

University of Mary COVID-19 Testing Protocol

This document has two primary objectives:

- 1) We want to do everything we reasonably can – together – to prevent a dangerous spike of community transmission as we re-populate the campus.
- 2) We want to communicate about testing resources available during the academic year that can support the personal responsibility to care for self and others that we have all agreed to in the Honor Code and the Waiver.

In partnership with the Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health Department (BBPH) and the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH), and building on our [Returning to Campus Guidelines, Protocols, and Monitoring System](#), the University of Mary has developed the following testing protocols.

- 1) **Please do not come to campus for the start of the semester if you are exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms.** Instead, please contact your medical provider to determine if a COVID-19 test is needed and if you can safely come to campus.
- 2) We encourage all students, faculty, and staff to be tested for COVID-19 about four (4) days before coming to campus for the start of the semester so that you will know your results prior to arrival on campus. **Please do not come to campus if you test positive, even if you have no symptoms.** Instead, delay your return until your medical provider says you can safely come to campus. While widespread testing does not eliminate the risk of COVID-19, it will help to minimize the chance of those carrying the virus unknowingly infecting others, leading to community transmission.
- 3) NDDoH is offering free testing all over North Dakota, regardless of whether or not you currently live in the state. Special times and locations for college students are listed [here](#). UMary students and employees are eligible to attend any of the testing events listed, not just UMary specific testings. Many additional options are listed [here](#). **Please pre-register here and indicate that you are a University of Mary student or employee.** If you are being tested in the Bismarck area, note the following:
 - a. BBPH testing is “drive-through” at the Bismarck Event Center ([map](#)) ([route map](#)).
 - b. NDDoH testing is at their site at 1720 Burlington Drive ([map](#), near south Walmart, north of the Bismarck Airport).
 - c. Testing in Mandan is “drive-through” at Dacotah Speedway ([map](#)).
- 4) Those returning to campus from beyond North Dakota are encouraged to be tested at home (enquire about results times and costs) or to come to North Dakota 4 days early to be tested, remaining off-campus while awaiting results ([here](#) are some specially discounted hotels).

- 5) **The Question of Mandatory Testing:** Following the [guidance to universities](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the University of Mary will not mandate every student, faculty, and staff member to be tested upon arrival (“entry testing”). Such entry testing risks creating a false sense of security, as it only allows for point-in-time knowledge about who may be infected, not accounting for someone who may contract COVID-19 between taking the test and getting the results. Furthermore, the incubation period of the virus may mean that a person who gets infected *after being tested* feels healthy at the time of receiving a negative test result, putting him or her at greater risk of exposing others when returning to campus. Widespread voluntary testing will be a great help but, in the end, there is simply no replacement for personal responsibility, concern for others, and following the basic UMary Smart Campus Protocols in the [Returning to Campus Guidelines, Protocols, and Monitoring System](#) (consistent social distancing, hand washing, etc.).
- 6) Specific programs and departments may require more stringent testing protocols, as appropriate, in consultation with the Emergency Response Team.
- 7) **Our Campus Clinic:** The University of Mary has a fully functioning [student health clinic](#) on campus, run by CHI-St. Alexius Health, which can aid in COVID-19 testing throughout the year. The clinic can administer 50-200 tests per day and will also be stocked (upon release) with ample doses of the [2020 Influenza Vaccine](#) referenced in the Honor Code.
- 8) Everyone at UMary is to follow at all times the health and safety protocols outlined in the [Returning to Campus Guidelines, Protocols, and Monitoring System](#). Please practice social distancing! Furthermore, everyone is to pay close attention to all [Emergency Notification System](#) alerts and to monitor your university email for more information about any department- or program-specific requirements.

Some Important Reminders:

- 1) “Social Distancing” is not just keeping 6-feet of distance from others. It also means:
 - a. Staying out of crowded places and avoiding mass gatherings.
 - b. *Wearing a mask* when you cannot maintain physical distance.
- 2) Download one or both of the Care19 apps for contact tracing. **The Care19 Alert app is now available for download** and takes the guesswork out of contact tracing while maintaining your privacy. *After you download the app, remember to select “Affiliates” and choose “University of Mary Students, Faculty & Staff.”* If you are unable to download one or both of the apps, don’t neglect to keep a careful diary of any “Close Contacts.”

*** Remember, a Close Contact:

 - a. ***Is not*** everyone and anyone you have spoken to or interacted with.
 - b. ***Is*** someone who has been within 6-feet of you without a mask for more than 10 minutes.

Conclusion: As stated in our [*Returning to Campus Guidelines, Protocols, and Monitoring System*](#), the University of Mary’s policies and protocols are “primarily rooted in an ethic of care for our students while also maintaining the safety of our faculty, staff, and of the public we interact with.” Also, “our campus is meant to be experienced as a true home for students, a place of stability where they can learn and grow, not a temporary place of residence.” We recognize that the novel coronavirus introduces circumstances and concerns many of us have never had to face before. However, through personal responsibility and loving care for each other – and by following national, state, and local expert guidance – we will continue to strive to provide education and experiences that value the life, safety, and dignity of each member of our community.

for Life.