testing policy. Our ability to begin and sustain this and subsequent semesters will be enhanced with knowledge of our current COVID-19 status. This policy will be in effect on all three campuses.

**Policy:** All students, faculty and staff will be required to present a document showing negative results for a nasopharyngeal PCR COVID-19 test or proof of completion of the COVID-19 vaccine series.

### Procedures:

#### Test:

A PCR COVID test should be administered by a healthcare provider 5-7 days before your arrival to campus. Results from home test kits will not be accepted. If there is a delay in receiving your test results, you should not come to campus until the test results have been received. Free testing is available at the Catawba County NC Health Department on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 am-1pm and many other places across North and South Carolina. Arriving early is strongly encouraged. Other North Carolina options may be found by going to <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/about-covid-19/testing/find-my-testing-place>. For South Carolina locations please go to <https://www.scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-screening-testing-sites>. Persons in other states should seek information from their state's public health department.

If you receive a positive test result, then you are to remain at home and isolate according to current CDC and Lenoir Rhyne guidelines\*. Following the isolation period and before you return to campus, you will need to submit a document from your health care provider clearing you for your return to campus. Faculty and staff will need to submit their document via Paycom on line. Students will submit their document via the dynamic form electronically. **Residential students in Columbia and Hickory will also be expected to have a negative rapid COVID test upon arrival before moving into any residential halls.**

#### *Completion of initial COVID 19 vaccine series:*

Persons who have completed both doses of the COVID vaccine at least two weeks in advance of the required document submission date may submit vaccination documentation. A legible copy of both sides of the vaccination card must be submitted.

\*<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>  
[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprevent-getting-sick%2Fwhen-its-safe.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprevent-getting-sick%2Fwhen-its-safe.html)

### 3. Policy Title: Infection Control: Continuing Surveillance COVID-19 Testing

**Individuals Affected:** Faculty, staff and students at all Lenoir Rhyne University (LR) campus locations

**Purpose and Scope:** In order to ensure the safest campus environment possible during the 2020-21 academic year through assessing the health of all LR campus locations and reduce the spread of COVID-19. This policy will apply to all LR faculty, staff and students and will be in effect on all three campus locations.

**Definition:** Surveillance testing is defined as an effort to monitor the current status of COVID-19 (and other pandemic diseases). The testing provides insight into the spread of the virus within a certain geographic area or groups of people. Surveillance testing will test samples of all populations within the university settings allowing for an evaluation of the findings and the ability to make inferences regarding potential risks on the three campuses as efficiently as possible.

**Policy:** Lenoir-Rhyne University will implement continuing surveillance testing on all three campuses using the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, and the local health departments in each of our three campus locations. The current PCR COVID-19 test will continue to be the LR standard for COVID-19 testing which includes the nasopharyngeal PCR or an anterior nasal swab COVID-19 test.

This policy will begin with LR Hickory campus student testing as early as September 9, 2020 and will expand to faculty, staff and students at all campus locations as soon as October 1, 2020. LR will continue with weekly surveillance testing until further developments and guidelines are revised from health experts.

#### Procedure:

1. Approximately 7-10% of the campus population of faculty, staff and students will be tested weekly, typically on Wednesday or Thursday. For the Hickory campus, this will include a minimum of 60 student athletes and at least 70 non student athletes each week. In addition, this will include a minimum of 30 Hickory faculty and staff.
2. Students who are selected for testing will be notified by Dean Katie Fisher. Faculty and staff who are selected for testing will be notified by Leah Beth Hubbard, Interim HR Director.
3. Testing on the Hickory campus will be conducted in the identified location on the Hickory campus. Faculty, staff and students on the Columbia and Asheville campus locations will select the locations for their COVID-19 testing. Testing is covered by your health insurance without a deductible and should be covered under the stimulus funding for those who do not have health insurance.
4. Students who have a class conflict or other issue may request a reschedule to the following day if space is available.

If you receive a positive test result, then you are to remain at you residence home and isolate according to current CDC guidelines\*. Following the isolation period and before you return to campus, you will need to submit a document from your health care provider clearing you for your return to campus. Faculty and staff will need to submit their document to Judy Lineberger, Office of the Provost. Email is [judy.linberger@lr.edu](mailto:judy.linberger@lr.edu). Students will submit their document to Katie Fisher, Dean of Students at [katie.fisher@lr.edu](mailto:katie.fisher@lr.edu)

Sources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/pooling-procedures.html>

<https://sph.umich.edu/news/2020posts/surveillance-testing-gathering-the-data-on-covid-19.html>

## 4. Policy Title: Infection Control: Suspected and Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

**Individuals Affected:** Lenoir-Rhyne University Faculty, Staff, Students and Visitors

**Purpose and Scope:** To prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to clarify the reporting of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases.

### Policy:

Lenoir-Rhyne University faculty, staff and students are expected to be transparent and are responsible for following the procedures/guidelines listed below. These measures and others will facilitate the application of best practices and reduce our vulnerabilities for COVID-19 on our campus.

While the CDC has provided two additional options to the 14 day quarantine period, LR will continue with the 14 day quarantine period as the norm.

### Procedure:

#### Faculty and Staff:

1. Faculty and Staff who suspect COVID-19 exposure whether symptomatic or asymptomatic should immediately **self-quarantine**. They should contact their personal healthcare provider to secure guidance and if indicated, testing.

2. Faculty and Staff will notify their COVID designee at their branch of campus. The campus designee will notify the co-chairs of the COVID-19 Task Force in order to effectively communicate and document the health status of the University to Catawba County, Buncombe County, NC and Richland County, SC health officials.

The campus designee in **Hickory** is Judy Lineberger. Email: [judy.linberger@lr.edu](mailto:judy.linberger@lr.edu). Office phone: 828-328-7981. The campus designee in **Asheville** is Michael Dempsey. Email: [michael.dempsey@lr.edu](mailto:michael.dempsey@lr.edu). Office phone: 828-407-

4269 Cell: 828-320-9544. If unable to reach Dr. Dempsey, contact Susy Chandler

Email: [susy.chandler@lr.edu](mailto:susy.chandler@lr.edu) Office: 828-407-4262 Cell: 828-407-1405

The campus designee in **Columbia** is Robyn Marren. Email is [robyn.marren@lr.edu](mailto:robyn.marren@lr.edu) Office phone: 803-461-3277 Cell: 630-728-0585. If unable to reach Ms. Marren, contact Jennifer

Shimota. Email: [jennifer.shimota@lr.edu](mailto:jennifer.shimota@lr.edu) Office: 803-461-3297 Cell: 336-906-3333.

These designees will then notify the Co-Chairs of the Lenoir-Rhyne University COVID-19 Task Force. This process will insure effective communication related to the health status of the university to local health officials and other indicated persons on campus.

3. Faculty and Staff will **self-quarantine** until test results are available.

If test results are positive, **ISOLATION** guidelines will be followed in accordance with current CDC

Guidelines. The guidelines below were posted 12.29.2020 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html> Updates to this section will be made with CDC changes.

#### **If test results are positive:**

*\*\*\*Persons with COVID-19 who have symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:*

- *At least 10 days\* have passed since symptom onset **and***
- *At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and***
- *Other symptoms have improved.*

*\*\*&\*\*\*A limited number of persons with severe illness may produce replication-competent virus beyond 10 days, that may warrant extending duration of isolation for up to 20 days after symptom onset. Consultation with personal healthcare provider is suggested if this applies.*

*\*Persons with COVID-19 who never develop symptoms may discontinue isolation and other precautions 10 days after the date of their first positive RT-PCR test for COVID-19.*

5. All confirmed cases are to be immediately reported by the Co-Chairs of the Lenoir-Rhyne University COVID 19 Task Force to the appropriate health department (Catawba County for Hickory, Buncombe County for Asheville, and Richland Country for Columbia SC).
6. The appropriate health department will initiate contact tracing as mandated by state law. Contact tracing may result in fellow faculty, staff, students, and other persons who have been identified as a contact of the person **who is symptomatic or test positive** will be required to **self-quarantine** for 14 days.
7. Compliance is required. Failure to follow the guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action.
8. All persons with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 will be required to submit **medical** clearance documentation in order to return to the LR campus. Return is subject to current CDC guidelines and Lenoir Rhyne's enhanced efforts to reduce cases on campus. Faculty and staff will submit documentation to Judy Lineberger, Office of the Provost.
9. **A communication as follows will be shared with appropriate campus leadership:** A member of your **faculty/staff** (whichever is appropriate) has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Based on the information provided, we **do /do not** (whichever is appropriate) believe that anyone was put in a position of risk. Please continue to practice social distancing, face coverings, hand washing and cleaning surfaces. Complete information on this positive case has been shared with the appropriate county/state health department for contact tracing. Additional information will be shared as deemed appropriate.

**Students:**

1. Lenoir-Rhyne University students who suspect COVID-19 exposure whether symptomatic or asymptomatic should immediately **self-quarantine**. They should contact their healthcare provider and notify the appropriate campus designee.
2. Hickory campus students should immediately contact Cornerstone Health and Wellness Center **by phone at 828-328-7959** or call their local healthcare provider or an urgent care facility in the area. Subsequent notification of the Dean of Students, Katie Fisher at [katie.fisher@lr.edu](mailto:katie.fisher@lr.edu) **828-328-7246** should take place as soon as possible.

Asheville and Columbia campuses students will immediately contact their personal healthcare provider or an urgent care facility in their area as health services are not provided on these campuses.

The campus designee in **Asheville** is Michael Dempsey. Email is [michael.dempsey@lr.edu](mailto:michael.dempsey@lr.edu) Office phone: 828-407-4269 Cell: 828-320-9544. If unable to reach Dr. Dempsey contact Susy Chandler

Email: [susy.chandler@lr.edu](mailto:susy.chandler@lr.edu) Office: 828-407-4262 Cell: 828-407-1405.

The campus designee in **Columbia** is Robyn Marren. Email is [robyn.marren@lr.edu](mailto:robyn.marren@lr.edu) Office phone: 803-461-3277 Cell: 630-728-0585. If unable to reach Ms. Marren contact Jennifer Shimota

Email: [Jennifer.shimota@lr.edu](mailto:Jennifer.shimota@lr.edu) Office phone: 803-461-3297 Cell: 336-906-3333

These designees will then notify the Co-Chairs of the Lenoir-Rhyne University COVID-19 Task Force. This process will insure effective communication related to the health status of the university to local health officials and other indicated persons on campus.

3. If the Healthcare Provider suspects COVID-19, the student will be tested and the student will **self-quarantine\*** until results are available.

Students in Hickory who require self-quarantine/isolation on the Hickory campus will be housed in Mauney-Schaeffer (within limits of space available).

Students in Asheville or Columbia who require self-quarantine/isolation will do so in their personal residence.

5. If the student's test results are positive, **ISOLATION** guidelines will be followed in accordance with CDC guidelines\*\*

*\*\*\*Persons with COVID-19 who have symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:*

- *At least 10 days\*\*\* have passed since symptom onset **and***
- *At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and***
- *Other symptoms have improved.*

*\*\*&\*\*\*A limited number of persons with severe illness may produce replication-competent virus beyond 10 days, that may warrant extending duration of isolation for up to 20 days after symptom onset. Consultation with personal healthcare provider is suggested if this applies.*

*\*Persons with COVID-19 who never develop symptoms may discontinue isolation and other precautions 10 days after the date of their first positive RT-PCR test for COVID-19.*

5. Compliance is required. Failure to follow the guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action.

6. All persons with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 will be required to submit medical clearance documentation in order to receive clearance to return to the LR campus. Return is subject to current CDC guidelines and Lenoir Rhyne's enhanced efforts to reduce cases on campus.

Students will submit documentation to Dean Katie Fisher.

7. A communication as follows will be shared with appropriate campus members: A student in your class/residence hall (whichever is appropriate) has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Based on the information provided, we **do /do not** (whichever is appropriate) believe that anyone was put in a position of risk. Please continue to practice social distancing, face coverings, hand washing and cleaning surfaces. Complete information on this positive case has been shared with the appropriate county/state health department for contact tracing. Additional information will be shared as deemed appropriate.

### **Additional ISOLATION INFORMATION for the Student Who Tests Positive**

The health and safety of our students, faculty and staff are the cornerstone of Lenoir-Rhyne's COVID-19 plan and implementation. Lenoir-Rhyne University has worked diligently to incorporate "best practices" into our COVID-19 plan in order to safely open our campus beginning Fall 2020. We will continue to follow the science and recommendations from the CDC and our local and state health departments and use those to make updates to our policies and procedures. We embrace our institutional responsibility to provide the safest campus possible. We need the assistance and partnership of our students and their families.

Should a student exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 and/or test positive for the virus, then it is in the best interest of the student's welfare for the student to return home (or alternate family location) where they can get the 24/7 supervision and/or healthcare needed. Arrangements should be made for the student to return home within 24 hours. Unfortunately, LR does not have the facilities or infrastructure to provide 24 hour on campus supervision. In addition, LR is not equipped to house an "infirmery" with the medical support needed to properly care for a student who is COVID-19 positive with symptoms. Please know that any student with symptoms of COVID-19 will be placed in isolation and transported via ambulance should symptoms warrant to the closest medical facility. Students who test positive for COVID-19 and **do not** exhibit any symptoms will also be placed in isolation until arrangements can be made to return home as recommended.

A written petition for an exception to remain on campus must be submitted via email to the Lenoir-Rhyne University Dean of Students, Dr. Katie Fisher ([katie.fisher@lr.edu](mailto:katie.fisher@lr.edu)) within 6 hours of notification of the positive test and/or COVID-19 related symptoms. Valid reasons for an exception would include international status, unsafe home environment, or lack of a home to return. Additional time for travel distance will be considered.

5. All confirmed cases are to be immediately reported by the Co-Chairs of the Lenoir Rhyne COVID-19 Task Force to the appropriate health department (Catawba County for Hickory, Buncombe County for Asheville, and Richland Country for Columbia SC).

6. The appropriate health department will initiate contact tracing as mandated by state law. Tracing may result in roommates, suitemates, and other persons who have been identified as a contact of the student **who is symptomatic or test positive** will be required to quarantine for 14 days.
7. Arrangements for food/drink, basic supplies, and ongoing health assessments will be made throughout the course of a student's **self-quarantine**. **No visitation will be allowed during any student's self-quarantine or isolation. Violations of this policy will be handled by Student Conduct.**
8. The Office of the Provost will be advised so that arrangements can be made related to classes for both self-isolated and quarantined students.

**CDC Sources:**

\* <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

\*\*<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/isolation.html>

\*\*\*<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html>

\*\*\*<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html>

## 5. Policy Title: Infection Control: Notification of Positive COVID-19 Cases

**Individuals Affected:** Lenoir-Rhyne University Faculty, staff and students

**Purpose and Scope:** To notify appropriate individuals and agencies of positive COVID-19 cases. Notifications will adhere to state and federal privacy laws and state and local public health guidelines for reporting positive cases of COVID-19.

**Policy:** In order to monitor the status of COVID-19 cases and the potential ramifications, the co-chairs of the Lenoir-Rhyne COVID-19 or their designee will provide information (with limited personal data) to appropriate parties on the Lenoir-Rhyne campuses in a timely fashion. These measures and others will facilitate the application of best practices and reduce our vulnerabilities for COVID-19 on our campuses.

### Procedure:

1. The following statements will be used to communicate the diagnosis of COVID-19 to the appropriate parties.

#### Faculty and Staff

A member of your **faculty/staff** (*whichever is appropriate*) has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Based on the information provided, we **do /do not** (*whichever is appropriate*) believe that anyone was put in a position of risk. Please continue to practice social distancing, face coverings, hand washing and cleaning surfaces. Complete information on this positive case has been shared with the appropriate county/state health department for contact tracing. Additional information will be shared as deemed to be in compliance with appropriate and in compliance with laws and guidelines mentioned above.

#### Students

A **student in your class/residence hall** (*whichever is appropriate*) has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Based on the information provided, we **do /do not** (*whichever is appropriate*) believe that anyone was put in a position of risk. Please continue to practice social distancing, face coverings, hand washing and cleaning surfaces. Complete information on this positive case has been shared with the appropriate county/state health department for contact tracing. Additional information will be shared as deemed to be in compliance with appropriate and in compliance with laws and guidelines mentioned above.

