




SOUTH DAKOTA MINES

ROCKERS RETURN PLAN FALL 2021

Welcome back students, staff, and faculty! We expect to operate in a generally normal manner this fall. The COVID pandemic is still with us, but because of the use and availability of the vaccine, our ability to fight the virus is much improved.

Thanks to the positive impact of the vaccination, our classes will be predominantly face-to-face without requirements for social distancing or mandatory masks.

Visitors are welcome on campus. If you are a prospective student, in-person admissions visits are available by scheduling your appointment at sdsmt.edu/visit.

HOWEVER...

As of August 23, Pennington County is an area of high virus transmission and reports indicate the presence of the Delta variant. According to guidance from the CDC as of August 12, 2021, wearing masks in public indoor spaces is recommended even if you are fully vaccinated to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others. We are not mandating mask use at this time but agree masks will maximize protection and keep the spread from others.

We urge those who have not been vaccinated to do so immediately. South Dakota Mines students will have free vaccinations available in the student health clinic. Faculty and staff can find free vaccinations at Monument Health and local pharmacies.

University administrators, in consultation with the Board of Regents' office and public health experts, will continuously monitor the circumstances present on each campus and within their respective communities. Adjustments to campus protocols may be made as necessary and appropriate to safeguard our students, faculty, and staff while minimizing disruption and maintaining a quality educational experience for our students.

BASIC COVID-19 PREVENTION PROTOCOL

- Follow CDC guidelines: [Prevent Getting Sick](#)
- Practice enhanced individual hygiene and cleaning of surfaces

PROTOCOLS IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL

STUDENTS

- Do not go to class or work. Avoid going out in public.
- To determine if your [symptoms could be COVID](#), do one of the following:
 - Call the COVID-19 triage line: (605) 755-1350
 - Call the Student Health nurse line: (605) 519-4703 (available 7 days/week)
 - Call the Telemedicine line: (605) 755-2273
- If healthcare professionals determine COVID testing is needed:
 - Schedule an appointment with Student Health.
 - After Student Health hours, go to the Monument Health Urgent Care location at 2116 Jackson Blvd. in Rapid City. This facility is open 7 days a week from 7:00 am-7:00 pm. Bring your student ID.

FACULTY OR STAFF

- Stay home and notify your supervisor.
- To determine if your [symptoms could be COVID](#), do one of the following:
 - Call the COVID-19 triage line: (605) 755-1350
 - Call the Telemedicine line: (605) 755-2273
- If healthcare professionals determine COVID testing is needed, go to the Monument Health Urgent Care location at 2116 Jackson Blvd. in Rapid City. This facility is open 7 days a week from 7:00 am-7:00 pm.

IF YOU TEST POSITIVE

Regardless of being vaccinated or not (even if you do not have symptoms) – **YOU MUST ISOLATE.**

Students

- Do not go to school or work
- Return home if possible
- Submit the [Notification Form](#)
- Isolate and avoid contact with others for 10 days
- Follow CDC guidelines: [What to do If You Are Sick.](#)

If living in the residence halls: Contact your RA and/or the Housing Director to be placed in an isolation room, if available. If possible, go home and return once you meet the criteria to be released from isolation.

If living off campus: Contact the Dean of Students office and isolate yourself at an off-campus location.

Criteria for release from isolation:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared **AND**
- Fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine **AND**
- Symptoms have improved

Faculty/Staff

- Do not come to work
- Notify your supervisor
- Submit the [Notification Form](#)
- Isolate and avoid contact with others for 10 days
- If you are well enough to work remotely, work with your supervisor to determine if remote work is possible.
- If you are unable to work remotely based on illness or position duties, sick leave, annual leave, or leave without pay will need to be utilized.
- Follow CDC guidelines: [What to do If You Are Sick.](#)

Criteria for release from isolation:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared **AND**
- Fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine **AND**
- Symptoms have improved

Protocols when a positive case has been confirmed.

1. Students, faculty, and staff should complete the [COVID-19 Case Notification Form](#).
2. The Dean of Students and/or Human Resources will be notified, and the respective office will follow-up with the individual listed on the form.
3. Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) will receive copies of the form to aid in follow up and will notify Facilities, Risk, & Services regarding locations for disinfection.
4. The campus liaison will contact South Dakota Department of Health, if appropriate. Information will be shared as allowed by law.
5. South Dakota Mines will work with public health officials to determine if additional health and safety steps are necessary. EHS will work to implement and coordinate any related emergency actions.

IF YOU HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH A PERSON WHO HAS TESTED POSITIVE

Close contact means you have been within 6 feet of a positive individual for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. If you had close contact, follow these instructions:

If you are vaccinated or have had COVID within the previous three months and are fully recovered

- You do not need to quarantine unless you have symptoms
- Get tested 3-5 days after exposure even if you don't have symptoms
- Wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days following exposure or until you receive a negative test result

If you are not vaccinated

- Do not go to school or work
- Quarantine for 10 days
- Avoid others in your household and wear a mask if avoidance is not possible
- Monitor [symptoms](#) (fever, cough, etc.)
- If you develop symptoms,
 - Contact Student Health Services or a local healthcare provider
 - Submit the [Notification Form](#)
 - Do not go to school or work

Criteria for release from quarantine:

- After day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have occurred
- After day 7 after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later)

Faculty/Staff

- Notify your supervisor and work with them to determine if remote work is possible.
- If remote work is not possible, sick leave, annual leave, or leave without pay will need to be utilized.