Northern Illinois University’s
FALL 2020 PLAN

PROTECTING
THE PACK

July 23, 2020
PROTECTING THE PACK
## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Message from the President</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priorities and Guiding Principles</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expectations of a Huskie</td>
<td>7-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protect the Pack Pledge</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working</td>
<td>10-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning</td>
<td>14-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching</td>
<td>18-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom and Classroom Protocols</td>
<td>20-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research, Scholarship and Artistry</td>
<td>22-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing and Dining</td>
<td>24-27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Life</td>
<td>28-29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Events</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Reporting COVID-19 Infections or Exposure</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing, Tracking, Tracing and Health Surveillance</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>34-35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Message from the President

HUSKIES TAKE CARE OF HUSKIES

Our Northern Illinois University community has been purposeful, proactive and vigilant in our efforts to support the health and well-being of our fellow Huskies during COVID-19 and its many challenges. Even during this period of uncertainty, our legacy of caring for each other and helping our neighbors, along with our passion for teaching, learning and discovery, and our unwavering commitment to equity and inclusion, have sustained us and kept us moving forward.

This plan – “Protecting the Pack” – was created through collaboration, with input from across the university. It reflects our science- and values-informed approach for facing the challenge of returning to campus this fall, as well as our desire to foster student success and community, and to maintain scholarly activity and services during these exceptional times. “Protecting the Pack” also acknowledges the diverse needs of Huskies and provides options to accommodate those who return to campus and those who stay connected remotely.

Even with prudent precautions in place, we must be realistic about proceeding. COVID-19 infections are likely to occur on our and other university campuses despite extensive efforts to protect against virus spread. Because of that inevitable reality, all of us returning to campus must do our part to acknowledge and follow the advice, recommendations and protocols in place to better protect ourselves and others and to help prevent an individual infection from becoming an outbreak. Reducing the spread of COVID-19 requires a nimble, aggressive approach. Public health guidance will continue to evolve, and our plan and actions will need to change accordingly. Huskies will need to remain responsible, flexible and informed. We also need to remember at all times that behind every mask is a fellow student or colleague deserving of compassion and respect.

By working together and supporting one another, we will get through this and come away stronger. I’m deeply appreciative for the tireless contributions of our faculty and staff throughout this unprecedented time, and look forward to welcoming all students to the new semester.

Together Forward,

Lisa C. Freeman
President
INTRODUCTION

Protecting the Pack is about protecting ourselves, protecting each other and protecting our community. This document details NIU’s response and plan for supporting the health and safety of our community as we prepare to return to campus this fall.

This Protecting the Pack Plan is the result of months of collaboration among campus partners, which included the formation of the Return to Working on Campus Working Group and the Testing, Tracking, Tracing Surveillance and Quarantine (T3SQ) Working Group. Our planning included involvement of faculty, the Student Experience Team, academic leadership and other groups throughout campus. We sought out the expertise of internal and external public health experts, and have been in regular contact with the governor’s office and the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). As a baseline, we have followed the State of Illinois’ Restore Illinois Plan, which is currently in Phase 4, and the IBHE’s report: Higher Education in Illinois: Safely Launching Academic Year 2020, on which President Freeman served. However, in some cases, Protecting the Pack bolsters the statewide task force’s recommendations.

Our response is grounded in science and allows for flexibility to not only address ongoing uncertainty, but also to stay current with the latest public health guidance. Updates to the plan will be reflected on NIU’s Protecting the Pack site, and we encourage all to check in regularly for the latest information.
PRIORITIES and GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Huskies appreciate and respect all members of our community, and are encouraged to continue to demonstrate civility and support of each other during this stressful and uncertain time. To protect our community, all students, faculty and staff are expected to comply with the protocols and guidelines articulated in this document. Failure to do so jeopardizes the safety and well-being of your fellow students, faculty or staff, and can result in corrective action.

Protecting the Pack was developed following these four guiding principles:

- The university will follow all applicable local, state and federal public health guidelines and orders.
- The health and safety of our students and employees come first.
- Supervisors will remain flexible to accommodate employees who must balance work and caregiver responsibilities.
- University operations will continue in a manner consistent with expert public health guidance and principles.

Additionally, the Illinois Board of Higher Education report for institutions of higher education provided guidance for the transition to the 2020 academic year with these principles, which also played a key role in the development of our plan:

Campus Health and Safety
- Protect the health and well-being (including mental health) of students, faculty and staff.
- Adopt science-based public health measures and procedures.
- Attend proactively to the needs of medically susceptible and other vulnerable subgroups among our campus stakeholders.

Sustaining Our Missions
- Focus relentlessly on student success inside and outside of the classroom, with high-quality teaching, learning and support services.
- Emphasize issues of diversity, inclusion and equity, with focused attention on the needs of under-resourced and underserved students, faculty and staff.
- Consider reasonable accommodations to the greatest extent possible for faculty and staff who are in high-risk categories.