#### General Information for all regarding return to campus

2. The following information and links are related to your ability to return to work or class:

If you receive a positive test result, then you are to remain at home and isolate according to current CDC guidelines\*. Following the isolation period and before you return to campus, you will need to submit a document from your health care provider clearing you for your return to campus. Faculty and staff will need to submit their document to Judy Lineberger email at [judy.lineberger@lr.edu](mailto:judy.lineberger@lr.edu). Students will submit their document to Katie Fisher, Dean of Students at [katie.fisher@lr.edu](mailto:katie.fisher@lr.edu)

\*<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>  
[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-homeisolation.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprevent-gettingsick%2Fwhen-its-safe.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-homeisolation.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprevent-gettingsick%2Fwhen-its-safe.html)

## 6. Policy Title: Infection Control: Vaccinations for COVID-19

**Individuals Affected:** Lenoir-Rhyne University Faculty, Staff, and Students

**Purpose and Scope:** To prevent the spread of COVID-19 by strongly encouraging vaccination and facilitating the access to the administration of vaccinations for faculty, staff and students.

### **Policy:**

Lenoir-Rhyne University faculty, staff and students are expected to be proactive in reducing the spread of COVID-19. Recent availability of the vaccine provides an additional and significant measure to reduce the spread on campus and in our community. The increase in herd immunity on campus and the compliance of current measures in place will further reduce our vulnerabilities for COVID-19 spread.

### **Procedure:**

#### **Faculty and Staff:**

1. Access to the COVID vaccine was made available to all LR employees through the Catawba County Health Department on March 2, 2021. The Pfizer vaccine was administered and the second vaccine is scheduled on March 23. LR employees at all three campus locations participated in this employer vaccine day for LR.
2. LR employees who have not yet scheduled a vaccine are eligible and encouraged to schedule their individual vaccine appointment at a variety of locations with their county. In addition to the health departments, Walgreens, some urgent care facilities, and some grocery stores with pharmacies will soon have vaccine availability. While Lenoir-Rhyne is not mandating vaccination at this time, **it is strongly encouraged**.
3. Faculty and Staff who complete the vaccine series may submit a copy of the front and back of their vaccine document (card) via Paycom under checklist when they have received their final injection. This site is active.

#### **Students:**

1. Access to the vaccine for LR students may begin as early as March 17, 2021. LR is working with the Catawba County Health Department to schedule block appointments for LR students during the last week of March 2021. This could change depending on vaccine availability. While Lenoir-Rhyne is not mandating vaccination at this time, **it is strongly encouraged that students take the vaccine when it is available**. The vaccine is free and insurance is not applied. Students who are vaccinated will not have to quarantine after travel or when exposed to COVID.
2. Students who complete the vaccine series will submit a copy of the front and back of their vaccine document (card) via Dynamic Forms to be determined once they have received their final injection.

#### **Quarantine Guidelines Post Vaccination for Faculty, Staff and Students:**

1. Persons who have submitted proof of completing both vaccinations will not have to quarantine when traveling or when exposed to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 if they meet the following three criteria:
  - Are fully vaccinated (i.e.,  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine)
  - Are within 3 months following receipt of the last dose in the series
  - Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure

In addition to not having to quarantine, fully vaccinated individuals may gather with others who have been vaccinated and return to life that is more normal as it pertains to COVID-19.

2. Subject to change, we continue to recommend that anyone who has been vaccinated should continue to follow “Protecting the Den” guidelines to keep themselves and others safe and healthy. Wearing a mask, physically distancing of at least 6 feet from others, avoiding crowds, and washing hands frequently remain the norm until we reach herd immunity on campus.

### **In Depth CDC Information on Vaccination, Quarantine and COVID Infection**

Faculty, staff and students should refer to the CDC Guidelines for the most updated information concerning the various approved vaccines. This link also details to what degree vaccines reduce or eliminate the need to quarantine, as well as provides information and guidelines to follow if COVID infection occurs after vaccination. LR will implement the CDC guidelines pertaining to vaccination and post vaccination recommendations.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html>

## 7. Policy Title: Infection Control: Campus Cleaning Protocol

**Individuals Affected:** Lenoir-Rhyne University students, staff, faculty, and visitors to campus

**Purpose and Scope:** Lenoir-Rhyne University and their partners Aramark Corporation (Hickory campus), The Condominium Group (Asheville campus) and The Budd Group (Columbia, SC campus) will work to ensure that buildings on all three campuses are clean for re-entry and that a plan for upgraded continuous cleaning is implemented.

**Policy: Maintenance of Healthy Environments** - with safety as our highest priority, all vendors providing environmental services at any of the three Lenoir Rhyne University campuses will adjust their operations at all levels to exceed our expectations for maintenance of the overall health of our campuses.

### Procedure: Hickory Campus

Aramark Employees

1. Daily Employee Health Screening: All staff members will complete a questionnaire prior to clocking into work each shift. If the answer is yes to any question, an email will immediately sent to their manager.

*The Employee listed below has answered "YES" to one or more Health Screening questions.*

*Employee: John Doe (01234567)*

*Punch Time: 7/01/2020 6:01AM*

*Please DO NOT enter the workplace; YOU MAY NOT WORK TODAY.*

*Your manager has been contacted and will tell you when you may return. As you leave, stay 6 feet away from others and contact your manager by phone as soon as you are able. If you already submitted the missing punches, no further action is needed on your part.*

*Please see your Manager if you have any questions.*

*If any employee answered, "YES" to one or more Health Screening questions the following will occur:*

*Confirm the employee has not entered the workplace.*

*Sanitize the Kronos Clock used by this employee as soon as possible.*

*Consult the "Health Check and Temp Screening FAQ's" for guidance on when the employee may return to work and how to pay the employee for the day.*

2. Custodial Staffing: Two additional employees will be added to the Hickory campus. The shifts will change to provide full 24-hour coverage. Shifts will be 5am-1pm, 1pm-9pm, and 9pm-5am.

3. Social Distancing: Employees will practice at least six foot social distancing when completing their daily schedules. They will wear a mask when in the presence of others. Employee's exposure to staff, faculty, students, etc. will be limited as much as possible. *All Aramark employees must follow all policies related to Lenoir-Rhyne University's COVID-19 protocol.*

### Overview of Aramark Plan

Enhancements will include daily and weekly use of EPA registered disinfectants with shorter dwell times. There will be increased cleaning frequencies of high touch surfaces  
Upgraded cleaning validation with Diversey™ VeriClean™

Clean It: SpaceCareQL is the daily cleaning program. It improves the quality and productivity of routine cleaning by applying a standard system, products, tools, and supplies.

Following a Top to Bottom Cleaning Approach

Using EPA Registered Disinfectant as defined in SpaceCareQL

Focus on High Touch Surfaces

Enhanced PPE requirements per CDC Guidelines

Sanitize It: The Aramark Deep Clean program was developed in partnership with Diversey™, a leader in revolutionary cleaning and hygiene technologies

One time deep cleaning process – following a top to bottom approach with product guidelines to achieve dwell time.

This is a two-step process to prepare space for occupancy.

Step 1 removes organic material and bioburden

Step 2 applies EPA-approved disinfecting products with emerging viral pathogen claims.

Use of enhanced disinfecting products and processes on high-touch surfaces

Staff trained and certified in disinfection techniques

Process validation using Diversey™ VeriClean™ Fluorescent Marking System

Communication guidance and tools to reassure returning employees and students about building cleanliness

Enhanced PPE requirements per CDC Guidance

*Sustain It:* SpaceCareQL is the daily cleaning program. It improves the quality and productivity of routine cleaning by applying a standard system, products, tools, and supplies. The continuous improvement of this program ensures superior results to routine, urgent, or emergency cleaning.

SpaceCareQL+ incorporates updated procedures, staff training, and additional disinfectant products to address the cleaning challenges and expectations of today's COVID-19 era. Enhancements include increased cleaning frequencies, products with shorter dwell times, and upgraded cleaning validation and quality control techniques.

Additional hand sanitizer dispensers and disinfectant wipes will be placed in multiple locations in all buildings to encourage enhanced personal responsibility and hygiene. In addition, faculty and staff may be required to assist and supplement cleaning on a daily basis as appropriate.

#### **Procedure: Asheville Campus**

- The Condo Association will provide daily cleaning (Monday – Friday) of all spaces on the first, second, and third floors of the 36 Montford Condo building during the fall semester.
- Tony Coswell, staff Building Supervisor, will be treating all surfaces with an EPA approved covid grade air dry sanitizer on a daily basis. This is done between the hours of 4-11:30am with priority given to scheduled usage of rooms.
- We will be using a combination of wiping down, mopping and spraying with the no-rinse sanitizer along with cleaners as applicable.
- In addition to cleaning surfaces, hand sanitizer dispensers will be mounted in each classroom as well as common space rooms.
- For HVAC purposes, the equipment is using a high filtration rate filter along with infusing a large volume of outside air.

#### **Procedure: Columbia Campus**

- We have treated the Voigt (LTSS) and Health Science (OT and Counseling) classrooms with a barrier protection service – see attached 2 brochures.
- Classrooms will be disinfected before and after each class.
- High traffic buildings will be disinfected twice a day (OT, Yost, Library, Chapel)
- Because we don't always know when an office has been used, faculty and staff will be given door hangers (see attached image) that will let us know when their office is in need of cleaning. Once an office has been sanitized, housekeeping will display 'this area has been cleaned and disinfected'. Once faculty/staff leave their office, they will turn the door hanger over to 'janitorial service required'. See attached image of double sided door hanger (similar to what you see in hotels).
- Dorm kitchens and bathrooms will be disinfected once a day (our dorms will only have 2 people on each side and they normally hold 12).
- Dorm kitchens and bathrooms will have disinfectant supplies available for additional use.
- Disinfectant wipes will be stationed at all copy machines.
- Hand Sanitizer will be accessible in all classrooms and common areas.

In conjunction with the day to day operations. The Budd Group is prepared for remediation services. Should there be a confirmed case, additional resources are available including barrier protection, electro static spraying and also fogging.

## 8. Policy Title: Infection Control: Health Education and Wellness Plan

**Individuals Affected:** Lenoir-Rhyne University Students, Faculty, and Staff

**Policy:** Lenoir-Rhyne University will develop and/or locate online education in multimedia and hard copy formats from verified sources (CDC, WHO, NCDHHS). All students, faculty, staff and contract employees will be required to complete this education prior to the beginning of the 2020-2021 academic year. Regularly scheduled updates/reminders will be distributed on a defined timeline. Messaging will be consistent to all constituents and in formats that meet a variety of learning needs and levels.

**Procedure:**

Broad-based educational programming regarding public health, COVID-19 safety and community expectations will be provided.

**Trainings:**

All students, faculty and staff will be required to complete educational trainings about COVID-19 before returning to campus.

**Students:**

The students' training will be accessible through the LR Student Portal. Written educational materials and videos with information on the following will be posted:

- An introduction to the coronavirus and the disease it causes (COVID-19).
- How to protect yourself and others.
- How to seek help if needed.
- Community expectations for caring for one another and keeping each other safe.

At the completion of the training, students will be required to complete an online post-test to demonstrate understanding. If the student does not answer 90% of the questions correctly they will be contacted and required to complete the training again until 90% of the questions are answered correctly. The LR Cornerstone Student Support and Wellness Center will be responsible for monitoring the completion of this training and ensuring its completion.

**Faculty, staff and contract employees:**

The training for faculty, staff, and contract employee will be accessible through the LR Faculty/Staff portal. Written educational materials and videos with information on the following will be posted:

- An introduction to the coronavirus and the disease it causes (COVID-19).
- How to protect yourself and others.
- How to seek help if needed.
- Community expectations for caring for one another and keeping each other safe.

At the completion of the training, faculty, staff, and contract employees will be required to complete an online post-test to demonstrate understanding. If they do not answer 90% of the questions correctly they will be contacted and required to complete the training again until 90% of the questions are answered correctly. The LR Department of Human Resources will be responsible for monitoring the completion of this training and ensuring its completion.

**Ongoing Education and Messaging:**

Updates to COVID-19 information will be made available to faculty, staff and students via multiple sources including ORCA television, LR portal, social messaging, and other mediums as possible throughout the 2020-2021 academic year.

## 9. Policy Title: Infection Control: Self Quarantine and Mass Transit Travel

**Individuals Affected:** Lenoir-Rhyne University faculty, staff and students who travel via public and commercial mass transit within or outside the United States.

**Purpose and Scope:** In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Lenoir-Rhyne University implements an updated policy for those who have traveled or plan to travel within or outside the United States via mass transit (plane, train, or commercial bus, etc.). This policy also addresses travel related to the vaccine.

### Policy:

**All faculty, staff and students who **have not been vaccinated** and travel via mass transit.**

Unvaccinated persons will self-quarantine at home for 7 days following their travel, and complete a COVID PCR test on the 4<sup>th</sup> day (96 hours). If the PCR test is negative the individual can be released after the 7<sup>th</sup> day of quarantine.\* Should the test be positive, please refer to Policy 4.

All test results will be submitted to the appropriate campus leadership (see below) for review and clearance to return to any Lenoir Rhyne campus to participate in classes and/or activities.

**Faculty, staff and students who **have completed their full vaccination**, and it has been at least 14 days since their final dose, will not be required to quarantine following their travel by mass transit. This is good for 90 days after your final dose, but could be extended pending further CDC guideline updates.** However, these persons should be vigilant about properly wearing a mask, social distancing, and handwashing until further research confirms vaccine effectiveness longer term.

### Procedure:

1. Faculty and staff will notify Judy Lineberger ([judy.lineberger@lr.edu](mailto:judy.lineberger@lr.edu)) in the Office of the Provost regarding travel that involves the use of mass transit. Final test results and clearance to return to campus activities should also be sent to Judy Lineberger as well. Clearance to return to campus will be issued once PCR test results and quarantine status have been reviewed and confirmed.

2. Students must notify the Dean Katie Fisher in the Office of Student Affairs ([Katie.Fisher@lr.edu](mailto:Katie.Fisher@lr.edu)) of their travel plans prior to departure so that arrangements for quarantine housing can be made. Clearance to return to campus will be issued once PCR test results and quarantine status have been reviewed and confirmed.

3. Faculty, staff and students whose COVID-19 positive test is confirmed will follow the *Task Force COVID-19 Infection Control: Suspected and Confirmed COVID-19 Cases. Center for Disease Control (CDC) Isolation procedure if the PCR test is positive or the person develops COVID-19 related symptoms.*

4. Should there be any questions or concerns, they will notify the Co-Chairs of the Lenoir-Rhyne University COVID-19 Task Force who will seek guidance from the appropriate county health department. This process will insure effective communication related to the health status of the University to local health officials and other indicated persons on campus.

Sources:

- \*<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

## 10. Policy Title: Infection Control: Housing Plan for New and Returning Students

**Individuals Affected:** Lenoir-Rhyne University students living in on-campus housing

**Purpose and Scope:** Lenoir-Rhyne University will work to ensure students who are living in on-campus housing have a safe and equitable housing arrangement.

**Policy:** LR will observe the standard occupancy for assigning student housing. Students who have underlying health conditions requiring accommodations will be assigned to individual bedrooms.

Students who suspect or are confirmed to have COVID-19 will be housed in Mauney-Schaeffer as noted in previous policy. LR will treat roommates and/or suitemates as a family unit. Housing in Price Village may be adjusted to ensure reasonable number of occupants.

### Procedures:

1. Changes to Housing Contract
  - a. **Termination**--If, for any reason, your enrollment at the University is terminated during the course of an academic term, you must vacate your room within 24 hours. Similarly, if the University decides to terminate this contract for disciplinary reasons, you must move out of your room within 24 hours. No refund for the room will be given to a student whose housing contract is terminated due to disciplinary reasons.
  - b. **Liability**—The University shall not be liable for any failure, delay, or interruption in performing its obligations and duties stated due to causes or conditions beyond its control or which could not have been prevented or remedied by reasonable effort at reasonable expense. The University’s failure to perform any term or condition of this contract as a result of conditions beyond its control, such as, but not limited to, strikes, fires, flood, government restrictions, acts of nature, epidemics/pandemics, damage or destruction shall not be deemed a breach of this contract. All residential students must be able to vacate the residence halls and remove their belongings within 48 hours if the University must close due to an uncontrollable event. The University does not assume any legal obligation or responsibility for injury to individuals, or loss or damage to personal property. Students are encouraged to carry appropriate insurance to cover any loss of, or damage to, personal property occurring in its buildings or on its grounds.
2. Face Coverings and Social Distancing Requirements
  - a. Residents will be required to wear masks when outside of their individual bedrooms; each residential student will be provided two masks by the University and each commuter student will receive one mask.
  - b. Social Distancing of at least 6 feet is required when outside of their individual bedrooms.
3. Revised visitation policy
 

Residents are only allowed to have a max of one guest at a time and the guest must be another student who resides in the same residence hall; no students from other residence halls, commuting students, or non-students will be allowed as guests; all residential students will receive a sticker to go on the back of their IDs to indicate which residence hall they reside in
4. Programming
  - a. Meetings and group gatherings must adhere to the LR and NC Government guidelines at any given time.
  - b. Virtual programing will be encouraged.
5. Resident Assistant (RA) Responsibilities
 

RA responsibilities will include infection control protocols.
6. Limit number of students in laundry rooms
  - a. Morgan Hall – max of 2 students in the laundry room
  - b. Isenhour Hall – max of 2 students in the laundry room
  - c. Hickory House – max of 1 student in the laundry room
  - d. Living Learning Center (LLC) – max of 2 students in the laundry room
  - e. Fritz-Conrad – max of 1 student in each laundry room
  - f. 4<sup>th</sup> Street – max of 2 students in each laundry room
  - g. Price Village – max of 4 students in the laundry room

## 11. Policy Title: Infection Control: Residence Hall Move-In Procedures

**Individuals Affected:** Lenoir-Rhyne University staff, Faculty, residential students and those assisting with move-in.

**Purpose and Scope:** In order to maintain the health and wellness of the community, Lenoir-Rhyne University will implement a safe policy for all students, faculty, staff and families who move into a residence hall.

