

Bethlehem College & Seminary

COVID-19 Student Procedures and Protocols

Updated January 19, 2021

Bethlehem College & Seminary has an important role in reducing the spread of COVID-19. All students, faculty, and staff should take personal responsibility to follow policies and procedures set by Bethlehem College & Seminary and Bethlehem Baptist Church. Adherence to policies and procedures should have as its aim both *love for neighbor* and *submission to authorities*. Students, faculty, and staff should be flexible, ready to modify actions as necessary and to encourage others to do likewise as guidelines and recommendations adapt over time.

COVID-19 Testing and Results Protocol

All students, faculty, and staff review the procedures for getting a COVID test at one of the local testing locations before the beginning of the fall semester.

If a student or staff member has been exposed to COVID-19 (e.g., a “close contact” of someone who tests positive for the virus), that person should seek to get a COVID test and should self-quarantine for 14 days before returning to campus. If that person is living in BCS housing or with other students, all of his or her roommates should be tested and follow the protocol above before returning to campus.

We do not require a student without COVID-like symptoms to self-quarantine if he or she comes into contact with an individual who was exposed to someone with COVID but who has not received a positive COVID test. Please use wisdom and discretion in such cases and reach out to the academic dean, associate dean, or your program director if you have questions.

Any student or staff member experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home, get a COVID test, and isolate until receiving the results of the test. Per the State of Minnesota Department of Health, symptoms of COVID-19 can include cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell. Other less common symptoms include gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. These symptoms may appear 2-14 days after you are exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19. Not everyone with COVID-19 has all of these symptoms, and some people may not have any symptoms.

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, you should wait to return to campus until at least 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms, at least 24 hours after the resolution of a fever, and until receiving a negative COVID-19 test. Promptly notify the academic dean or associate dean in the event of a positive test for COVID-19, so that they can communicate expectations and inform the appropriate members of the Bethlehem community of a positive test (without mentioning the individual’s name).

Any student or staff member who is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home and isolate themselves and seek to get a test for the virus. In the event that a member of the Bethlehem College & Seminary community tests positive, he or she should isolate according to the CDC's recommendations. Under normal circumstances, he or she should not return to campus until they receive a negative COVID test. The CDC recommends that someone with COVID isolates until:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptom onset **and**
- At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
- Other symptoms have improved.

Contact Dr. Brian Tabb (brian.tabb@bcsmn.edu) or Dr. Chris Bruno (chris.bruno@bcsmn.edu) with questions.

3rd Floor Entrance, Classroom, Student Lounge, and Chapel Procedures

Students and staff will enter the building only through the weekday entrance doors and exit only through the glass doors near the sanctuary.

Students will still be required to wear face coverings in the classroom.

Cohorts will normally stay in the same classroom for the day. Neither students nor faculty should move tables or rearrange the classroom set up for any reason. As much as possible, seek to maintain proper social distancing in the classroom.

While on campus, students should remain on the third floor (with the exception of chapel). They generally should not go up to the fourth floor to address BCS matters and should generally leave the classroom only when necessary. Students should use the bathroom attached to the classroom. If there is not a restroom in the classroom, students should use the one that is closest to their class. At the end of the day, students will sanitize the tables and other surfaces in the classroom before leaving.

Students may use the lounge and mailroom, but capacity is limited to 20 students at a time. We will remove some seats and space the tables 6 feet apart so that students will be able to use the lounge for study, quiet breaks, and recreation within proper guidelines. Students must commit to proper social distancing in the lounge.

During the lunch break, students typically will remain in their classrooms and not congregate in the halls or other common areas.

During chapel on Wednesdays, students will be required to sit with their cohorts, 6 feet apart from others who are not members of their household. Per state of Minnesota guidelines, students and staff will wear masks through the whole service. Immediately after chapel, ushers will dismiss rows one-at-a-time and students and staff will either exit the building or return to their classrooms or offices for the afternoon.