



Bon Secours Memorial  
College of Nursing

August 26, 2021

Dear BSMCON Associate,

**Please pay close attention to this important message.**

The purpose of this communication is to provide you with important reminders and updates to our COVID-19 prevention plan. Current COVID-19 statistics are significantly worse than they were a few weeks ago when we were preparing to start school. “Daily incidence continues to increase, surpassing 140,000 new cases per day, the highest average since January 30. After reaching a low of 11,653 new cases per day on June 18, the current surge is more than 50% of the way back to the United States’ highest peak—254,111 on January 10” (COVID-19 Situation Report, John Hopkins, August 24, 2021). The health of our campus community is our priority. On Monday, August 23 the United States gave full approval to Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine. Although the vaccine is not mandatory at the College nor within the Health System, that regulation could change at any time. We encourage each one of you and our surrounding community to complete the needed steps to become fully vaccinated.

Many of us are used to ignoring or pushing through signs of illness; however, we need to intentionally make different decisions in our current pandemic world. I would like to remind you that if you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, you should not come to campus, practicum setting or be near others even if vaccinated. If you have any questions regarding your symptoms, please email: [response@bsmcon.edu](mailto:response@bsmcon.edu).

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

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## Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing

To support the COVID-19 prevention strategies, the following additional strategies are being implemented on campus:

- Reduced capacity in the student lounge, study rooms, and other student areas. Students will be asked to limit time in the student lounge to 20-30 minutes to allow others time and space to eat.
- Signs to remind students to clean and disinfect before and after use of area (classrooms, lounge, study areas)
- Increased outdoor picnic table availability
- **Hold associate meetings by zoom.** This strategy is important to protect your health and prevent widespread outbreak of the disease that affects multiple faculty and multiple cohorts of students. You may still use the building for office use, but even if you are meeting with the person in the next office all meetings should be conducted on zoom to prevent extended contact in small spaces.
- **Mindful Mondays for faculty will occur via Zoom.** Huddle, scheduled meetings, and lunch socialization will occur via Zoom. Faculty can do that from their offices on campus or from their home office. On screen videos will be required for scheduled meetings; please ensure you are working from a location that supports this.

What can you do to support the effort?

- Model and promote the implementation of these guidelines.
  - Wear a cloth or procedure mask in public areas of the building.
  - Practice physical distancing of at least 6 feet from other people whenever possible.
  - Avoid gathering in groups unless it's for established classes and/or meetings. Use video conferencing (i.e.: Zoom, Facetime, etc.) for student meetings, studying or project work.
  - Follow capacity guidelines.
  - Clean before and after you use an area.
  - Monitor for symptoms and do not be around others if you are sick.
- Ensure you are up to date on scientific data related to COVID-19, prevention strategies, vaccines and treatments. For more information, visit the [COVID-19 page](#) on the College website.

Our College campus is remaining open for student, faculty and associate use with the strategies that we have in place. Thank you for doing your part! Our goal is to keep our campus open in this fashion as long as it is safe to do so; however, if the public health status changes and we need to convert to more distance education to keep our community safe, our program is ready to seamlessly pivot.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Perkins, COVID-19 Incident Command*

**Chris-Tenna Perkins, PhD, RN, ANP, CNE** | Professor and Dean of Academic Affairs

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