**Policy:** Everyone participating in scheduled move in days must follow the Infection Control Policy of Lenoir-Rhyne University. To ensure the safety of all those participating in move-in day, a phased and staggered move-in process will be implemented that follows the CDC guidelines. Students and participants in move-in will complete an on-line health questionnaire 24 hours prior to arrival to campus, including the completion of another health questionnaire upon arrival.

This process will be in compliance with CDC guidelines.

Accommodations will be made for at-risk students who may need to move in at different times.

### Procedure:

1. Students will be designated a move in time based on the last digit of their room number; if a student cannot move in at their designated time they will need to move in on the flex day; move in can be completed in 5 days; proposed dates of move in would be August 18 – 22
  - a. **Tuesday, August 18, 8 am – 12 pm**
    1. Room/Apartment numbers ending in 0 and 7
  - b. **Tuesday, August 18, 1 pm – 5 pm**
    1. Room/Apartment numbers ending in 6 and 9
  - c. **Wednesday, August 19, 8 am – 12 pm**
    1. Room/Apartment numbers ending in 1
  - d. **Wednesday, August 19, 1 pm – 5 pm**
    1. Room/Apartment numbers ending in 2
  - e. **Thursday, August 20, 8 am – 12 pm**
    1. Room/Apartment numbers ending in 3
  - f. **Thursday, August 20, 1 pm – 5 pm**
    1. Room/Apartment numbers ending in 4
  - g. **Friday, August 21, 8 am – 12 pm**
    1. Room/Apartment numbers ending in 5 and 8
  - h. **Flex times will be Friday, August 21, 1 pm – 5pm, Saturday, August 22, 8 am – 12, and August 22, 1 pm – 5 pm** for students who cannot move in at the designated sign up time. (bold these like the others)
  - i. **Students will report directly to their assigned residence hall for check in.**
2. There will be a designated traffic pattern in Isenhour, Morgan, Fritz-Conrad and the LLC during move in for students to follow.
3. Students will be allowed to have one person help them move in and out of the residence halls at check in. Students are more than welcome to bring multiple guests, but only one person at a time will be allowed inside the residence halls with the student. Anyone entering the residence hall will have their temperatures taken, complete a health questionnaire, and must be wearing a mask at all times. Any student or guest who fails the temperature screen or questionnaire will not be allowed in the residence hall.
4. Sign up will be sent out at the beginning of August requesting students to inform residence life if they would like their beds bunked or lofted; beds will be bunked or lofted prior to a student's arrival.
5. All residential students have been informed to try and limit the amount of items they bring for the Fall 2020 semester. They must have a plan in place to vacate campus within 48 hours in case of another University closure. Students would need to remove all belongings if a closure occurred.

## 12. Policy Title: Infection Control: Required Daily Health Symptoms Check

**Individuals Affected:** Faculty, staff, and students at all Lenoir-Rhyne University (LR) campus locations.

**Purpose and Scope:** In order to assess the health of all Lenoir-Rhyne campuses and reduce the spread of COVID-19 an online application, LiveSafe/WorkSafe, will be initiated. Implementation of the LiveSafe/WorkSafe application will facilitate the requirement that all students, faculty, staff complete a daily health questionnaire. Clearance to be on campus, in class, or other locations on any of the Lenoir-Rhyne campuses will be provided by the Life/WorkSafe App or other approved means. The use of this app and the requirement as stated will alert persons to the possibility of symptoms that may be indicative of COVID-19 or other infectious diseases and their need to remain at home.

**Policy:** The LiveSafe/WorkSafe App is a tool for self-screening and is not a diagnostic tool or substitute for medical advice. The LiveSafe/WorkSafe App will be used by faculty, staff and students on the Hickory, Columbia, and, Asheville campuses. The LifeSafe/WorkSafe app must be completed each day prior to arriving to campus. Based on the assessment, the faculty, staff or student may or may not be approved to be on campus by their department supervisor, classroom faculty or a member of campus leadership.

On the Hickory campus, the Aramark staff will have their temperature checked and complete the time clock health questionnaire prior to being allowed to clock in for work. This will meet their daily assessment and provide clearance to remain on campus. On the Columbia campus, the Budd Group will follow a similar protocol if the app is not accessible.

Campus visitors to any of the three campuses will be required to wear a facial covering, practice at least six feet social distancing and wash their hands frequently. A disposable mask will be provided if the visitor does not have one. Each visitor may also be asked to complete a health screening questionnaire and have a temperature check prior to entering some areas of campus.

This policy may be updated once the Governor of North Carolina's mandates are modified or lifted. In addition, the policy will remain in effect until deemed appropriate to cease by the Administration of Lenoir-Rhyne University.

### Procedure:

1. Faculty, staff, and students will be receiving an email that will provide you with access to the LiveSafe/WorkSafe App. It is recommended that participants sign up and complete a practice run prior to the first day on campus.
2. Prior to arriving to any of the three Lenoir-Rhyne campuses; faculty, staff, and students are required to check their temperature and complete the LiveSafe/WorkSafe screening daily.
3. Participants will be required to enter their name/email and answer the four questions. There is a university specific requirement that each person take their temperature before starting the process (do not drink any beverage for 10 minutes prior to checking if using an oral thermometer).
4. Those persons who pass the screening will be presented with a green check mark on the confirmation screen. There will also be an email confirmation sent. They will show the confirmation screen or email to each faculty member or supervisor as they enter classes, workspaces and other campus areas.
5. If presented with a red X, the participant should not attend class or work. Students on the Hickory campus should contact Cornerstone Health to discuss next steps, and students on the Asheville and Columbia campuses will contact their healthcare provider. Faculty and staff on any of the three campuses should contact their healthcare provider.
6. LiveSafe/WorkSafe can be accessed on computers, as well as a smartphone. Participants will also be able to show their email confirmation.

**If for any reason a participant is unable to present confirmation that they passed a daily screening, they will be unable to attend class or work. If faculty, staff, and/or students do not feel well and are unsure what to do, do not come to campus. Students on the Hickory campus should contact Cornerstone Health to discuss next steps, and students on the Asheville and Columbia campuses will contact their healthcare provider. Faculty and staff on any of the three campuses should contact their healthcare provider.** Sources: <https://www.livesafemobile.com/higher-ed-return-to-campus/>

### 13. Policy Title: Student Life Health and Safety Policy

**Individuals Affected:** Lenoir-Rhyne University students.

**Purpose and Scope:** Lenoir-Rhyne University is committed to providing a safe and healthful environment for all activities under the jurisdiction of the University. Accordingly, the University has developed this top level over-arching health and safety policy to outline responsibilities and establish the framework of compliance with all applicable Federal, State and local regulations and University policies and procedures pertaining to worker safety and public health.\* Compliance with this policy along with subordinate health and safety policies, programs and procedures linked at the end of this policy document is mandatory.

**Policy:** The health and safety of all students and visitors shall be a principal consideration in the planning and conduct of all University activities and programs.

This broad policy requires that health and safety regulations of Federal, State and local authorities, appropriate consensus standards of recognized organizations, and University specific policies are met.

**Procedure:**

Strict compliance with the Student Code of Conduct is essential at this time, and blatant violations will not be tolerated. Additionally, violations of federal guidelines related to the COVID-19 emergency will also not be tolerated.

Violations of the University Health and Safety policy may result in disciplinary measures in accordance with the Lenoir-Rhyne University Student Code of Conduct. The following should be used as a guide. Typically, violators move up the levels as misconduct continues; however, certain violations of policy may necessitate beginning at the Level 3 stage.

	Types of violations (including, but not limited to the following)	Examples of Sanctions
Level 1	Student enters a classroom or other common space without appropriate face covering.	Verbal warning and require appropriate face covering immediately. If student is not immediately compliant, entry is denied.  In the case of a class, the student will be asked to leave the classroom and be marked as unexcused absence for that date.
Level 2	Repeated violations of entering common/classroom spaces without proper face covering.  Residential Student repeatedly violates any part of the visitation policy.	If this deals with entering classroom spaces, student will be marked as unexcused, given a Written Warning documented with Student Conduct and \$100 fine.  Possible removal from in-person attendance in the course where violation has been repeated.  Written Warning, \$100 fine, documented with Student Conduct.  Possible removal from University housing.
Level 3	Student has repeatedly violated Health and Safety policy and/or the Visitation Policy.  Student displays a wanton disregard for Health and Safety of others. <b>This would include attending a large indoor or outdoor gathering against state and university guidelines.</b>	Removal from University Housing, if residential policies are violated.  Removal from the course where the violation has been repeated.  Possible Suspension depending on severity of violation.

**Students will be required to sign the Lenoir-Rhyne University Community Pledge found on Appendix A.**

## 14. Policy Title: Infection Control: University Meetings

**Individuals Affected:** Lenoir-Rhyne University Students, Faculty, Staff and outside visitors participating in business meetings on campus.

**Purpose and Scope:** Lenoir-Rhyne University is expected to apply innovative methods when conducting regular business meetings to adhere to the infection control policies of the University, including masking and social distancing.

**Policy:** It is expected that that all meetings on campus are conducted using online platforms to allow faculty and staff to connect from their campus or home office to ensure the health and safety of all meeting participants.

### Procedures:

- Remote office hours are encouraged for the fall semester. When faculty meet individually with students, appropriate distancing must be maintained and face coverings must be worn by both parties.
- In-person meetings for faculty and students (outside of scheduled face-to-face class meetings) are strongly discouraged. Zoom is the preferred alternative.
- When videoconferencing is not possible, in-person meetings will be limited in size and cannot exceed the number of occupants approved for the room. Social distancing policies must be respected and face coverings must be worn by all participants.
- If meetings are held outside, social distancing policies must be respected and face coverings should still be worn by all participants.

## 15. Policy Title: COVID-19 Classroom Protocol

**Individuals Affected:** Lenoir-Rhyne University faculty, staff and students.

**Purpose and Scope:** This policy is established to ensure the continuation of instruction in all disciplines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Policy:** All lecture-style courses scheduled for the 2020 fall semester will be offered as “blended” courses, adopting a “flipped classroom” model for content delivery. This approach includes an asynchronous component—including lectures, discussion groups, etc., delivered through Canvas—and a face-to-face or synchronous component in the form of small group discussion. For this synchronous component, each section of a lecture course will be divided in two and the faculty member will meet once per week for one hour with each half of the class. This will reduce the density of the population our classroom buildings at any particular time and will allow for social distancing within each classroom.

### Procedure:

- Classroom occupancy will be reduced to lower the density of people in a building or room at any time and to ensure proper distancing.
- The University’s mask/face shield policy will be enforced for both faculty and students. (See related policy on student non-compliance).
- All classrooms will be equipped with disinfecting wipes. The incoming class will be expected to clean surfaces as they enter the room.
- Faculty must end classes by the scheduled end-time to allow time for the incoming class to wipe down the classroom.
- No food or drinks will be allowed in any classroom; this applies to students and faculty. Individuals with an approved accommodation requiring the ability to eat during class sessions will be exempted. Such accommodations must be approved by the Office of Disability Services.
- Faculty should employ teaching strategies that ensure social distancing.
- Room capacity limits must be respected and maintained.
- Classroom furniture should not be moved/rearranged.
- Faculty should establish and maintain a seating a chart for all face-to-face sections. This will aid in contact tracing, should a student become ill.
- Faculty must adhere to the class schedule established by the Office of Academic Affairs and the Registrar’s office; faculty should not require class meetings outside of the established times.

## 16. Policy: Course Scheduling and Delivery

### Individuals Affected: Faculty, Students and Staff

**Purpose and Scope:** To deliver University courses in a manner that best ensures the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff while maintaining the integrity of the academic experience.

**Policy:** Lenoir-Rhyne University will employ a blended pedagogy for traditional undergraduate lecture courses and will revise the course schedule to ensure a safe environment for in-person class meetings.

This policy will remain in effect until deemed appropriate to cease by the Administration of LRU.

### Procedure:

- We will use Canvas (our learning management system) to deliver the bulk of our course content to students asynchronously.
- The time that faculty will spend with students will be altered to reduce the density of students and faculty in our academic buildings and our classrooms. In general, most course sections will be divided in half, with the faculty member meeting once per week with each half for discussion sessions. This will allow us to maintain a synchronous component to the courses while also adhering to best practices around social distancing.
- The revised class schedule will be as follows for the fall, 2020 semester:

Day Classes	MF	W	TR
	8:00-9:00 AM		8:00-9:00 AM
	9:15-10:15 AM		9:15-10:15 AM
	10:30-11:30 AM		10:30-11:30 AM
	11:45-12:45 PM		11:45-12:45 PM
	1:00-2:00 PM		1:00-2:00 PM
	2:15-3:15 PM		2:15-3:15 PM
	3:30-4:30 PM		3:30-4:30 PM
Evening Classes+	MW (2 nights per week)	M, T, W, or R (One night only)	TR (2 nights per week)
	5:30-6:45 pm	5:30-8:30 pm	5:30-6:45 pm
	7-8:15 pm	or	7-8:15 pm
	or	6-9 pm	or
	6-7:15 pm		6-7:15 pm
	7:30-8:45 pm		7:30-8:45 pm

## Class Conversion Times for Revised Schedule

### MWF and MW

8-8:50 MWF is now	8:00-9:00 MF
9-9:50 MWF is now	9:15-10:15 MF
11-11:50 MWF is now	10:30-11:30 MF
12-12:50 MWF is now	11:45-12:45 MF
1:00-1:50 MWF is now	1:00-2:00 MF
2:00-3:15 MW is now	2:15-3:15 MF
3:30-4:45 MW is now	3:30-4:30 MF

### TTh

800-9:15 is now	800-9:00
930-1045 is now	9:15-1015
1100-1215 is now	1030-1130
1145-1245 is now	1145-1245 is a free class hour
1230-1:45 is now	100-200
200-315 is now	215-315
3:30-3:45 is now	330-430

Any 2-2:50 MWF class will be 2:15-3:15 MF

Any 2-3:50 MWF class will be 3:30-4:30 MF

## 17. Policy Title: Academic Calendar

### Individuals Affected: Faculty, Students and Staff

**Purpose and Scope:** To conduct the academic semester in a manner timeframe that best ensure the safety of students, faculty, and staff while maintaining the integrity of the educational experience.

**Policy:** The academic calendar for the fall semester 2020 has been adjusted in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

- The first day of classes remains August 24;
- Move-in times for students will be staggered to avoid congestion in University housing;
- Fall break has been eliminated to minimize student travel from and back to campus;
- In-person classes will end prior to Thanksgiving so that students will not need to return to campus following the holiday;
- Final exams will be conducted remotely the week after Thanksgiving.

