Masks & Vaccines FAQs*

1. Can we ask students about their vaccination status? No.

2. How many feet of social distancing can I enforce in the classroom? Am I allowed to tell students nobody can get within 6 feet of me, or three? Yes, but equitably, the same standard should be applied to everyone in the room (i.e., don’t have a six foot from you, but then have students sitting one foot away from one another).

3. If a faculty member tests positive, can they change the class to online or do we hire a substitute? This is a decision the Dean and Faculty Member can make together insofar as the change is short-term.

4. Can faculty offer incentives to wear masks that aren’t monetary, aren’t grade related, or exhibit coercion? Generally, no. There may, however, be some circumstances where such incentives could be acceptable. It would be a case-by-case determination.

5. Can faculty keep their classroom doors open to help filter air throughout the classroom? Yes, they can keep doors open.

6. If there are labs that can’t maintain 3ft distancing at all times and we can’t require masks, what should faculty do in this instance? Faculty should coordinate with their college leadership—Dean, VPI, or president—to address these concerns.

7. What happens if a student in the class tests positive for COVID? Do we all (faculty and students) still quarantine for 10 days and put the class online? The College is no longer quarantining classes in this manner.

8. Can faculty have those who chose not to wear a mask sit in one area of the class under the guise of a seating chart? We do not recommend this.

9. Can faculty ask those students who exhibit symptoms of COVID (or even a cold) to leave? We do not recommend this.

10. Are there plans to deep clean classrooms? The College is no longer deep cleaning any of its buildings. Regular cleaning schedules, however, have resumed.

11. Will masks be available to anyone who wants one, not just in the classrooms but around the buildings? Yes. You should talk to your college leadership, and PPE is plentiful.

12. If an unvaccinated or vaccine-hesitant student asks us about vaccines, is it considered acceptable to provide them with reliable public health resources (such

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as the CDC or FDA website) showing that vaccines are safe and effective? Providing students with links to the CDC or the FDA websites is acceptable.

13. Do students have the right to prohibit a student not wearing a mask from sitting next to them (if they sit down first)? No.

14. In the classroom, do instructors have the right to prohibit a student from coming to the instructor’s “space” if they are not wearing a mask? No. What you can do is prohibit everyone from coming that close to you, but then you cannot approach the students either—the distance should apply to everyone in the room.

15. If a student tests positive, are faculty allowed to communicate to the class that someone tested positive without mentioning their name? No.

16. Can faculty require masks in their offices? No. But as the Chancellor stated this morning, no expectation exists that employees meet in their office with someone not wearing a mask.

17. Is there a requirement to report positive cases? Yes. Confirmed positive results should be reported via email at LSC-ReportVirus@lonestar.edu or by calling 832.246.0019.

18. Is there a quarantine requirement or tracking by OGAC? No.

19. Are students allowed to travel? Students are allowed to travel. College-sponsored travel for students is suspended.

20. Are student organizations allowed to have events on and off campus? Yes.

21. If a student informs us that they are COVID positive, is it permissible to ask them to remain at home for 10 days and not allow them in a face-to-face class? Once the student reports a medical diagnosis to OGAC, they will be informed of the different options for returning to their face-to-face class (e.g., a negative test or release to return from a medical provider). Faculty may require students to remain at home until the student provides such a release.

22. If we test positive, but are asymptomatic, are we allowed to work from home and conduct our course online for 10 days? Faculty should work with their college leadership on such short-term arrangements.

23. If a dependent or family member of a faculty member is COVID positive, can the faculty work from home and conduct the course online for 10 days to reduce the chance of exposing their class to COVID? Faculty should work with their college leadership on such short-term arrangements.

24. Can exceptions to the no mask mandate be made for lab work? If the 3ft social distancing requirement cannot be met due to lab/machine/space limitations, can masks be mandated at that point? Regarding masks in a lab, outside of COVID-19 mask mandates, all other requirements remain undisturbed.

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25. If a student or faculty member in the class tests positive, are they still required to isolate for 10 days with the faculty member moving the class online for all students? The College is no longer quarantining classes in this manner.

26. Are faculty allowed to move a class online for a specified period of time and inform students that it is the result of a confirmed positive in class? Essentially, some ISDs are informing parents of confirmed positives in a class without disclosing the source; can faculty at LSC do the same? Moving classes online on a short-term basis is a faculty member and college leadership decision. There should, however, be no disclosure of a student’s confirmed positive status.

27. Will faculty be notified if a student self-reported a positive to the email address? When students report to LSC-ReportVirus@lonestar.edu, they are provided with instructions to notify their professors.

28. A TCCTA announcement said faculty can require a mask in class with or without a county mask mandate. Harris County currently has a mask mandate. Does that mean that LSC could possibly require masks? As the Chancellor stated this morning, the Governor of Texas has issued an Executive Order that prohibits colleges such as Lone Star College from mandating masks and vaccinations.

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