



Buff Alert Emergency Notification: COVID-19 Resources and Protocols for Fall 2020 semester

August 24, 2020 – 08:30 a.m.

We are sending you this Buff Alert Emergency Notification as a requirement of the U.S. Department of Education Clery Act, which guides what health and safety information universities share with their campuses.

As you return to campus, we want to remind you that COVID-19 is still present in the WTAMU community and surrounding area, and to convey that we all must take steps to slow the spread of the disease. This message intends to share information about WTAMU COVID-19 resources and protocols for the fall semester. The [COVID-19 Return to Campus Guide for Employees](#) and the [COVID-19 Return to Campus Guide for Students](#) and other COVID-19 related information can be found on the [WTAMU COVID-19 Information](#) website.

WT's plans are consistent with guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the State of Texas, and The Texas A&M University System (TAMUS), Randall and Potter counties, the cities of Amarillo and Canyon and the Bi-County Health Department.

Doing Your Part

Facemasks/coverings are required to be worn by everyone on campus in all indoor public areas (excluding private offices and private residential spaces) and in all outdoor spaces where six feet or more of physical distancing is challenging to maintain reliably.

Definition of a facemask/covering: According to CDC guidance and West Texas A&M University, for the purpose of the COVID-19 pandemic. An effective cloth facemask/covering will:

- Include multiple layers of tightly woven fabric.
- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face.
- Cover the nose and mouth.
- Be secured with ties, ear loops, or wrap around the head (such as gaiter style masks).
- Allow for breathing without restriction.
- Be able to be laundered and machine-dried without damage or change to shape.

The following would not be appropriate for cloth facemasks/coverings:

- Fabric that you can see through.
- Hosiery, gauze, hand knit/crochet, and other loosely woven materials.
- Holding a towel, t-shirt, or other non-secured item over your face.

- Face shields as are intended for eye protection. Face shields may be worn by faculty members in explicit-learning spaces. A face shield should be changed to a facemask/covering when coming within six feet of others or worn in addition to a facemask/covering.

Any facemask/covering with an exhalation valve does not meet the standards of this policy as they allow particles to exhaust from the wearer. Disposable filtering face piece respirators, such as KN95 and N95s are appropriate for those who are part of a respiratory protection program through their workplace. FDA-approved surgical masks may also be used as a facemask/covering.

- Students should not go to class on campus if symptoms begin or are sick.
- Employees should stay home if symptoms begin or are sick.
- Maintain social distancing guidelines.
- Wash hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and then throw it away. Wash your hands afterward.
- Disinfect all high-touch areas in your work or living area regularly.

Positive Tests or Symptoms

If you experience symptoms of or test positive for COVID-19, refer to the [Employee Guide for COVID-19 Positive Tests and Symptoms](#) or the [Student Guide for COVID-19 Positive Tests and Symptoms](#).

Communication

The University is maintaining a WTAMU COVID-19 Cases [dashboard](#) that will be updated weekly with metrics like the number of new positive cases for employees, students, and 100% online students with a cumulative total for employees and students.

As a reminder, the University will not communicate broadly about individual positive cases, consistent with the Texas Department of State Health Services and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, as well as other privacy considerations. Individuals who have been potentially exposed to positive cases will be notified through the University's contact tracing procedures, making broad communications unnecessary. The University will determine the release of non-identifying communications about the clusters of positive results based on approved guidelines.

To report COVID-19 cases among WT students, faculty, or staff, potential exposure, or inquire about issues related to COVID-19 on WT's campus, please send an email to COVID19@wtamu.edu.

Health and Wellness

Each employee and student should continue to self-monitor daily and **must not report to work or class** if they have a fever or display any of the [COVID-19 symptoms](#)

STOP!

BY ENTERING THIS FACILITY YOU ARE CERTIFYING THAT YOU:

- Are not COVID-19 positive
- Do not have COVID-19 symptoms
- Have not been around anyone known to be COVID-19 positive in the last 14 days
- Have not traveled in the last 14 days through an area requiring quarantine upon your return, and
- Will adhere to University-recommended social distancing protocols to:
 - Maintain 6 feet distance
 - Wear a facemask or face covering
 - Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds
 - Cover coughs and sneezes

PLEASE DO NOT ENTER
if you have had any of the signs, symptoms
or potential exposure to COVID-19.

West Texas A&M University is committed to responding to the COVID-19 pandemic with safety and the well-being of all employees, students, and visitors as a top priority. The primary goal of WTAMU's response is to protect the health of our employees and students while continuing the University mission of higher education and research from the Panhandle to the World, and beyond.