### Procedure:

#### FALL 2020

August 17-18	New Faculty Workshops
August 19-20	Faculty Workshops
August 18-21	New Student Move-In
August 24	ALL Fall Classes Begin (Full and Mini Session One)
August 28	Drop/Add ends for Full and Mini One Classes
August 28	Board of Trustees Meeting
September 4	Enrollment Verification Due (Census Date)
September 14	Last day to withdraw from Mini Session One with grade of 'W'
October 2	Midterm grades due for all Full Session Undergraduate Classes by 5:00 pm
October 6	Mini Session One Classes End
October 7	Last day to withdraw from a Full Session course with grade 'W'
October 8	First Day of Classes for Mini Session Two
October 9	Final Grades Due for Mini Session One by 5:00 pm
October 9-10	Parent's Weekend

October 10	Homecoming
October 12	Drop/Add Ends for Mini Session Two
October 26	Academic Advising for Spring 2021 Begins
October 29	Last day to withdraw from Mini Session Two with grade 'W'
November 6	Academic Advising for Spring 2021 Ends
November 5-6	Board of Trustee Meetings
November 9-13	Registration for Spring 2021
November 20	Final Day of Classes for Full and Mini Session Two
November 23-24	Reading Days
<b>November 25-27 Thanksgiving Break – No Classes</b>	
November 30	Final Exams Remote (See Final Exam Schedule)
December 1-3	Final Exams Remote (See Final Exam Schedule)
December 7	ALL Final Grades Due by 5:00 pm

### SPRING 2021

January 12-15:	Faculty Development Days
<b>January 18</b>	<b>MLK Holiday – University Offices Closed</b>
January 19	ALL Full and mini Session One Classes Begin
January 25	Drop/Add Ends for all Full and Mini Session One Classes
February 1	Census/Freeze Date
February 1	Enrollment verification due by 5:00 pm
February 11	Last day to withdraw from Mini Session One with grade of 'W'
March 3	Midterm Grades Due for all Full Session Classes Undergraduate classes by 5:00 pm
March 8	Mini Session One Classes End
March 8	Last Day Withdraw from Full Session Classes with grade 'W'
March 9	Mini Session Two Classes Begin
March 12	Drop/Add Ends for Mini Session Two
March 15	Academic Advising for Summer/Fall 2021 Begins
March 18-19	Board of Trustee Meetings
March 26	Academic Advising Ends
March 26-April 1	Registration for Summer/Fall 2021
<b>April 2</b>	<b>Holiday – No Classes and Offices Closed</b>
April 20	SOURCE Day – No Classes
April 28	Last Day of Classes for Full and Mini Term Two
April 28	Baccalaureate (10:00 am)
April 29	Reading Day
April 30-May 1	Final Exams
May 3-4	Final Exams
May 5	Final Grades for Graduating Seniors due by 11:00 am
May 6	Columbia Commencement (Time TBD)
May 6	LTSS Baccalaureate (Time TBD)
May 7	Hickory Graduate Ceremony (Time TBD)
May 7	Hickory Commencement (Time TBD)
May 7	Grades for ALL students due by 5:00 pm
May 8	Asheville Commencement (10:00 am)

## **18. Policy Title: Faculty Development and Training**

### **Individuals Affected: Instructional Faculty**

**Purpose and Scope:** To provide guidance and support for faculty making the transition from a traditional face-to-face pedagogical approach to the blended approach we are adopting in response to the pandemic.

**Policy:** Faculty will be provided opportunities for professional development targeted to the transition to a blended pedagogical approach through the Lenoir-Rhyne University Center for Teaching and Learning from the end of the spring semester 2020 through the fall semester 2020, and possibly beyond. Faculty will also be supported through the University's acquisition of technology needed to support this transition.

This policy will remain in effect until deemed appropriate to cease by the Administration of Lenoir Rhyne University.

### **Procedure:**

1. Faculty will have the choice of three options to participate in these development opportunities:
  - a. A two-day synchronous training session
  - b. An asynchronous training session on Canvas
  - c. Individual check-ins with CTL staff

Full-time faculty are required to choose one of these options; part-time faculty are invited and encourage, but not required to participate.

2. Faculty will have access to numerous new technologies acquired by the University in order to support efforts to transition to a blended approach. Such technologies will allow for customizing Canvas pages, recording and evaluating online student presentations, annotating documents online, ensuring the identity of online students, etc. Training is and will remain available through the Center for Teaching and Learning.
3. The University has increased staffing in the CTL to support faculty in the revision of their courses Jenny Michaels now serves as an Instructional Design Specialist. She joins Devon Fisher and Jessica O'Brien as full-time employees in the Center.

## 19. Policy Title: Protocols for Conferences and Events

**Individuals Affected:** Lenoir-Rhyne University faculty, staff, students, visitors and performers

**Purpose and Scope:** Lenoir-Rhyne University works to provide a safe and healthy environment for conferences and events. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, certain protocols need to be followed to continue that safe environment.

**Policy:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Lenoir-Rhyne University has suspended hosting all external and internal conference and events on the campus until further notice.

### Procedure:

1. Once it is safe to resume hosting external events, Lenoir-Rhyne University Conferences and Events will follow all state, local and Lenoir-Rhyne University guidelines. All event participants must follow the masking and social distancing policy of Lenoir-Rhyne University at all times. The following guidelines were developed and will be implemented once event hosting resumes.

Tabling: Only two individuals will be allowed per six foot table. One person at each end of the table to ensure social distancing.

Seminar Rooms: Attendees will be limited to allow seating at a minimum of 6 feet social distancing. This could be adjusted as local and University guidelines change.

Auditoriums, Chapel, Common Areas, Outside Spaces, Summer Camps, Conference Housing, Summer Camp Athletics fields: Visitors must adhere to the Lenoir-Rhyne University health and safety guidelines.

2. Ticketing of events with “free” tickets will be counted instead of printing a paper ticket. Gloves should be worn by workers when handling tickets.
3. Where social distancing cannot be accomplished working alone, workers can limit their exposure by forming a “work team” in which people routinely work together, but keep their distance from everyone else. *All workers must follow the masking and social distancing policy of Lenoir-Rhyne University.*
4. Frequent handwashing and as a backup, workers may use sanitizer when a sink is not available. Workers should also wash their hands at the beginning and end of each shift and break, after using the restroom, sneezing, touching their face, blowing their nose, cleaning, sweeping, moping, eating or drinking.
5. Conferences and Events Staff having a temperature over 100.4 and/or are symptomatic should follow the Lenoir-Rhyne Health Guidelines

All event participants must follow the Infection Control Policy and screening measures of Lenoir-Rhyne University at all times.

Restroom use and capacity should be reduced by 50% to ensure social distancing.

All technical and production equipment such as microphones and headphones, etc. should be cleaned per the manufacturer’s instructions and equipment should be dedicated to individual users where possible.

Refer to Aramark guidelines for cleaning venues and catering services.

## 20. Policy Title: Remote Work

**Individuals Affected:** Lenoir-Rhyne University Employees

**Purpose and Scope:** Lenoir-Rhyne University (LRU) encourages departments and divisions to consider ways of implementing telecommuting and remote working in situations that require social distancing and/or extended disruption in normal campus operations. This Telecommuting/Remote Work Policy is designed for implementation in any temporary position that requires personnel to work off-campus for an extended period of time. Examples of such situations include, but are not limited to, pandemics, natural disasters, severe electrical or utility outages, and other volatile circumstances. This policy should be implemented when LRU executive leadership has determined that employees may temporarily work remotely when normal campus operations are deemed severely limited or impossible.

**Policy:** Telecommuting Remote Work:

1. A Telecommuting Remote Work Agreement between LRU and each remotely working employee must be approved and signed by the employee's supervisor and Dean/Director/Vice President. The agreement supersedes any prior Telecommuting Agreement in place between the employee and LRU (if any). Note that having successfully engaged in remote work according to this policy does not require management to agree to any future remote work. Priorities should be given to employees who have existing health conditions that put them at greater risk.
2. The Telecommuting Remote Work Agreement must include the following:
  - A determination of the employee's weekly and hourly schedule, if applicable. Staff schedules may differ significantly from faculty schedules.
  - Expected beginning and end dates for the Telecommuting Remote Work Agreement. End dates, in particular, will be subject to change as needed.
  - Acknowledgment that:
    - i. The agreement is a temporary measure only in some cases and the continuation will be reviewed periodically.
    - ii. LRU may alter the employee's work schedule or end the remote work agreement at any time at its discretion.
    - iii. The employee must maintain a presence within his/her Department while working remotely. Existence may be maintained through the use of technology, directed by the Department, which remains readily available. These include laptop computers, mobile phones, email, messaging applications, videoconferencing, instant messaging, and/or text messaging during the times the Department expects or requires work. Also, the employee must be able to attend scheduled, remotely conducted work meetings as requested or required by the Department.
    - iv. The employee's response times must be equal to those expected at a regular LRU work location.
    - v. The employee must maintain the same productivity, performance, communication, and responsiveness standards as if he/she were not temporarily working remotely.
3. A Telecommuting Remote Work Situation does not change the basic terms and conditions of a person's employment at LRU. During remote-working situations, employees will perform all duties as outlined in his/her job description, as well as those additional and/or different duties that the Department may assign from time to time.
4. All LRU and departmental policies and procedures are in effect during remote-working, except for those deemed unnecessary due to lack of in-person work activities.
5. A non-exempt (hourly) employee is not permitted to work overtime without prior approval from his/her supervisor and is required to take rest and meal breaks while working remotely in full compliance with federal, state, and local guidelines.

6. An employee is required to notify his/her manager within one business day if he/she believes job duties prevented them from taking rest or meal breaks in full compliance with the requirements of federal, state or local policy on a day on which you worked remotely.
7. While working remotely, employees are solely responsible for the configuration associated with their remote workspaces. This includes ensuring and maintaining an ergonomically appropriate and safe remote worksite.
8. All injuries incurred by an employee during working hours and all illnesses that are job-related must be reported to the employee's supervisor. More information is available in LRU's worker's compensation policy.
9. Generally, faculty and staff are required to use an LRU-issued device (laptop computer, etc.) for working remotely. If an employee is approved by his/her Department to work remotely but has not been issued an LRU device, the employee is temporarily permitted to use a personally owned device.
10. If an employee uses a desk phone at work, voicemail messages that come to this phone during a temporary remote work arrangement must be forwarded to the employee's LRU email address. LRU Information Technology Services can assist with the configuration.
11. Employees are prohibited from tampering with any software, firmware, or hardware provided by LRU or loaded onto a personal mobile device to enable one to perform LRU work. Regardless of whether an employee uses their own or LRU-owned mobile devices for LRU work remotely, the employee is responsible at all times for the access, use, security, and cost of those mobile devices.
12. Each employee must indicate the location (city and state) from where he/she will be working remotely. Furthermore, he/she must agree to notify the appropriate supervisor in writing within three calendar days of any changes to the city and/or state from which he/she will be temporarily working remotely, along with the effective date(s) and duration of such change. LRU will rely on this information in determining its compliance with any local laws and ordinances while an employee is working remotely.
13. Each Telecommuting Remote Work Agreement is subject to all applicable LRU policies, procedures, and collective bargaining agreements. By signing an agreement, the employee confirms that he/she has read, understood, and will comply with all provisions in connection with his/her remote work arrangement, including but not limited to, Workplace Conduct, Workplace Health & Safety, Conflict of Interest, and the Anti-Harassment and Discrimination Policy.

If a supervisor, vice president, dean, or director deems that a remote work arrangement described in this policy is not working effectively or as envisioned, management may at any time adjust or end the remote work arrangement. Management will strive to provide at least 24 hours advance notice of any changes to the remote work arrangement.

## 21. Policy Title: Athletics and COVID-19 Return to Campus and Competition

**Individuals Affected:** Lenoir-Rhyne University Student Athletes, Staff and Fans/Visitors

**Purpose and Scope:** To minimize the chance of Covid-19 Spreading through our campus.

**Policy:** Lenoir-Rhyne university athletics will follow all NCAA, SAC conference, state, local and Lenoir Rhyne University guidelines on how and when it is safe to return to sport, practice, and host events. All participants must follow the infection control policy and screening measures of Lenoir-Rhyne university at all times. This will include Student Athletes, Staff, and spectators.

**Detailed plans are listed on the Appendices attached that outline the Complete Policy for each area as well as the procedures to be followed to effectively enact said policies.**

Appendix B: Student Athletes Return to Campus and Testing

Appendix C: Resocialization and Return to Sport (to include Team and Athlete Travel)

Appendix D: Covid-19 FAQ for Student Athletes

Appendix E: Event Management

### Procedure:

#### Student Athlete Recruitment:

Follow University, NCAA, SAC, and local/state/federal governmental agency guidelines while continuing to recruit prospective Student Athletes to LRU and our Athletic Department.

See "Quiet Period Recruiting Visit Plan"

#### Resocialization and Return to Sport:

Follow University, NCAA, SAC, and local/state/federal governmental agency guidelines while keeping our Staff and Student Athletes safe as they get back to participation and competition, when allowed.

See "LRU Resocialization Plan"

1. Resocialization plan includes the following which are in addition to other university policies.
  - a. Steps to Report Illness
  - b. Personal Protective Equipment
  - c. Preparation or Return to Campus
  - d. Education
  - e. Returning to Campus
  - f. Testing
    - i. Those driving to Campus
    - ii. Those who utilize Mass Transit during part/all of their trip
    - iii. NCAA Guidance on Testing Based on Sport Risk Categorization
  - g. Daily Well Checks
  - h. Guidance on Safe Return to Athletics
  - i. Symptomatic Individuals/Covid-19 Positive Management
  - j. Asymptomatic Individuals with Positive Covid-19 Test
  - k. Self-Isolation and Quarantine
  - l. Contact Tracing and Surveillance
  - m. Sanitation
  - n. Recommendations on Return to participation

- o. Covid-19 Prevention
- p. Safe Transition to Athletic Activity
- q. Travel Plan for Athletics
  - i. Van/Bus Travel
  - ii. Air Travel
  - iii. Hotel Stays
  - iv. Meals/Restaurants while traveling
  - v. Visiting Locker Rooms
- r. Symptoms while Traveling
- s. Contingency Plans
- t. Considerations or Discontinuation of Athletics

Resources:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

[https://www.nata.org/sites/default/files/icsm\\_return\\_to\\_campus\\_packet\\_covid19.pdf](https://www.nata.org/sites/default/files/icsm_return_to_campus_packet_covid19.pdf)

<http://www.ncaa.org/sport-science-institute/core-principles-resocialization-collegiate-sport>

[https://www.acha.org/documents/resources/guidelines/ACHA\\_Considerations\\_for\\_Reopening\\_IH\\_Es\\_in\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_Era\\_May2020.pdf](https://www.acha.org/documents/resources/guidelines/ACHA_Considerations_for_Reopening_IH_Es_in_the_COVID-19_Era_May2020.pdf)

#### Event Management

Follow University, NCAA, SAC, and local/state/federal governmental agency guidelines while working with our ticketing company to determine the maximum number of spectators and seating configuration while adhering to guidelines established by entities listed above. Also having on going conversation about adjustments that will need to be made to traditional game day activities (Bears Club Area, Bear Walk, Marching Band, Cheerleaders, etc.)

## Lenoir-Rhyne University Community Pledge

Being a part of the Lenoir-Rhyne community means that each of us must take extraordinary steps to stay well and protect each other, both on campus and in the community. Members of our community are reminded that in their conduct, whether on campus or off, they are representatives of Lenoir-Rhyne University. It is the responsibility of each community member to adhere to this pledge to protect our on-campus community and the community at large.

**I pledge to take responsibility for my own health and the protection of others, and I pledge to help keep the Lenoir-Rhyne community safe from the spread of COVID-19 and other infections. As a member of the Lenoir-Rhyne University community, I pledge to:**

### PROTECT MYSELF

- Wear an appropriate facial covering and other protective gear in public areas and inside all buildings, as well as outdoors when at least six feet social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Monitor for the symptoms of COVID-19 through the daily symptom checking app, and follow the prompts for seeking medical attention if necessary.
- Avoid events and locations that have the potential to increase my risk to contract COVID-19.
- Wash my hands frequently with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer when it is available.
- Seriously consider getting vaccinated for the flu in the fall.

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### PROTECT OTHERS

- Wear an appropriate facial covering and other protective gear in public areas and inside all buildings, as well as outdoors when at least six feet social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Maintain appropriate social distancing of at least six feet both indoors and outdoors.
- Stay home if I feel ill or after exposure to someone who is ill or has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Wash my hands often with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer when it is available.
- Be positive, attentive, and helpful to anyone who may need support.

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### PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY

- Greet without shaking hands.
- Respect personal space and practice at least six feet physical distancing.
- Practice good hygiene.
- Disinfect my living space and personal items regularly.
- Work to mitigate spread of germs on frequently touched surfaces and objects.

The University expects all members of our community to adhere to this pledge both on- and off-campus. Students who don't adhere to this pledge have violated the Student Conduct Code and may be subject to judicial sanction. Faculty and staff violating this pledge may be subject to a performance evaluation by a supervisor or the Office of Human Resources.

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Signature

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Printed Name

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Date

## **Student Athlete Return to Campus and Testing**

In order to provide the safest campus and athletic environment possible, Lenoir-Rhyne University and the Athletics Department have developed the following protocol. This has been done in conjunction with the Catawba County NC Health Department and the CDC guidelines. Careful attention to the requirements below will help meet our containment goals related to COVID-19. We are requiring that all student-athletes self-quarantine for a minimum of 7 days before returning to campus to limit possible exposure.