Institutional Planning
- Protect and advance scholarship and research in all disciplines, with particular urgency for research involving COVID-19.
- Strengthen professional and career development efforts for faculty and staff whose work has been disrupted.

Institutional Processes
- Be transparent in decision-making.
- Engage faculty, staff, students and other stakeholders in shared problem-solving.
- Communicate frequently and consistently, emphasizing individual and collective responsibilities in the reopening process.
- Collaborate with surrounding communities.
EXPECTATIONS of a HUSKIE

At NIU, we value and appreciate that every Huskie contributes different experiences, perspectives and beliefs to our community. Simultaneously, we must acknowledge that the seriousness of this pandemic and the threats it poses to our health and well-being call us to come together and unite in our effort to protect one another. In this extraordinary time, being a Huskie means committing to the following:

Self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 daily using the #CampusClear App
People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported - ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms can appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms might have COVID-19:

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

The #CampusClear app, available from either the Android or Apple app stores, will ask users each day whether they have any of the symptoms mentioned above. If any of these symptoms exist, the user will receive instructions regarding next steps.

Notify the university and follow instructed guidelines in the event of testing positive, being exposed or experiencing symptoms
As outlined on page 31, Students, faculty and staff will complete the COVID-19 Screening Checklist (https://go.niu.edu/covid-checklist) and if necessary, self-quarantine or self-isolate.
MORE EXPECTATIONS

Proper Hand Hygiene
Huskies will wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer (60% alcohol) if a hand washing station isn’t available.

Physical Distance
Huskies will maintain 6 feet of distance from others and avoid gathering in groups.

Face Masks
Huskies will wear face masks over their nose and mouth and secured under their chin whenever inside (unless alone in a private office, workspace or residence hall room) or outdoors when physical distancing cannot be achieved.

Consider Getting a Flu Shot
While getting a flu (influenza) vaccine will not protect against COVID-19, it will reduce your risk from flu and help also conserve potentially scarce health care resources. Additionally, some research suggests that influenza and COVID-19 co-infections can result in more severe disease in high-risk patients.

Complete Training Prior to Coming to Campus
Employees and students will need to complete their respective training modules on important health and safety measures prior to coming to campus. Employees received access to their training in June and students will receive access in August.

Demonstrate Patience, Grace and Respect
We all benefit from acknowledging that this is a stressful time period and that the impacts of COVID-19 on each Huskie are unique and could be significant. By continuing to support one another and holding firm to NIU’s values, our community will be strengthened and sustained.

Pledge to Protect the Pack
Huskies will acknowledge their important role in keeping our university community safe and healthy by taking the Protecting the Pack Pledge.
PROTECT THE PACK
PLEDGE

Huskies take care of Huskies. We’re resilient, respectful and moving forward, together. By following guidelines to promote the health and well-being of the NIU community, we can help protect each other from the spread of COVID-19.

PLEDGE:

I recognize that I play an important part in ensuring the health of our university community.
I pledge to PROTECT THE PACK by taking care of myself and the community that cares for me.
I will keep myself and fellow Huskies healthy by:

Caring for myself.
- Wash my hands/use hand sanitizer often.
- Keep my space and belongings clean.
- Submit daily wellness checks through the #CampusClear app.
- Avoid risky behaviors.

Caring for others.
- Stay home if I feel ill.
- Wear a face mask that covers my mouth and nose and follow guidance on physical distancing, both on- and off-campus.
- Follow instructions from NIU about testing and quarantining.

Caring for my community.
- Help keep shared areas clean.
- Follow instructional signage.
- Notify the university if I test positive for COVID-19 or have symptoms.
- Choose to be positive and uphold NIU’s values.
WORKING

GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS FOR RETURNING TO WORK ON CAMPUS

A working group comprised of representatives from various divisions and offices was convened to develop protocols and guidelines regarding the eventual return to working on campus or other off-site workspaces. An additional working group, comprised partially of internal and external public health experts, helped inform several of the protocols and guidelines.

To protect our community, all employees are expected to comply with the protocols and guidelines articulated in the Guidelines and Protocols for Returning to Work report.
Returning to working on campus or the employees’ off-site workspace
Supervisors are expected to follow these guidelines for the remaining of the summer and for Fall 2020:

Work-from-home flexibility has been extended to Aug. 16, 2020.
The guidance that came out in late May encouraging those employees who can work remotely to do so through July 31 is extended through Aug. 16.

Returning to campus Aug. 17 through the end of the calendar year.
Beginning Aug. 17, 2020, most offices and facilities that are student-facing (e.g., academic departments, student support services, cultural resource centers) or that serve employees or the community (e.g., human resources, admissions) will be open during normal business hours for in-person visits.

To maintain appropriately reduced density, supervisors must work with their teams to develop staffing plans, where appropriate, for the entire fall semester.

