**COVID-19 Protocol, Spring 2023**

In spring 2023, Southern Miss is operating under normal procedures on all campuses, teaching, and research sites. Face masks are no longer required in public spaces unless you have COVID-19 symptoms, a positive COVID-19 test, or close contact exposure to someone with COVID-19.  You may choose to wear a mask at any time, based on your personal health circumstances, and healthcare settings may require face masks during times of high community transmission. The CDC recommendation for mask use is fluid, depending on the level of community transmission and a person’s risk for serious illness.  Please refer to our [COVID health protocols site](https://www.usm.edu/student-health-services/covid-19-health-protocols.php) for the most up-to-date information.

All eligible students, faculty, and staff are strongly urged to get a [COVID-19 vaccination](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/your-vaccination.html) and all applicable [boosters](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html), which are now widely available:

* [Schedule an Appointment – Hattiesburg Campus](https://www.usm.edu/student-health-services/covid-19_vaccination_updates.php#scheduling)
* [Schedule an Appointment – Gulf Park Campus](https://www.usm.edu/gulf-park-health-center/index.php)
* [Schedule an Appointment in Your Current Area](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.vaccines.gov%2F&data=05%7C01%7CAmy.Chasteen%40usm.edu%7Cc9e4f602c54b4e37f8aa08da3998fe5e%7C7f3da4be2722432ebfa764080d1eb1dc%7C0%7C0%7C637885626651270296%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=c3VJ8tRHOzcqiN9YZl7yxtvMe5wzSSMdrkAOkSHqVAU%3D&reserved=0)

For everyone in the Southern Miss community, staying physically and mentally healthy is important. [Moffitt Health Center](https://www.usm.edu/student-health-services/services-we-offer.php) provides health care services through online resources and appointments with care providers. Students who become ill with fever or other symptoms should contact Moffitt for information or to see a care provider. If a student is required to isolate during the semester due to a diagnosed illness, we ask that faculty give that student consideration for make-up work.

In addition to physical health care, students may also access a variety of [resources](https://www.usm.edu/student-help/mental-emotional-help.php) to support mental well-being, from online resources to in-person counseling for students through [Student Counseling Services](https://www.usm.edu/student-counseling-services/stress-and-sadness.php). If you have concerns about your well-being, please contact one of these resources for support.