*Testing Exception - For persons previously diagnosed with symptomatic COVID-19 who remain asymptomatic after recovery, retesting is not recommended within 3 months after the date of symptom onset for the initial COVID-19 infection. Contact your athletic trainer if you think you meet this exception. Documentation from the student's healthcare provider and any test results must be provided.*

### **ARRIVAL TO CAMPUS GUIDELINES FOR ALL STUDENT AHELTES:**

- Each student athlete will text both their staff athletic trainer and head coach with information on the date and time they will be arriving to campus. This information should be provided at least 24 hours in advance. Further instructions will be given at that time.

Please note *Return to Campus target dates* are in discussion and will be released a later date.

### **Testing Option 1:**

Pre-arrival testing guidelines

Student athletes will present a negative nasopharyngeal PCR COVID-19 test result prior to arriving back to campus. The test must be completed by a clinical professional. Bloodwork, serologic, or home test kits results will not be accepted. This test should be administered no more than 7-8 days prior to arrival of campus.

Student athletes are asked to submit their test results via email to their sport athletic trainer upon receipt. Any student athlete who tests positive on the initial COVID-19 test, will be required to remain at home and follow CDC guidelines for the duration of their isolation period.

Student athletes choosing option 1 will quarantine at home after the COVID test administration.

During this time period, student-athletes are strongly encouraged to:

- Avoid contact with those outside your family unit.
- Follow guidelines for use of face coverings, frequent handwashing, and at least six feet social distancing.
- Avoid public transportation or sharing rides.
- Avoid public spaces where social distancing is not followed.
- Stay separated from others. To avoid exposure to COVID-19 we ask that you not go to work, school, public places, athletics facilities, restaurants, any private social events, or put yourself at risk for exposure.
- Don't share items with household members & thoroughly wash all items after use.

These students will be tested again when they arrive on campus and will be quarantined until the on campus test results are available before beginning regular activities.

## Diagnostic testing upon arrival to Hickory campus

Student-athletes who meet the requirements of *Testing Option 1* will undergo nasopharyngeal PCR diagnostic tests upon arrival to campus/Hickory area.

- Student athletes will continue to practice “quarantine” recommendations as outlined above to prevent exposure to asymptomatic persons on or off campus upon arrival to campus/Hickory area.
- Test administrators will provide student athletes with scheduling instructions. Any testing will be completed before 3 PM (M-F) in order to ensure overnight delivery to the lab for analysis.
- Lenoir-Rhyne’s testing provider anticipates that results will be available within 48-72 hours.

## Post-testing Quarantine:

All student-athletes will be required to remain in quarantine in their individual campus dorm or their off campus housing while awaiting test results.

During the self-quarantine period all student-athletes will be required to:

- Quarantine in their current location (on campus or off campus housing) and to not leave this location/housing in order to prevent exposure to asymptomatic persons on or off campus
- If housed with others, minimize contact with others in their home or other areas whenever possible. Student-athletes will maintain social distancing of at least six feet and abide by other mitigation principles (use of facial coverings, frequent hand washing, cough, and sneeze hygiene practices, etc.).
- Meals will be delivered (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) for student-athletes residing on campus.
- Laundry will be coordinated by the sport coaching staff.
- Daily outdoor time, while social distancing with supervision, will be offered 1 hour per day as coordinated by the sport coaching staff.

Students who receive NEGATIVE test results will be released from quarantine and allowed to resume activities.

Isolation of Student Athletes who test positive\*(see TASK FORCE Infection Control: Suspected and Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Policy document on page 5)

- Students who receive POSITIVE test results will be identified as in ISOLATION. This applies to both symptomatic and asymptomatic students.
- Positive students will remain in quarantine and will now be identified as in isolation until they meet the current CDC guideline for discontinuation of isolation. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html>
- Contact tracing will be required in order to follow CDC, Catawba County NC Public Health Department, and LR Campus COVID-19 guidelines.

## **Testing Option 2:**

### Pre-arrival guidelines

Student athletes who are not able to schedule a COVID-19 test as outlined in Option 1 are strongly encouraged to self-quarantine at home for seven days prior to arrival on campus

During this time period, student-athletes are strongly encouraged to:

- Avoid contact with those outside your family unit.
- Follow guidelines for use of face coverings, frequent handwashing, and at least six feet social distancing.
- Avoid public transportation or sharing rides
- Avoid public spaces where social distancing is not followed
- Stay separated from others. To avoid exposure to COVID-19 we ask that you not go to work, school, public places, athletics facilities, restaurants, any private social events, or put yourself at risk for exposure.
- Don't share items with household members & thoroughly wash all items after use

Pre-testing quarantine upon arrival to campus/Hickory area

Student athletes choosing Option 2 will be quarantined in their individual campus /off campus rooms for a minimum of 96 hours after arriving to campus/Hickory area.

During the self-quarantine period all student-athletes will be required to:

- Quarantine in their current location (on campus or off campus housing) and to not leave this location/housing in order to prevent exposure to asymptomatic persons on or off campus.
- If housed with others, minimize contact with others in their home or other areas whenever possible. Student-athletes will maintain social distancing of at least six feet and abide by other mitigation principles (use of facial coverings, frequent hand washing, cough, and sneeze hygiene practices, etc.).
- Meals will be delivered (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) for student-athletes residing on campus.
- Laundry will be coordinated by the sport coaching staff.
- Daily outdoor time, while social distancing with supervision, will be offered 1 hour per day as coordinated by the sport coaching staff.

Testing

- Students will be tested for COVID-19 via nasopharyngeal PCR testing at the end of the required 96 hour minimum pre-testing quarantine.
- Test administrators will provide student athletes with scheduling instructions. Any testing will be completed before 3 PM (M-F) in order to ensure overnight delivery to the lab for analysis.

Post-testing quarantine

- Students will remain in quarantine in their on campus/off campus rooms until their test results are available. Results are typically available 48-72 hours after they are received in the lab.
- Students who receive NEGATIVE test results will be released from quarantine and allowed to resume activities.

Isolation of Student Athletes who test positive\* (see TASK FORCE Infection Control: Suspected and Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Policy document on page 5)

- Students who receive POSITIVE test results will be identified as in ISOLATION. This applies to both symptomatic and asymptomatic students.

- Positive students will remain in quarantine and will now be identified as in isolation until they meet the current CDC guideline for discontinuation of isolation. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html>
- Contact tracing will be required in order to follow CDC, Catawba County NC Public Health Department, and LR Campus COVID-19 guidelines.

### **GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS USING ANY TYPE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

- Travel to campus from airport or bus stop will need to be arranged by student athlete and will not include members of the LR athletic community to reduce risk of additional infections. Information on travel options will be provided by your coach.

### **\*ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES REGARDING ISOLATION FROM THE LENOIR-RHYNE TASK FORCE Infection Control: Suspected and Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Policy**

All student athletes will be allowed to return to their sport when they meet the guidelines outlined in the Lenoir-Rhyne University Athletics Resocialization of Sport document. Additional guidance will be provided from the CDC and Catawba County NC Public Health Department. Please note that these guidelines are subject to change upon updates to State of North Carolina COVID-19 mandates, CDC, Catawba County NC Public Health Department and Lenoir-Rhyne University decisions.

The health and safety of our students, faculty and staff are the cornerstone of Lenoir-Rhyne's COVID-19 plan and implementation. Lenoir-Rhyne University (LR) has worked diligently to incorporate "best practices" into our COVID-19 plan in order to safely open our campus beginning fall 2020. We will continue to follow the science and recommendations from the CDC and our local and state health departments and use those to make updates to our policies and procedures. We embrace our institutional responsibility to provide the safest campus possible. We need the assistance and partnership of our students and their families.

Should a student exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 and/or test positive for the virus, then it is in the best interest of the student's welfare for the student to return home (or alternate family location) where they can get the 24/7 supervision and/or healthcare needed. Arrangements should be made for the student to return home within 24 hours. Unfortunately, LR does not have the facilities or infrastructure to provide 24 hour on campus supervision. In addition, LR is not equipped to house an "infirmary" with the medical support needed to properly care for a student who is COVID-19 positive with symptoms. Please know that any student with symptoms of COVID-19 will be placed in isolation and transported via ambulance should symptoms warrant to the closest medical facility. Students who test positive for COVID-19 and do not exhibit any symptoms will also be placed in isolation until arrangements can be made to return home as recommended.

A written petition for an exception to remain on campus must be submitted via email to Lenoir-Rhyne Dean of Students, Dr. Katie Fisher ([katie.fisher@lr.edu](mailto:katie.fisher@lr.edu)) within 6 hours of notification of the positive test and/or COVID-19 related symptoms. Valid reasons for an exception would include international status, unsafe home environment, or lack of a home to return. Additional time for travel distance will be considered.

## Resocialization and Return to Sport

Lenoir-Rhyne University Athletics is committed to the safety and well-being of all student-athletes and staff. The following procedures are based on information currently available and are aligned with guidelines set forth by the local, state and federal governments.

This evolving document serves as an overarching blueprint for our intercollegiate athletics program to assist in the return to sport on the Lenoir-Rhyne Campus. Key factors considered include: Campus Safety, Student-Athlete Safety, Competitive Safeguards in Athletic Facilities, NCAA/NATA guidelines, and Team/Individual Travel considerations. This document will serve as both an evolving guidepost (which could change to meet current and up-to-date Best Practice) and an accountability document to align with campus, state, and emergency health official requirements.

### Steps to Report Illness

1. If symptomatic, isolate yourself from others.
2. Contact your sport athletic trainer with your symptoms and duration of onset via phone call, facetime, skype etc. DO NOT report to the athletic training room.
3. Athletic trainer will assist in setting up a telehealth appointment with Cornerstone.
4. Additional appointment/follow-up to be decided by Cornerstone.

### Personal Protective Equipment

Employees, students, and visitors to LRU campus are required to have appropriate personal protective equipment in compliance with University policy as well as local and state recommendations. Face masks should be worn at all times. Athletic training staff members will wear a face mask whenever in patient care and should wear gloves whenever in physical contact with a patient. Other equipment and materials available include; hand sanitizers, touchless thermometers, and pulse oximeters. \*Gowns and eye/face shield should be worn when there is a risk of aerosolized particulate transmission\*

### Preparation for Return to Campus

- Prior to return to campus, all student-athletes and athletics staff members will complete the COVID-19 Medical Screening Questionnaire via ARMS.
- All COVID-19 Medical Screening Questionnaires must be reviewed and approved by a member of the athletic training staff before individuals will be allowed to return to campus.
- Student-athletes will undergo all standard medical clearance and pre-participation testing with a member of the athletic training staff.

- Medical Clearance interviews may take place virtually (skype, facetime, zoom) to allow for physical distancing.
- Individuals identified as “vulnerable” (Vulnerable populations include individuals with serious underlying health conditions such as high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity and asthma, and those whose immune system is compromised, such as by chemotherapy) may require additional shelter in place time once returning to campus.
- Any medical intake that needs to take place in person, will be staggered to allow for physical distancing
- Lenoir-Rhyne athletics is asking that all student-athletes self-quarantine for a minimum of 7 days before returning to campus to limit possible exposure. This quarantine should begin immediately following COVID-19 testing. During this time period, student-athletes are encouraged to:
  - Avoid contact with those outside your family unit
  - Practice use of face covering, frequent handwashing, and at least six feet social distancing.
  - Avoid public transportation or ride shares
  - Avoid public spaces where social distancing is not followed
  - Stay separated from others and should not go to work, school, public places, or athletics facilities or any private social events.
  - Don’t share items with household members & thoroughly wash items after use
- Pre-participation Considerations:
  - Evaluation of additional screenings based on health history, as recommended by team physician
  - Evaluation of additional screens for student-athlete with verified positive (+) test for COVID-19, as recommended by team physician
- Acquisition of PPE and proper disinfectant
- All staff members and student-athletes are encouraged to provide their own face masks.

## Education

Athletics department staff and student-athletes will receive educational information regarding COVID-19. Topics will include; signs and symptoms, infection control, personal hygiene, handwashing, social distancing, etc. All staff and student-athletes will sign an acknowledgement of having reviewed the information provided. Additional signage will be present throughout the athletic department.

## Returning to Campus

While on campus all student-athletes and athletics staff are expected to comply with university and CDC guidelines regarding reducing the transmission of COVID-19

- Wear a face mask at all times (unless weight training or sport specific training session)
- Comply with social distancing guidelines (6ft between individuals)
- Wash/sanitize hands often
- Avoid high touch surfaces

- Avoid touching your face
- Cover your cough or sneeze, then wash your hands
- Clean and disinfect surfaces daily (light switches, phones, keyboards, desks, pens)
- If at any time, symptoms arise, report to the proper university personnel and immediately leave campus and return home. Communication with the Cornerstone staff will lead to a telehealth appointment.

#### Guidelines for Student-athletes Using Public Transportation

Travel to campus from an airport or bus stop will need to be arranged by student-athletes and will not include members of the LR athletic community to reduce risk of additional infection. Information on travel options will be provided by coaches.

#### Testing

Before participating in athletics, all student-athletes will be tested for COVID-19 via nasopharyngeal PCR testing. Once the test has been administered, student-athletes will be asked to self-quarantine while awaiting the results. Any student-athlete who tests positive on the initial COVID-19 test, will be required to remain at home and follow CDC guidelines for the duration of their isolation period.

For persons previously diagnosed with symptomatic COVID-19 who remain asymptomatic after recovery, retesting is not recommended within 3 months after the date of symptom onset for the initial COVID-19 infection

#### Testing Option 1:

##### Pre-Arrival Testing Guidelines

Student-athletes will present a negative nasopharyngeal PCR COVID-19 test result prior to arriving back to campus. The test must be completed by a clinical professional. Bloodwork, serologic, or home test kit results will not be accepted. This test should be administered no more than 7-8 prior to arrival on campus. Any student-athlete who tests positive on the initial COVID-19 test will be required to remain at home and follow CDC guidelines for the duration of their isolation period.

Student-athletes choosing option 1 will quarantine at home after the COVID-19 test administration. During this time period, student-athletes are strongly encouraged to:

- Avoid contact with those outside your family unit.
- Follow guidelines for use of face coverings, frequent handwashing, and at least six feet social distancing.
- Avoid public transportation and ride shares.
- Avoid public spaces where social distancing is not followed.
- Stay separated from others. Do not go to work, school, public places, athletics facilities, restaurants, any private social events, or put yourself at risk for exposure.
- Don't share items with household members & thoroughly wash all items after use.

## Diagnostic Testing Upon Arrival to Hickory Campus

Student-athletes who meet the requirements of Testing Option 1, will undergo nasopharyngeal PCR diagnostic tests upon arrival to campus/Hickory area

- Student-athletes will continue to practice “quarantine” recommendations as outlined above to prevent exposure
- Testing administrators will provide student-athletes with scheduling instructions. Any testing will be completed before 3PM (M-F) in order to ensure overnight delivery to the lab for analysis.
- Lenoir-Rhyne’s testing provider anticipates that results will be available within 48-72 hours.

## Testing Option 2:

### Pre-Arrival Guidelines

Student-athletes who are not able to schedule a COVID-19 test as outlined in option 1 are strongly encouraged to self-quarantine at home for seven days prior to arrival on campus.

During this time period, student-athletes are strongly encouraged to:

- Avoid contact with those outside your family unit.
- Follow guidelines for use of face coverings, frequent handwashing, and at least six feet social distancing.
- Avoid public transportation and ride shares.
- Avoid public spaces where social distancing is not followed.
- Stay separated from others. Do not go to work, school, public places, athletics facilities, restaurants, any private social events, or put yourself at risk for exposure.
- Don’t share items with household members & thoroughly wash all items after use.

### Pre-Testing Quarantine upon Arrival to Campus/Hickory Area

Student-athletes choosing Option 2 will be quarantined in their individual campus/ off campus housing for a minimum of 96 hours after arriving to campus/Hickory area.

During the self-quarantine period, all student-athletes will be required to:

- Quarantine in their current location (on campus or off campus housing) and not leave this location/housing in order to prevent exposure.
- If housed with others, minimize contact with others in the home or other areas whenever possible. Student-athletes will maintain social distancing of at least six feet and abide by other mitigation principles (use of facial coverings, frequent hand washing, cough, and sneeze hygiene practices, etc.)
- Meals will be delivered (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) for student-athletes residing on campus.
- Laundry will be coordinated by the sport coaching staff.
- Daily outdoor time, while social distancing with supervision, will be offered 1 hour per day as coordinated by the sport coaching staff.

