

COVID-19 Information for Polk State College

Polk State College is committed to the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff. Members of the College community have a shared responsibility to keep themselves and others healthy and safe.

Before coming to campus each day:

- **Each student must self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance regarding COVID-19 symptoms can be found at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.
- **A student who is experiencing illness or symptoms of COVID-19 should not come to campus.** The student must notify the professor by email within one business day of the absence and should notify a healthcare provider if symptoms worsen. If a student is **not feeling well, it may be possible to attend class that day online or make other arrangements** based on the specifics of the course, as per the professor.

When students are on campus, they are required to wear cloth face coverings, practice social distancing, and wash or sanitize hands frequently.

- **Students are required to provide and wear their own cloth face coverings or masks.** The face covering or mask **must remain properly positioned over the nose and mouth** while indoors and outside except when eating, drinking, or when alone in an unpopulated area. (***Note:** In some lecture halls where there is adequate space between students and instructors, an instructor may remove his or her face covering for the purpose of facilitating the lecture.*)
- **Students must practice social distancing while on campus,** keeping **at least six feet** of separation between themselves and others when at all possible and avoiding crowded hallways, stairwells, and other enclosed spaces. Signage reminding individuals about the importance of social distancing is posted throughout the College--this should be observed and followed.
- **Onsite classes will have designated seating and limits on the number of students who may attend class.** The class may also be live-streamed. The professor will provide details related to these restrictions.
- **Students are advised to wash their hands often or use hand sanitizer** when soap and water are not readily available. The College has hand sanitizing stations throughout campus.
- **Students are discouraged from sharing items.** Personal items such as pens, books, and electronic devices are difficult to disinfect and should not be shared.

In the interest of maintaining health and safety, instructors have the right to ask any student who fails to comply with these requirements to leave class. In the event that a student refuses to comply, per Polk State College Rule 4.01: Code of Student Conduct for Students and Student Organizations, the instructor has the right to refer the non-compliant student to a Campus Dean of Student Services for disciplinary action and to cancel class for the day.

If a student begins to feel ill or experiences symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, or a higher than normal temperature while on campus, he or she should immediately go home, notify the instructor, and call a healthcare provider if symptoms worsen.

Guidance about how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is available through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus). Additionally, *Be the Solution: Polk State College's Return to Campus Plan* is available online and provides information about the College's response to the public health crisis (www.polk.edu/campus-safety-security/covid-19).

Students are encouraged to direct questions to their professors or the campus deans. The Winter Haven Campus Dean of Student Services, Dr. Pakowski, may be reached by phone at 863.292.3740 or lpakowski@polk.edu. The Lakeland Campus Dean of Student Services, Mr. Little, may be reached at 863.669.2813 or slittle@polk.edu.