Wartburg College SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 Mitigation Policy

Isolation and Quarantine
Wartburg community members who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive should not engage in any campus activities and should contact the Noah Campus Health Clinic at 319-352-8436 or their primary health care provider immediately. Students also should contact Cassie Hales (319-352-8260 or cassie.hales@wartburg.edu) to enact the isolation or quarantine protocols (e.g. meal delivery, notification of faculty, and contact tracing). Faculty and staff should stay home, call Noah Campus Health Clinic or their primary health care provider, and notify their supervisor of their absence. Employees or their supervisors should contact Ryan Callahan to initiate the contact tracing process.

Quarantine: An unvaccinated individual or an individual who is eligible for but has not received a booster shot who has been exposed to COVID-19 will stay at home or in their residence hall room while separating themselves from others and monitoring health. They will be contacted daily to assess symptoms and health status. Individuals will remain in quarantine for five days from the point of exposure and can be released only if they have no symptoms and have proof of a negative test.

Isolation: An individual who tests positive for COVID-19 is removed from interaction with the campus community and moved to an isolated living space. They will be contacted daily to assess symptoms and health status. Individuals will remain in isolation for a minimum of five days, at which point those who are asymptomatic or whose symptoms are resolving will be tested again. If that test is negative, the individual can be released, but will be expected to mask when around others for at least another five days. Those who are still symptomatic or test positive on day five will remain in isolation for the full 10 days.

Masking
Face masks or cloth face coverings are required indoors. Face shields may only be worn in conjunction with a face mask. Exceptions to this policy include:

• A student’s own residence hall room (though masks are strongly encouraged if another person is visiting).
• Residence hall hallways and restrooms. This includes O&M employees working in those areas.
• Designated eating areas while eating (though they must be worn while in line and getting food).
• Your personal workspace if it is at least six feet of physical distance from other personal workspaces (though masks are strongly encouraged if someone enters that workspace).
• Specified athletic activities (these guidelines will be determined by the A-R-C and Athletic Department).
• Public exercise and swimming areas of The Wartburg-Waverly Sports & Wellness Center (lower level only).
Campus Health Recovery Team
The Campus Health Recovery Team continues to meet as needed to assess the situation on campus and in Bremer County. The team uses information collected from national, state, and local resources to develop mitigation strategies to recommend to the College president. CHRT has set the goals outlined below for each of the public health data points it considers when determining mitigation protocol recommendations. As they have from the beginning of the pandemic, these data points will be considered as a collective; however, it is possible for mitigation efforts to be decreased even if all goals haven’t been met and vice versa.

- **Campus vaccination rate**: 70 percent as a minimum standard. The World Health Organization now says that it is not currently possible to know how much of a population must be vaccinated to achieve herd immunity against COVID-19. The Mayo Clinic reports we may never reach herd immunity. Even so, the College seeks to increase herd immunity among our population by working to increase the percentage vaccinated in our campus community. As of Oct. 7, the College had verified the positive vaccination status of 73 percent of the campus population.

- **Active positive cases on campus (infection rate)**: 2.5 percent. From a public health standpoint, there are no clear indicators of the impact of an active positivity rate until you reach a 5 percent infection rate in a community, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Protection. At Wartburg, that would mean more than 96 members of our campus community would have to be considered an active positive to reach the 5 percent threshold. To put this into perspective, at the College’s peak on Sept. 5, 2020, 76 members of the Wartburg community were in isolation. CHRT will use 2.5 percent, or about 45 individuals, as its “acceptable” rate for community spread, which is half of the CDC recommendation.

- **On-campus positivity rate (number of positives vs. overall tests administered)**: 2.5 percent. The State of Iowa’s recommendations classify communities with a positivity rate of less than 5 as low risk. At Wartburg, we will consider a positivity rate of less than 2.5 percent to be low risk.

- **Active cases in Bremer County (are active cases/positivity rate on an upward or downward trend)**: This metric is not as easily quantifiable as the others. CHRT is not looking for a specific number of active positive cases in Bremer County, but for a downward trend in active positive cases in the county for at least 14 days. Small increases followed by an immediate decrease are expected and will not cause an immediate reconsideration of any mitigation efforts; however, sustained increases could.

- **Operational interruptions, academic continuity, and capacity** (can the college continue to operate effectively)