## Testing- Option 2

- Student-athletes will be tested for COVID-19 via nasopharyngeal PCR testing at the end of the required 96 hour minimum pre-testing quarantine.
- Test administrators will provide student-athletes with scheduling instructions. Any testing will be completed before 3PM (M-F) in order to ensure overnight delivery to the lab for analysis

## Post-Testing Quarantine

All student-athletes will be required to remain in quarantine in their individual campus dorm or their off campus housing while awaiting test results.

During the self-quarantine period, all student-athletes will be required to:

- Quarantine in their current location (on campus or off campus housing) and not leave this location/housing in order to prevent exposure.
- If housed with others, minimize contact with others in the home or other areas whenever possible. Student-athletes will maintain social distancing of at least six feet and abide by other mitigation principles (use of facial coverings, frequent hand washing, cough, and sneeze hygiene practices, etc.)
- Meals will be delivered (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) for student-athletes residing on campus.
- Laundry will be coordinated by the sport coaching staff.
- Daily outdoor time, while social distancing with supervision, will be offered 1 hour per day as coordinated by the sport coaching staff.

Student-athletes who receive Negative test results will be released from quarantine and allowed to resume activities.

## Isolation of Student-Athletes who Test Positive

- Student-athletes who receive positive test results will be identified as in isolation. This applies to both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals.
- These individuals will remain in isolation until they meet the current CDC guidelines for discontinuation.
- Contact tracing will be required in order to follow CDC, Catawba County NC Public Health Department, and LR Campus COVID-19 guidelines.

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## NCAA Guidance on Testing Based on Sport Risk Categorization

The NCAA has categorized all sports into 3 levels based on difficulty mitigating the spread of infection due to sport requirements:

- Low Contact Risk: Golf, Swimming, Tennis, Track and Field
- Medium Contact Risk: Acrobatics and Tumbling, Baseball, Cross Country, Softball, Triathlon
- High Contact Risk: Basketball, Football, Lacrosse, Soccer, Volleyball

- Low Contact Risk
  - Diagnostic Testing upon arrival to campus
  - During summer athletic activities and out-of-season athletic activities: surveillance testing in conjunction with a university plan for all student, plus additional testing for symptomatic and high contact risk individuals.
  - During in-season (preseason, regular season, postseason): symptomatic testing and high contact risk testing thereafter.
- Medium Contact Risk
  - Diagnostic testing upon arrival to campus
  - During summer athletic activities and out-of-season athletic activities: surveillance PCR testing, for example, testing 25%-50% of athletes and “inner bubble” personnel (coaches, medical staff, officials and other essential personnel) every two weeks if physical distancing, masking and other protective features are not maintained, plus additional testing for symptomatic and high-contact risk individuals.
  - During in-season (preseason, regular season and postseason): surveillance PCR testing, for example, 25%-50% of athletes and “inner bubble” personnel every two weeks if physical distancing, masking and other protective features are not maintained, plus additional testing for symptomatic and high contact risk individuals.
  - Symptomatic testing and high-contact risk testing as appropriate.
- High Contact Risk
  - Diagnostic Testing upon arrival to campus.
  - During voluntary summer athletic activities: Surveillance PCR testing, for example, 25%-50% of athletes and “inner bubble” personnel every two weeks if physical distancing, masking and other protective features are not maintained\*, plus additional testing for symptomatic and high contact risk individuals
  - During required summer athletic activities: Surveillance PCR testing, for example, testing 25%-50% of athletes and “inner bubble” personnel every two weeks if physical distancing, masking and other protective features are not maintained\*, plus additional testing for symptomatic and high contact risk individuals.
  - In-Season (Pre-Season, Regular Season, Post-Season): Weekly PCR testing of all athletes, plus “inner bubble” personnel for whom physical distancing, masking and other protective features are not maintained; additional testing for symptomatic and high contact risk individuals.
  - Out-of-Season: Surveillance PCR testing, for example, 25%-50% of athletes and “inner bubble” personnel every two weeks if physical distancing, masking and other protective features are not maintained\*, plus additional testing for symptomatic and high contact risk individuals.

### Daily Well Checks

All employees, students and visitors must be screened before entering any athletic department facility, including fields.

- Everyone will enter through the front door of Shuford (Stasavich Place)
- Well checks will take place at the Shuford Gym Concession Stand

- In order to enter the athletics department or take part in any workout, student-athletes and staff must be “cleared”
  - Clearance requires the individual have no symptoms, have had no known contact with individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19, AND have a touchless body temperature of less than 100.4°F
  - If an individual has any symptoms of COVID-19 OR has had close contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 14 days, they will not be cleared to enter the athletics facilities and will be asked to return to their residence for isolation while awaiting a telehealth appointment with Cornerstone
  - If an individual measures a temperature over 100.4°F, they will rest for 10 minutes and be re-measured.
  - If the individual has a temperature over 100.4°F after 10 minutes of rest, they will not be cleared to enter the athletics facilities and will be asked to return to their residence for isolation while awaiting a telehealth appointment with Cornerstone.
  - Any individual with a temperature of 99.5-100.3 and without symptoms will be admitted and re-screened (temperature and questionnaire) at a later time (4-6 hours later)
    - A member of the athletic training staff will designate the re-screen time.
  - If a student-athlete/staff develops symptoms at any time, they should communicate with a member of the athletic training staff via phone call, facetime, skype etc., rather than reporting to the check-in station.
- Well checks will be completed and documented by a member of the athletic training staff.

### Guidance on Safe Return to Athletics

1. Safety in Athletics- As a result of “Safer at Home” style recommendations and orders, student-athletes will report to campus in various states of physical and mental deconditioning. This must be accounted for in planning and execution of strength and conditioning workouts as well as sport practices. All coaches, strength and conditioning staff, and team staff will follow guidelines and consensus statements set into place for transition and acclimatization to activity following extended inactivity periods (Interassociation Recommendations: Preventing Catastrophic Injury & Death in Collegiate Athletics and CSCCA and NSCA Joint Consensus Guidelines for Transition Periods: Safe Return to Training Following Inactivity. These plans will be in compliance with NCAA and SAC guidelines.
  - Avoid high-volume submaximal exercises to fatigue, or performed within a limited time frame.
  - Consider that prolonged inactivity increases the likelihood of delayed onset muscle soreness.
  - Plan and adjust workouts to match environmental factors (high heat and humidity)
2. Athletics Facilities
  - Any internal doors that can be, should be propped open to decrease touch areas.
  - High touch areas will be sanitized frequently by housekeeping staff using CDC approved cleaners and guidelines.
  - Student-athletes and staff are discouraged from gathering in groups in lobbies or hallways.
  - Athletics facilities hours may be limited in order to properly control entrances and exits.

### 3. EMS/911 Differentiation

If the situation arises where local EMS have decreased availability of local emergency facilities and have an excessive demand or risk of exposure, Emergency Action Plans will be modified to adapt to the circumstances. This may include adjustment of practice/workout schedules to times that are less demanding on EMS personnel or diverting transportation of patients to facilities with lower patient demands or risk of exposure.

#### Symptomatic Individuals/ COVID-19 Positive Management

Lenoir-Rhyne University Athletic Training Staff and Team Physicians maintain “unchallengeable autonomous authority” to remove any person (student-athlete, coach, staff, visitor, etc.) from the facility if they report symptoms or appear to be symptomatic.

#### Initial Management of Symptomatic Individuals

- Any individual feeling ill or presenting with any COVID-19 signs and symptoms should not come to athletic facilities (including treatments/rehab, meetings, practice, individual workouts, team meals, etc.) and should immediately contact their supervisor or their team’s athletic trainer via phone call, facetime, skype etc.
  - Anyone who begins to feel ill while on campus or attending an athletics event should immediately return to their residence to isolate themselves from others and contact their supervisor or team athletic trainer via phone call, facetime, skype etc. DO NOT report to the athletic training room.
- Any individual with affirmative answers on the COVID-19 daily well screen and/or temperature  $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$  will not be permitted to enter any athletics facilities or participate in athletic activities.
  - These individuals will be referred to Cornerstone. They will be asked to return to their residence to isolate themselves, and await their telehealth appointment.
- Symptomatic individuals will be referred to Cornerstone and asked to return to their dorms/homes to await their telehealth appointment.
  - Individuals who remain symptomatic but have a negative initial COVID test will be virtually reassessed by their athletic trainer on a daily basis. Individuals that have persistent and/or worsening symptoms will be referred back to Cornerstone for repeat evaluation.
- For persons who develop new symptoms consistent with COVID-19 during the 3 months after the date of initial symptom onset, if an alternative etiology cannot be identified by a provider, then the person may warrant retesting; consultation with infectious disease or infection control experts is recommended. Quarantine may be considered during this evaluation based on consultation with an infection control expert, especially in the event symptoms develop within 14 days after close contact with an infected person.
- Should a student exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 and/or test positive for the virus, then it is in the best interest of the student’s welfare for he/she to return home (or alternate family location) where they can get 24/7 supervision and/or healthcare needed.
  - Arrangements should be made for the student to return home within 24 hours.
- A written petition for an exception to remain on campus must be submitted via e-mail to Lenoir-Rhyne University Dean of Students, Dr. Katie Fischer within 6 hours of notification of the positive test and/or

COVID-19 related symptoms. Valid reasons for an exception would include international status, unsafe home environment, or lack of home to return. Additional time for travel distance will be considered.

- Current CDC Guidelines:
  - At least 10 days have passed since the symptoms first appeared AND
  - At least 3 (72 hours) days have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever reducing medications AND
  - Improvement in respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath)

OR

- You have received 2 negative COVID-19 tests in a row.
- Individuals must receive clearance from the LRU Team Physician and the Athletic Training Department to enter athletics facilities and/or resume team related activities.

#### Asymptomatic Individuals with Positive COVID-19 Test

- Asymptomatic individuals that have tested positive for COVID-19 will be required to isolate at home as per CDC recommendations. Arrangements should be made for the student to return home within 24 hours of receiving the test result. A written petition for an exception to remain on campus must be submitted via e-mail to Lenoir-Rhyne University Dean of Students, Dr. Katie Fischer within 6 hours of notification of the positive test and/or COVID-19 related symptoms. Valid reasons for an exception would include international status, unsafe home environment, or lack of home to return. Additional time for travel distance will be considered.

- Time-based strategy
  - 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test.
  - NOTE: because symptoms cannot be used to gauge where these individuals are in the course of their illness, it is possible that the duration of viral shedding could be longer or shorter than 10 days.

OR

- Test-based strategy
  - Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized COVID-19 molecular assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected  $\geq 24$  hours apart.
  - NOTE: because of the absence of symptoms, it is not possible to gauge where these individuals are in the course of their illness.

AND

- Cleared by LRU Team Physician and to discontinue isolation

## Self-Isolation/ Self-Quarantine

Student-athletes required to self-isolate or self-quarantine will be asked to do so within their residence if applicable. Individuals in isolation/quarantine will be asked to monitor and document their symptoms and temperature 2 times per day. A member of the athletic training staff will perform a virtual check in on student-athletes daily. Cornerstone counseling services and disability services will be available as necessary.

- Self-Quarantine- Catawba Health Department Contact Tracers will make the decision on the following asymptomatic individuals, to decide if they will be required to self-quarantine:
  - Those living in the same household, being an intimate partner of, or providing care in a non-healthcare setting for a person with symptomatic laboratory confirmed COVID-19 infection with or without using recommended precautions for home care and home isolation; AND/OR
  - Individuals who have close contact (within 6ft for greater than 10 minutes) with a person with symptomatic laboratory confirmed positive Covid-19 test. (For persons previously diagnosed with symptomatic COVID-19 who remain asymptomatic after recovery, quarantine is not recommended in the event of close contact with an infected person.)
    - Individuals under self-quarantine should:
      - Stay separated from others and should not go to work, school, public places, or athletics facilities
      - Avoid using public transportation or ride shares
      - Minimize contact with others in your home whenever possible
      - Not share items with household members & thoroughly wash items after use
- Self-Isolation- Individuals must self-isolate if they:
  - Lab Confirmed COVID-19 positive
  - Not tested, but clinical suspicion (fever, mild respiratory illness, etc. without alternative diagnosis)
    - Individuals under self-isolation should:
      - Separate yourself from other household members by staying in a specific “sick” bedroom or space and using a different bathroom if possible
      - Not to go to work, school, public places, or athletics facilities
      - Avoid using public transportation, ride shares
      - Minimize contact with others in your home whenever possible
      - Not share items with household member & thoroughly wash items after use

All individuals in self-quarantine or self-isolation should:

- Only consider leaving home if you need medical attention, drive yourself if possible
- Continue to use good hand, cough, and sneeze hygiene
- Frequently clean high touch surfaces
- Make sure that your residence has good airflow, open windows if weather permits, or use the air conditioner

## Contact Tracing/Surveillance

- Athletics will follow Catawba County Health Department guidance related to contact tracing/surveillance
- Medical confidentiality, privacy, and sensitivity will be maintained. Contacts will only be told they have been exposed to a positive case, but the identity of that case will not be revealed.

## Sanitation

- Thorough cleaning/sanitization will take place in any facility visited by symptomatic or asymptomatic positive individuals within the past 48 hours.
- Symptomatic individuals, asymptomatic individuals that have tested positive for COVID-19, roommates and others will be strongly encouraged to thoroughly clean and sanitize their living areas with a CDC approved disinfectant.

## Return to Sport Recommendations

All COVID-19 positive or presumed positive student-athletes must be cleared by a LRU Team Physician prior to beginning a return-to-sport progression and ultimately being cleared to return-to-play. If symptoms or abnormal monitoring occurs during any portion of the return-to-sport progression, the current level of activity must be stopped immediately and the student-athlete should return to the previous asymptomatic level.

- COVID-19 Positive & Asymptomatic Individuals
  - Released from isolation using current guidelines
  - Exercise daily for one hour as tolerated while supervised
  - Normal lab results ( as decided on by LRU Team Physician)
  - Continued close monitoring for symptoms
    - If symptoms present, student-athlete will cease daily exercise
  - Slow resumption of activity as directed by the LRU Team Physician
  - Prior to training and/or competition, a minimum of a 3 day progression exercise protocol must be completed under the supervision of a staff athletic trainer
- COVID-19 Positive- Mild Symptoms/ Not Hospitalized
  - Released from isolation using current guidelines
  - Rest/ No exercise during the symptomatic period
  - Normal lab results (as decided on by LRU Team Physician)
  - Normal cardiac testing (as decided on by the LRU Team Physician)
  - Minimum of 2 weeks of recovery without exercise after symptom resolution
  - Slow resumption of activity as directed by LRU Team Physician

- Prior to training and/or competition, a minimum of a 3 day progression exercise protocol must be completed under the supervision of a staff athletic trainer
- COVID-19 Positive- Significant Symptoms/ Hospitalized
  - Discharged from hospital and released from isolation using current guidelines
  - Rest/ No exercise during the symptomatic period
  - Normal lab results ( as decided on by LRU Team Physician)
  - Normal cardiac testing ( as decided on by the LRU Team Physician)
  - Minimum of 2 weeks of recovery without exercise after symptom resolution
  - Slow resumption of activity as directed by LRU Team Physician
  - Prior to training and/or competition, a minimum of a 3 day progression exercise protocol must be completed under the supervision of a staff athletic trainer

## Resocialization of Athletics Recommendations

### COVID-19 Prevention:

#### 1. Equipment Disinfection/Sanitation

- All equipment used during practice/training (ladders, cones, shields, sled, dummies, balls, bats, etc.) should be cleaned at least in between drills and upon completion of practices, workouts, and individual skill sessions.
- While cleaning/sanitizing equipment, coaches will wear a mask and a clean pair of gloves.
  - Obtain cleaning solution and clean towels from the athletic training department.
  - Spray equipment with cleaning solution.
  - Allow the cleaning solution to sit for 2 minutes.
  - Wipe down equipment with a clean, unused towel.
  - Towel will be laundered after each use
- Once equipment is clean, a clean pair of gloves (not used in the cleaning process) will be used to put the equipment away.

#### 2. Laundry

- All student-athletes will be responsible for placing their practice/training clothing into the laundry bin.
- Laundry will be placed into the washer using a clean pair of gloves.
- Once the laundry bin is empty, it should be cleaned/sanitized using the instructions above.
- When moving laundry from washer to dryer, and removing laundry from dryer, a clean pair of gloves should be used each time.
- Athletics apparel should be washed and dried on highest heat possible as uniform material allows.

### 3. Athletics Facilities

- Any internal doors that can be, should be propped open to decrease touch areas.
- High touch areas will be sanitized frequently by housekeeping staff using CDC approved cleaners and guidelines.
- Student-athletes and staff are discouraged from gathering in groups in lobbies or hallways.
- Athletics facilities hours may be limited in order to properly control entrances and exits.

