

Interim WCUCOM COVID-19 Safety Protocol for the 2021-2022 Academic Year

Background

WCUCOM has taken significant steps to ensure the safest environment possible; however, a general risk remains. It is incumbent upon all of us to adhere to the guidance of the MS Department of Health to the best of our ability for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. In preparation for the 2021-2022 academic year, WCUCOM met multiple times with the MS Department of Health to review classroom and laboratory plans for instruction. As such, the areas have been designed to afford appropriate social distancing maximum capacities; therefore, we ask everyone to refrain moving chairs, tables, etc. in classroom and laboratory areas. Please also follow appropriate PPE recommendations when engaging in any classroom or laboratory activities.

The following policies are specific to WCUCOM, but we will be adhering to WCU COVID-19 guidelines as well. See [Coronavirus Update | William Carey University \(wmcarey.edu\)](#) for details.

Please note, guidance on COVID-19 safety is ever-changing. WCUCOM reserves the right to update guidelines as necessary and will inform students in writing of any changes.

For more information on Mississippi's response to COVID-19, please visit <https://www.msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/static/14,0,420.html>

Should a positive case occur, WCU will coordinate with MS Department of Health to notify students, faculty, and staff that may have been exposed. Due to HIPPA compliance, ONLY those students who may have been exposed will be contacted. We recommend testing at the WCU campus clinic.

General Guidelines

All Faculty/Staff/Students are required to complete the daily online William Carey University COVID Screen. This should be completed prior to arrival to campus. Wearing a face covering and respecting a minimum of 3 feet of social distancing will be enforced for the 2021-2022 academic year. Frequent handwashing and the use of hand sanitizer is highly recommended. We strongly encourage anyone not vaccinated to contact the WCU campus clinic and schedule a vaccination.

Clinical Skills Training Procedures and Attire:

- An appropriate face mask or covering should be worn at all times while in the Clinical Skills Training areas.
- Students should thoroughly wash their hands including scrubbing under the fingernails just prior to the start of lab.

- Frequent handwashing and the use of hand sanitizer should be executed through the entire lab session.

On weekends and after hours, faculty/staff/students that are coming to campus will be required to complete the daily online Carey COVID Screen prior to arrival to campus. Appropriate PPE will be required in designated lab areas. Masks, and social distancing of 3 feet or greater will be enforced for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Students on clinical rotations will follow the MS Department of Health Guidelines for Healthcare Workers. These recommendations can be found at [Healthcare Professionals - Mississippi State Department of Health \(ms.gov\)](https://www.ms.gov/healthcare-professionals)

Who to Notify

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| OMS1 and OMS2 Student | Jim Weir jweir@wmcarey.edu |
| OMS3 AND OMS4 Student | Makayla Merritt mmerritt@wmcarey.edu |
| Faculty | Peter Rupert prupert@wmcarey.edu |
| Staff | Peter Rupert prupert@wmcarey.edu |

Testing

Anyone with COVID-19 Symptoms should get tested before returning to campus. We recommend testing at the WCU campus clinic. Please follow all quarantine guidelines while awaiting test results as given by your testing center.

Unvaccinated individuals who are exposed will be required to quarantine. Vaccinated individuals who are exposed will be required to get tested within 3-5 days of exposure.