#### Safe Transition to Athletic Activity

##### Pre-Return to Weight Room for Summer Term

- After completing the COVID-19 Medical Screening and Medical Clearances with the Athletic Training Department, student-athletes will need to request to be assigned a scheduled workout time with the strength and conditioning staff with 48 hours advance notice. No walk-in requests are allowed.
- Lifting sessions will be conducted at 8:30am, 10am, and 3:30pm. If there is demand additional sessions can be added to accommodate.
- The strength and conditioning staff will utilize a google document for scheduling purposes. The athletic training staff will have access to this document to ensure all student-athletes have been medically cleared.
- Prior to any workout, a list of participants must be on file with compliance/ internal operations.

##### Weight Room Operations

- Student-athletes are expected to arrive no sooner than 20 minutes prior to their scheduled lift group (as assigned by a member of the strength and conditioning staff), student-athletes will not be permitted to wait in the lobby, and once lift time begins facility will be closed for entrance.
- Student-athletes will be required to wash or sanitize their hands prior to entering the weight room.
- Athletes are required to bring their own filled water bottle as water fountains will be offline, contactless refill will be available.
- Exercise pairings will be created to limit traffic or create one-way traffic flow based on entrance and exit.
- Student-athletes will be required to stay on their platform for the entire duration of their workout session, unless otherwise instructed by the sports performance coach
- Student-athletes should avoid exercises that require laying on or touching the floor.
- Core and body weight exercises should be performed outdoors as weather permits.
- Only current student-athletes (for the 2020-21 academic year), coaches, and staff members will be permitted to use the weight room.
- A member of the strength and conditioning staff will perform regular facility walkthroughs multiple times throughout the day.

##### Weight Room Facility and Equipment

- Student -athletes will be responsible for sanitizing their own workout station (bench, bar, weights, bands, etc.) before and after use with materials provided by the strength and conditioning staff.
- Strength and Conditioning Staff will complete a thorough cleaning and sanitization procedure following each group, including any machines that were used, door handles, floors, weights, kettlebells, plates, etc.
- Custodial Staff will also complete a twice daily “Deep Cleaning” of these areas.
- Groups will be staggered to allow for optimal drying times.

#### Athletic Training Room Operations

- All members of the athletic training staff will wear a mask and gloves in the evaluation/treatment of student-athletes.
- Warm whirlpool and cold whirlpool will not be available.
- Entrance and exit will be clearly marked to allow for a one-way flow of traffic
- Some services may be unavailable in order to reduce the risk of infection transmission.

#### Athletic Training Room Facility and Equipment

- All tables, countertops, rehabilitation equipment, etc. used in the evaluation, treatment or rehabilitation of a student-athlete will be sanitized according to CDC guidelines by a member of the athletic training staff after each use.
- Hot Pack covers and towels will be one-use and laundered after each use.
  - High-touch surfaces (door knobs, sink faucets, etc.) will be sanitized continuously throughout the hours of operation by a member of the athletic training staff.
- Athletic Training- Emergency Action Considerations
  - Follow current guidelines on administration of CPR
- Alternate Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities depending on capacity levels of EDs and strain placed on resources- monitored by Mary Fran.

#### Travel Plan for Athletics

Appropriate PPE will be required while traveling while participating in athletics.

#### Bus/Van travel

- All traveling must have met basic COVID screening criteria prior to boarding the bus (temperature scan of below 100.4, negative for all symptoms).
- Must have approved protective facemask.
- All traveling will be supplied with sanitation materials (hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes and will wipe down the area they will be sitting, may touch or come into contact with (armrests, head rest, tray table, etc.).
- Use of the bus restroom is discouraged, however if necessary appropriate hygiene should be followed:
  - Sanitation wipes of all objects touch prior to entering.
  - Appropriate hand washing
- Student-athletes will be assigned a seating location.

- No changing of seats, must occupy the same seat for the duration of the trip.
- No sharing of any personal items: food, drink, clothes, blankets, pillows, electronic devices, etc.
- Self-report any symptoms associated with COVID prior to boarding the bus: Cough, Shortness of breath, Headaches, Chills, Muscle Aches, Sore throat, New loss of taste or smell, Nausea, Vomiting or Diarrhea.

#### Air Travel

- Each airline has their own process of screening prior to entering into the ticketing area. Check-in will include a more thorough process so it is imperative you are on time and that you are familiar with the rules of the airline.
- A personal facemask is required
- All traveling will be supplied with sanitation materials (hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes and will wipe down the area where they will be sitting, or may touch or come into contact with (armrests, head rest, tray table, etc.).
- No sharing of any personal items: food, drink, clothes, blankets, pillows, electronic devices, etc.
- Self-report any COVID related symptoms prior to boarding the transportation to the airport.

#### Hotel Policy

- It is highly recommended that there is no more than 1 person per bed.
- Rooming assignments will require social distancing and each person is to wear personal facemask while in the hotel rooms and anywhere in the hotel.
- Use appropriate sanitizing and hygiene techniques prior to using and sharing restroom facilities.
- No additional visitors not assigned to the room are permitted.
- Student-athletes should not leave their room unless it is for a team activity scheduled by the coach.
- No sharing of any personal items: food, drink, clothes, blankets, pillows, electronic devices, etc.
- Laundry:
  - All student-athletes will be responsible for placing their practice/training clothing into the laundry bin.
  - Laundry will be placed into the washer using a clean pair of gloves.
  - Once the laundry bin is empty, it should be cleaned/sanitized using the instructions above.
  - When moving laundry from washer to dryer, and removing laundry from dryer, a clean pair of gloves should be used each time.
  - Laundry should be washed and dried on highest heat possible for the type of uniform being washed.
- Self-report any COVID related symptoms immediately to athletic trainer

#### Meal/Restaurants while Traveling

- All student-athletes and team staff will wash or sanitize hands before and after eating.
- Pre-ordering/curbside pick-up meals are the expectation

- If dining inside a restaurant is the ONLY option, tables and seats should be wiped down with appropriate sanitation products before sitting.

#### Visiting Locker Room

- There should be some assurance from the institution being visited that the proper and appropriate sanitation techniques and guidelines have been followed. If there is doubt, caution should be applied and may require alternate plans.
- Wear personal facemask at all times when in the locker room.
- Use appropriate sanitizing materials to clean the locker space or area you will be using.
- Do not share any personal clothing, towels, toiletries, etc.
- Use proper sanitation and hygiene techniques following visits to the restroom.
- Showering post-game is highly recommended. No sharing of any showering materials, towels, etc.
- When finished in the locker room exit immediately to the designated area prior to boarding the bus/van

#### COVID-19 Symptoms while Travelling

- All student-athletes and staff are responsible for self-reporting any COVID-19 related symptoms immediately to the athletic trainer.
- If an individual has COVID-19 related symptoms and/or temperature above 100.4 degrees, they should be isolated away from the rest of the group.
- When traveling, coaches should plan for a trail vehicle to travel along with buses/vans in the case an individual becomes symptomatic and needs to be transported back to campus.
- Special considerations taken for sports that do not have enough staff members to support a trail vehicle:
  - A staff member of another sport travels with team and drives trail vehicle ( a staff member from the team traveling will be responsible for transporting the symptomatic individual if the need arises)
  - A staff member on campus remains “on-call” for the duration of the trip, to provide assistance if an individual were to become symptomatic
- The symptomatic individuals may be required to travel separately from the rest of the official travel party, may be immediately sent home from the team trip, may be asked to shelter in place for a period of time, and/or other arrangements may be made to appropriately care for the ill individual and safeguard the health and welfare of the remaining individuals in the travel party. Under no circumstances will the student be left alone while on team travel.
  - In the event that another travel party member transports an individual with symptoms, both individuals in the vehicle should wear face masks for the duration of the trip.
- The transportation vehicle for the symptomatic individual should be sanitized immediately following approved sanitation techniques.

#### Contingency Plan

At this time, the primary focus for Lenoir-Rhyne University Athletics is to safely and efficiently bring student-athletes and staff back to campus in a gradual progression, working toward in-person instruction in the fall and playing fall sports as scheduled. LRU athletics will work with game operations and all appropriate stakeholders to maximize the game day experience for fans and competitors alike. However, should a recurrence/resurgence of COVID-19 cases occur, the athletic department will follow guidelines and directives issued by the University, NCAA, SAC, and local/state/federal governmental

agencies. The health, safety, and welfare of our student-athletes, staff, and fans is and will always be our highest priority.

#### Considerations for Discontinuation of Athletics

- Lack of ability to isolate new positive cases or to quarantine high contact risk cases on campus.
- Unavailability or inability to perform symptomatic, surveillance or pre-competition testing when warranted.
- Campus wide or local community test rates that are considered unsafe by local public health officials.
- Inability to perform adequate contact tracing consistent with governmental requirements and recommendations.
- Local public health officials stating that there is an inability for the hospital infrastructure to accommodate a surge in COVID-19 related hospitalizations.

#### Resources:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

[https://www.nata.org/sites/default/files/icsm\\_return\\_to\\_campus\\_packet\\_covid19.pdf](https://www.nata.org/sites/default/files/icsm_return_to_campus_packet_covid19.pdf)

<http://www.ncaa.org/sport-science-institute/core-principles-resocialization-collegiate-sport>

[https://www.acha.org/documents/resources/guidelines/ACHA\\_Considerations\\_for\\_Reopening\\_IHEs\\_in\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_Era\\_May2020.pdf](https://www.acha.org/documents/resources/guidelines/ACHA_Considerations_for_Reopening_IHEs_in_the_COVID-19_Era_May2020.pdf)

### FAQ COVID-19 for Student Athletes

#### Pre-Return to Campus

##### **What do I need to do to get medically cleared by athletic training before returning to campus?**

Complete all ARMS forms including the COVID Medical Screening Questionnaire.

New athletes complete health packet, including sickle cell testing and physical dated on or after March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Reach out to your athletic trainer to schedule your medical clearance and pre-participation testing.

Present a negative COVID-19 nasopharyngeal PCR test result completed no more than 7-8 days prior to returning to campus

##### **Is there anything else I should do before I come back to campus?**

Lenoir-Rhyne athletics is asking that all student-athletes self-isolate for a minimum of 7 days before returning to campus to limit possible exposure. During this time period, student-athletes are encouraged to:

- Limit contact with those outside your family unit
- Avoid public transportation or ride shares
- Avoid public spaces where social distancing is not followed
- Stay separated from others and should not go to work, school, public places, athletics facilities or private events
- Don't share items with household members & thoroughly wash items after use

##### **Will I need to get a COVID test before coming back to campus?**

Yes, all student-athletes are required to submit test results from a COVID-19 nasopharyngeal PCR test that was completed no more than 7-8 days prior to returning to campus. This test must be done by a clinical professional and not with a test at home kit. Student-athletes are asked to submit their test results via email to their sport athletic trainer upon receipt. If for any reason you are unable to receive a nasopharyngeal PCR test, contact your athletic trainer. Bloodwork/serologic is not an acceptable replacement for PCR testing.

##### **What do I do if I get a positive test result before coming back to campus?**

Positive test results will follow isolation and return to sport guidelines outlined in the Lenoir-Rhyne University Athletics Resocialization of Sport document in conjunction with Catawba County Health Department. This will require you to remain at home for 10-14 days from test date. Contact your athletic trainer for additional guidance.

#### Return to Campus

**What do I need to do to get medically cleared in order to participate in athletic activity once I arrive on campus?**

- Before participating in athletics, all student-athletes will be tested for COVID-19 via nasopharyngeal PCR testing. Once the test has been administered, student-athletes will be asked to self-quarantine while awaiting the results. If you test positive, you will be asked to follow the isolation and return to sport guidelines outlined in the Lenoir-Rhyne University Athletics Resocialization of Sport document in conjunction with Catawba County Health Department.
- Medical Clearance for participation in athletics will involve a standard review of all ARMS medical forms, student health record, and include an interview with the athletic training staff.

### **What is the timeline for testing and self-quarantine once I arrive on campus or to off campus housing?**

- Student-athletes who are able to provide a negative COVID-19 test result that was completed no more than 7-8 days prior to returning to campus will be tested again one day 1 of return to campus / Hickory area.
- Student-athletes who are unable to provide a negative COVID-19 test result will be tested once they have completed 96 hours of quarantine in their campus or off campus residence.
- All student-athletes will be asked to continue to quarantine until they receive their results.

### **What will be expected of me while I self-quarantine?**

- Self-quarantine in your current location (on campus or off campus housing) and do not travel. Do not go to work or school or leave location for any reason.
- Maintain social distancing and abide by other mitigation principles (use of facial coverings; good hand, cough, and sneeze hygiene practices; etc.)
- Minimize contact with others in your home whenever possible.
- Meals will be delivered (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) for student-athletes residing on campus.
- Laundry will be coordinated with coaching staff.
- Daily exercise while social distancing with supervision will be offered 1 hour per day as coordinated by coaching staff.

### **What precautions are being taken within athletics for my safety?**

- While on campus all student-athletes and athletics staff are expected to comply with federal, state, local, university and CDC guidelines regarding reducing the transmission of COVID-19.
- Wear a face mask at all times on campus and during athletic participation unless directed otherwise by an athletic trainer or coach.
- Comply with social distancing guidelines (6ft between individuals)
- Wash/sanitize hands often
- Avoid high touch surfaces
- Avoid touching your face
- Cover your cough or sneeze, then wash your hands
- Clean and disinfect surfaces daily (light switches, phones, keyboards, desks, pens)
- If at any time, symptoms arise, report to the proper university personnel and immediately leave campus and return to your residence. Communication with the Cornerstone staff will lead to a telehealth appointment.

- All student-athletes and athletics staff members will receive COVID-19 education on knowing the signs and symptoms, personal hygiene, and infection control.
- High traffic areas such as locker rooms and bathrooms will be cleaned frequently and internal doors will be propped open as able to decrease touch areas.
- Shared equipment such as weights, balls, cones, dummies, benches, etc. will be sanitized following CDC approved guidelines before and after use.
- Weight room benches, equipment and floors are cleaned thoroughly between lifting groups.
- All student-athletes and staff are required to receive clearance from daily well check to enter athletics facilities or participate in any athletics activity.

**What happens if I feel like I am getting sick?**

If symptomatic, isolate yourself from others.

- Contact your sport athletic trainer with your symptoms and duration of onset via phone call, text, FaceTime, skype etc. DO NOT report to the athletic training room.
- Athletic trainer will assist in setting up a telehealth appointment with Cornerstone.
- Additional appointment/follow-up to be decided by Cornerstone.

**What happens if my roommate feels like they are getting sick?**

- If you are aware that your roommate is feeling ill, please make sure that he/she contacts Cornerstone immediately and they will provide further instructions and then you notify your athletic trainer.

**What happens if my teammate feels like they are getting sick?**

- If you are aware that your teammate is feeling ill, please make sure that he/she contacts the Student Health Center immediately and they will provide further instructions. Following that, you also make sure that your athletic trainer is aware.

**What happens if a student-athlete is diagnosed with COVID-19?**

- The student-athlete would be required to comply with federal, state, local, and university protocols including guidelines on isolation and contact tracing. The head athletic trainer or designee will be in contact with student-athlete and parents to determine next steps based on campus policy.

**What happens if my teammate is diagnosed with COVID-19?**

- The Catawba County NC health department will be notified and contact tracing would be activated and we would follow their protocols to determine if self-quarantine of any teammates need to occur.

**If I am diagnosed with COVID-19, will I be able to remain on campus or will I have to go home?**

- Students will be required to go home if diagnosed with COVID-19 unless there are extenuating circumstances. If a student-athlete cannot return home due to extenuating circumstances (housing insecurities, international student, etc.) they may file an appeal with the Dean of Students.
- COVID-19 (+) individuals will be required to isolate at home per current CDC guidelines until released by the Catawba County Health Department and cleared by a LRU team physician.

### **Safe Return to Athletics**

#### **What are the precautions that are taking place regarding practices?**

- All student-athletes and staff are required to receive clearance from daily well check to enter athletics facilities or participate in any athletics activity. The check-in process will be communicated to student-athletes when they return to campus.
- Student-athletes are encouraged to practice social distancing as able.
- All equipment will be sanitized following practice or before being used by another athlete following a set protocol.
- Use of locker rooms and showers will be staggered to allow for social distancing.
- Student-athletes will not share water bottles, they will be asked to provide their own water bottles or another method for hydration will be outlined (dictated by sport).
- Practice and game uniforms (including pinnies) will be laundered after each use, following sanitation guidelines.
- Meetings/Gatherings will be limited based on the number allowed in state and local guidelines.
- Masks will be worn during practice and all other athletic activities. Masks may be removed when determined by the athletic trainer to be unsafe due to high exertion athletic activity, full contact, or when activities are at game speed.

#### **How and when will daily well checks take place?**

- All student-athletes and staff must be screened before entering any athletics facility or taking part in anything athletics activity.
- All individuals will answer questions regarding symptoms and contact as well as have their temperature taken.
- Any individual with symptoms, a fever above 100.4 or anyone who has had close contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 14 will not be cleared to enter the athletics facility.
- The check-in process will be communicated to student-athletes when they return to campus.

#### **Will my friends and family be able to attend games and watch me play?**

- Spectators at games will be determined in accordance with state restrictions that specify how many people are allowed to attend events. In addition, there will be limited attendance to accommodate social distancing standards in accordance with CDC guidelines.
- The athletic department will prioritize students, parents, and Bears Club members in consideration of limited seating availability.
- The athletic department will also offer free web streaming with a number of enhancements to the overall production to ensure any fans who are unable to attend can watch the games.

## **How will you ensure safety with the volume of usage of the weight room and athletic training room?**

### **Weight Room/ Strength and Conditioning:**

- Student-athletes are expected to arrive and be screened no sooner than 20 minutes prior to their scheduled lift group (as assigned by a member of the strength and conditioning staff), student-athletes will not be permitted to wait in the lobby, once lift time begins facility will be closed for entrance.
- Student-athletes will be required to wash or sanitize their hands prior to entering the weight room.
- Athletes are required to bring their own filled water bottle as water fountains will be offline, contactless refill will be available.
- Exercise pairings will be created to limit traffic or create one-way traffic flow based on entrance and exit.
- Student-athletes will be required to stay on their platform for the entire duration of their workout session, unless otherwise instructed by the sports performance coach
- Student-athletes should avoid exercises that require laying on or touching the floor.
- Core and body weight exercises should be performed outdoors as weather permits.
- Only current student-athletes (for the 2020-21 academic year), coaches, and staff members will be permitted to use the weight room.
- A member of the strength and conditioning staff will perform regular facility walkthroughs multiple times throughout the day.
- Student -athletes will be responsible for sanitizing their own workout station (bench, bar, weights, bands, etc.) before and after use with materials provided by the strength and conditioning staff.
- Strength and conditioning staff will complete a thorough cleaning and sanitization procedure following each group, including any machines that were used, door handles, floors, weights, kettlebells, plates, etc.
- Custodial Staff will also complete a twice daily “deep cleaning” of these areas.
- Groups will be staggered to allow for optimal drying times.

### **Athletic Training Room**

- All members of the athletic training staff will wear a mask and gloves in the evaluation/treatment of student-athletes.
- Warm whirlpool and cold whirlpool will not be available.
- Entrance and exit will be clearly marked to allow for a one-way flow of traffic.
- Some services may be unavailable in order to reduce the risk of infection transmission.
- All tables, countertops, rehabilitation equipment, etc. used in the evaluation, treatment or rehabilitation of a student-athlete will be sanitized according to CDC guidelines by a member of the athletic training staff after each use.
- Hot pack covers and towels will be one-use and laundered after each use.
  - High-touch surfaces (door knobs, sink faucets, etc.) will be sanitized continuously throughout the hours of operation by a member of the athletic training staff.

### **What if I am not comfortable participating in my sport due to concerns for contracting COVID?**

- If at any time you feel unsafe and or unable to carry out your responsibilities to participate under the NCAA/LRU Resocialization of Sport procedures, please contact Michael Flicker, Head Athletic Trainer to schedule an appointment to discuss your concerns.

Current athletic scholarship agreement (if applicable) will not be cancelled or reduced if you decide not to participate during the 2020-21 academic year; however you will be expected to continue to participate in virtual team meetings, academic checks, fulfill study hall hours, and remain in good standing with the team by upholding all sport, department, and LR student rules and standards, You will also be assigned an alternate role with the team or athletic department that allows for social distancing.

### **Surveillance & Symptomatic Testing**

#### **Will my team be tested after the initial pre-participation screening?**

- We will test based on the South Atlantic Conference and NCAA protocols which will include the following depending on the contact risk level of the sport:
  - Diagnostic testing of all student-athletes upon arrival to campus
  - In-Season: biweekly surveillance PCR testing of a percentage of the roster for medium risk level sports if physical distancing, masking and other protective features are not maintained,
  - In season: weekly PCR testing of all high risk level sports
  - Out-of-Season: surveillance PCR testing of a percentage of the roster for high risk level sports

### **Travel**

#### **How will COVID-19 affect how we travel to competitions?**

- The entire travel party will undergo COVID-19 screening before departure
- COVID-19 testing may be required – based on sport in accordance with NCAA guidelines.
- All individuals must wear a facemask at all times while traveling
- All individuals will be asked to wipe down the area they will be sitting or may come into contact with before departure
- Student-athletes will be assigned a seating location and asked to remain in the same seat for the duration of the trip
- Student-athletes are asked not to share any personal items including food, drink, clothes, blankets, pillow, electronic devices, etc.
- When staying overnight in a hotel, it is highly recommended that there is no more than 1 person per bed.
- While traveling, meals will be pre-ordered for pick-up or delivery.

## **International Student-Athletes**

### **What if I cannot arrive by the start of fall classes due to challenges with my international visa or inability to book an international flight?**

- For those who have scheduled an embassy appointment and flight to arrive no later than the month of September, will be allowed to enroll but will need to work with their faculty members to develop a temporary distance learning plan.
- For those who are unable to arrive by the end of September will need to delay enrollment until the spring 2021 semester.

### **What would happen if the University were to transition to fully online scheduling? Could International students remain on campus until the end of the semester, or would they be asked to leave?**

- International students would be encouraged to return home if they are able to, but would be eligible to request a waiver to remain on campus if they are not able to return home.

### **When will a final decision be made on whether we start the fall season on delayed schedule or suspend for a competitive spring?**

- The SAC announced the decision to postpone the start of fall sport competitions to September 26, 2020 on 7/24/2020. See full press release here: <https://www.thesac.com/general/2020-21/releases/20200724h48aaj>

### **Will the cafeteria and housing be open for those Internationals who have already booked flights for early August? Who will cover those expenses?**

- Housing and the cafeteria will be open. Costs will be covered by LR.

### **How do we provide our COVID-19 test results before traveling to the US?**

- Scan and e-mail your test results to your athletic trainer once you receive them. If you do not have access to a scanner you may e-mail a photo.

### **How will diagnostic testing be handled once I arrive at LR and will I be financially responsible?**

- Testing will occur on campus in accordance with the return to campus testing protocol. Cost for testing will be covered by the student's international insurance plan and LRU.

### **Where will we be quarantining once we arrive on campus?**

- If you will be residing off campus for the fall, we ask that you quarantine in your off campus residence.
- For those residing on campus for the fall, final decision on quarantine space will be dictated by arrival date.

**If I am quarantining off campus, am I allowed to go outside for exercise.**

- We are encouraging 1 hour of socially distant outside time per day to be coordinated and supervised by the sport coaching staff.

**I see how bad COVID-19 is in the US, is it safe to come back?**

- Lenoir-Rhyne University as well as the athletics department are keeping up-to-date on all CDC and state guidelines in order to create the safest environment possible. We are taking precautions across campus and will continue to monitor the situation, making adjustments as needed.

**Will American student-athletes have to quarantine?**

- All student-athletes will follow the established quarantine protocol as outlined in the Student-Athlete Return to Campus policy which requires a longer quarantine period for those who travel by mass transit as well as for those who are unable to provide a negative COVID-19 test prior to arrival.

**How long do I have to quarantine?**

- All student-athletes will be required to quarantine until the individual test results come back. We are anticipating 48-72 hours.

**Will quarantine affect my planned start of studies?**

- All student-athletes will be encouraged to arrive on campus by the established move in date for each team which will be developed by the week of July 27<sup>th</sup>.
- If you are unable to arrange a flight to arrive in time for your established team report date, quarantine may extend past the first scheduled day of classes. In this situation, faculty will work with you to develop a short term distance learning plan until you are able to attend class in person.

**How will I get to campus once I arrive in Charlotte?**

- We are recommending that everyone take the “Hickory Hop” shuttle service from the Charlotte airport to campus in order to limit the risk of infection to teammates or coaches. Please request this information from your head coach if you want to explore this option.

## COVID Testing for Faculty and Staff

August 11, 2020

Good morning.

Upon the recommendation of the COVID-19 Presidential Task Force and state and local health experts, **Lenoir-Rhyne University is requiring all faculty, staff and students to present a documented negative COVID-19 test<sup>1</sup> result prior to returning to campus for the 2020 Fall Semester.** The following information reflected updated guidelines for testing will be part of the “Protecting our Den,” LR’s Safe Return to Campus document. Please see the links at the bottom of this letter for testing locations in your area.

For faculty and staff, your test administration should be completed in time for you to receive your test results prior our returning to campus. Return to campus is defined as the date of your first class meeting with students or the first day you expect to return to campus for face to face interactions with other individuals. The return to campus date could be different for each individual. While the availability of testing<sup>2</sup> should not be an issue as long as you review the testing sited options and dates in your area. It is important to allow enough time to receive your test results before your return to campus date. This could take as little as 2-3 days or as long as 7-8 days. **In summary, you may test as early as 10 days before returning to campus as long your documented test results are received and reported to HR before your campus arrival. Faculty and staff will need to submit their document to the following email: [facultystaffcovidtest@lr.edu](mailto:facultystaffcovidtest@lr.edu).**

Please be careful to limit your chance of exposure to COVID-19 after your test administration. .Anyone who receives a positive COVID-19 test result, whether with or without symptoms, is required to remain at home in isolation according to the most current CDC guidelines before returning to campus.

Faculty and staff who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 and have completed the appropriate isolation period do not to take another COVID test. All you need to do is provide documentation from your healthcare provider the date you have completed your isolation after a positive COVID-19 test and you are good to go. Any faculty teaching 100% online will not be required to submit a negative COVID-19 test unless you plan to have face to face interactions with your colleagues.

Testing is available at the Catawba County (NC) Health Department on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 am-1pm, and you are encourage to arrive early on these days. We have also confirmed they will provide on campus testing on Wednesday August 19 from 9-11 AM in Shuford Gym. Rivercrest Plus Urgent Care is open daily for drive through testing and you do not have to have symptoms. They are located as part of Caldwell UNC in Granite Falls near the Walmart across the river off 321. The Catawba Valley Medical Center is also providing a drive through COVID-19 testing site at the hospital parking lot. This is for those individuals who are currently patients of health providers in the Catawba Valley Medical Group system. CVS Pharmacy is now offering testing at many of their locations.

There are many other test sites in the area, both near all campus locations in NC and SC. These are noted the footnote below. Arriving early to all testing sites is strongly encouraged and it is advised that you bring your insurance card and photo ID, as well as this letter for documentation of this requirement.

I hope this communication will answer many of the questions around this requirement.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Thanks,

Fred Whitt, President

<sup>1</sup>The preferred accepted COVID-19 tests for safe return to LR are the PCR tests and include the nasopharyngeal PCR test or the Nasal Swab PCR test. Both are acceptable and many in the area are doing the Nasal Swab PCR test which is much more pleasant. Please note the following links for test locations and scheduling.

<sup>2</sup>North and South Carolina testing locations are listed on the following links:

North Carolina options may be found by going to:

<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/about-covid-19/testing/find-my-testing-place>

South Carolina locations please go to: <https://www.scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-screening-testing-sites>

Please know that CVS Pharmacy is now offering COVID-19 testing at many of their sites within their minute clinics. In Hickory, they are doing this at the one located on 321 heading north out of town. See their link for other sites near your home location at <https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing>

Our Catawba County Health Director has indicated higher education campuses are consider “high risk” and this is the appropriate answer on CVS websites to their question. This does not mean our classrooms are high risk, but all residential campuses are coded as high risk.

## COVID Testing for Students

August 11 2020

Good morning.

We are nearing the beginning of classes at LR and looking forward to your safe return to campus!

Our Presidential Task Force for COVID-19 (PTF) has been meeting since you departed campus in March to ensure we can have a safe return to campus for Fall 2020. Olivia Thorn, your SGA president, is a member of the PTF and she has been a valuable member providing the students' perspective.

After updating and discussing our recommendations with local health experts, the PTF recommended Thursday that we implement a COVID-19 testing protocol for all students, faculty and staff. **As a result, Lenoir-Rhyne University is requiring all faculty, staff and students to present a documented negative COVID-19 test<sup>1</sup> result prior to returning to campus for the 2020 Fall Semester.** Your documented test results are to be submitted to: [studentcovidtest@my.lr.edu](mailto:studentcovidtest@my.lr.edu).

The following information reflects updated guidelines for testing that will be part of the updated "Protecting our Den," LR's Safe Return to Campus document. Please see the links in the footnotes at the bottom of this letter for testing locations in your area and let us know immediately if you have any questions.

### **Residential and Commuter Students**

All students are required to submit a documented negative COVID test<sup>1</sup> prior to returning to campus. For residential students, your test administration should be completed in time for you to receive your test results prior to your arrival to campus on your scheduled move in day. Commuter students should schedule their test administration in time so have your test results prior to the beginning of your first day of face to face classes. It is important to schedule your test to allow enough time to receive your test results before your return to campus date. This could take as little as 2-3 days or as long as 7-8 days after testing. **In summary, you may test as early as 10 days before returning to campus as long your documented test results are received and reported to [studentcovidtest@my.lr.edu](mailto:studentcovidtest@my.lr.edu) before your campus arrival.**

### **Residential Students Arriving by Mass Transit**

Your testing protocol is somewhat different. You will be required to be tested 96 hours after your arrival to campus and you may be quarantined until a negative test result is received.

### **Student Athletes**

Student athletes have campus arrival testing guidelines and these are scheduled and communicated from the athletic department. Student athlete testing follows the NCAA guidelines and these testing protocols more than meet the LR requirements.

### **Online Students**

Student who are in programs or all of their courses are completely online are not required to be tested as per the LR requirement. However, those who may be in laboratory, clinical or practicum experiences, etc., may have testing requirements at those locations.

## **Student who Have Previously Tested COVID-19 Positive**

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 and have completed their isolation period do not need to have another COVID-19 test. You simply need to submit the documentation from your health care provider indicating that you have completed the appropriate isolation after testing positive and you are good to go.

**All students should be careful to limit your chance of exposure to COVID-19 after your test administration by quarantining around your home and family as much as possible between your date of test and your arrival to campus. Anyone receiving a positive COVID-19 test result, whether with or without symptoms, is required to remain at home in isolation according to the CDC guidelines before returning to campus.**

Testing sites<sup>2</sup> are widely available in NC and SC and should be in many areas throughout the southeast. Many of these testing sites are free or do a direct charge to your insurance. We have noted testing site locations web sites at the bottom of this email but please know there are many others. For example, CVS Drug stores are now providing test administration at several of their locations at their clinics. **You may want to bring a copy of this letter for documentation of this requirement.**

Local testing close to the LR Hickory campus is available at the Catawba County (NC) Health Department on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 am-1pm, and you are encouraged to arrive early on these days. CVS Pharmacy on 321 in Hickory is also providing testing at their site. The Catawba Valley Medical Center is also providing a drive through COVID-19 testing site at the hospital parking lot. This is for those individuals who are currently patients of health providers in the Catawba Valley Medical Group system.

As mentioned earlier, there are many other test sites in the area, several near all campus locations in NC and SC. You can access the maps for your location at the web site listed in the footnotes below. Arriving early to all testing sites is strongly encouraged and it is advised that you bring your insurance card and photo ID, but several offer this free of charge. I hope this communication will answer many of the questions around this requirement.

I hope this communication will answer many of the questions around this requirement.

We can't wait to have you back on our campus!

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Thanks,

Fred Whitt, President

<sup>1</sup>The accepted COVID-19 tests for a safe return to LR are the PCR tests, either the **nasopharyngeal PCR test or the nasal swab PCR test**. Please note the following links for test locations and scheduling.

<sup>2</sup>Testing locations are listed on the following links:

North Carolina options may be found by going to:

<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/about-covid-19/testing/find-my-testing-place>

South Carolina locations please go to: <https://www.scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-screening-testing-sites>

Georgia locations: <https://dph.georgia.gov/covidtesting>

CVS Pharmacies: <https://cvshealth.com/covid-19/testing-locations>

Rivercrest Plus Urgent Care (Caldwell UNC Health) near Walmart off 321 across the river in Granite Falls is open for drive through testing and will take LR students and faculty.