• Supervisors are encouraged to continue the use of rotational or staggered schedules to reduce density and foot traffic.

• To accommodate employees with desktop computers, supervisors might want to consider rotational schedules in weeks instead of days. For example, in an office with two employees, one might work in the office for the first half of the semester while the other works from home. The two employees would then switch mid-semester.

• Before returning to campus for work, all employees must take a brief training. Those employees who do not have access to the internet at home should take the training on campus when they return to work. The training is necessary because we value each other and want to make sure that all employees understand the safety expectations and protocols.

• Employee should think about what will work best considering their personal situations and contact their supervisors to discuss and reach agreements on work schedules that consider and support the needs of the departments and the circumstances of the employees.

Working remotely Aug. 17 through the end of the calendar year
Offices that can continue to provide their services to students, employees and the community remotely are encouraged to do so as long as those decisions are widely communicated to staff and the community, and do not result in a disruption of services. Employees working remotely will not be required to complete Work-At-Home Agreements through the end of the calendar year.

This guidance is subject to change depending on federal, state and local orders, as well as decisions made by local school districts regarding fall schedules.
WORKING
GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS FOR RETURNING TO WORK ON CAMPUS

Cleaning and sanitation
All buildings will be cleaned daily using cleaning products and protocols consistent with CDC guidelines. Daily cleaning will focus primarily on common spaces and will include wiping down high-touch areas, such as doorknobs, sinks, water fountains and elevator buttons.

Employees should be sure to wipe down their workspaces on a regular basis. To request disinfecting products for office areas, visit go.niu.edu/request-cleaning-supplies.

To help offset additional cleaning/sanitation tasks required for buildings and avoid the need to enter individual office areas more often than necessary, office trash collection will only be performed daily from designated centrally located containers. All employees should transfer trash from individual desk-side containers regularly to these designated centralized collection points, each of which will be marked with a sticker noting “Centralized Waste Station.” These collection points are being coordinated with building representatives and office contacts, as possible. If adjustments need to be made for the centralized locations, please contact Building Services for additional coordination.

Face Masks
With the exception of private offices or personal workspaces where physical distancing can be maintained, employees, students, vendors and visitors to campus must wear face masks when indoors. If an employee is not alone (e.g., in an office, a conference room), face masks must be worn even if physical distancing is possible. Employees, students, vendors and visitors to campus will not be required to wear face masks outdoors unless physical distancing cannot be maintained.

For those who need or want them, the university will provide each employee with two (2) reusable, washable face masks. Each unit or area should have a designated person request the number of face masks needed. Requests can be made at the Facilities Management and Campus Services/Central Stores website.

Meetings and other employee interactions
Employees are strongly encouraged to continue using Microsoft Teams for meetings even when employees are working on campus.

If meetings must be held in person, face masks must be worn, physical distancing must be followed and no more than fifty (50) people or 50% of overall room capacity can be present, whichever is less.

Employees are encouraged to limit the use of public spaces, such as lounges or breakrooms, and should not invite unnecessary visitors to campus.

Student Employment
Huskies Get Hired will be the one-stop online location for advertising all hourly student employment positions beginning Aug. 1. More information will be shared with campus employers and students in the coming weeks.
Resources
The Employee Assistance Program has developed Returning to Working on Campus Toolkits for employees and supervisors available at the NIU Keep Working website.

Please regularly review the Protecting the Pack website for the latest guidelines and protocols for working on campus.

Virtual information sessions will be held for supervisors on navigating the guidelines and protocols related to working on campus and how to best manage and support employees. The sessions will be led by Human Resource Services, the Employee Assistance Program and Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity and Education, and will be promoted through the NIU calendar and the Monday email announcements.
LEARNING

In times of change and challenge, we are redoubling our commitment to help our students continue to succeed at NIU and to realize their dreams. We are working hard this summer on our plan to provide a safe and engaging learning environment that continues to deliver the same high-quality academic experience you expect from NIU.

Academic calendar
The academic calendar for the fall is unchanged, with classes to begin Monday, August 24. Classes are cancelled on Election Day, November 3.

Course-delivery methods
The course-delivery modifications that we’ve made for the fall of 2020 are guided by our top priority: the health and safety of our NIU community. Our plan also allows for a smooth transition to completely online teaching and learning should the need arise during the semester.

To provide a safe and engaging learning environment that respects physical distancing, we are offering a mix of fully online, face-to-face and hybrid courses.

Online courses – Fully online courses are being designed with careful planning to be flexible and to foster a sense of community so that students are not learning on their own. Students and their professors will have an active presence in the virtual classroom. In all cases, instructors will be available to guide students and answer questions. Online courses can be synchronous, asynchronous or a combination of the two.

- Synchronous online courses occur in real time and include activities such as live lectures or live conferencing. Students are expected to sign in during the scheduled time.

- Asynchronous online courses occur through online channels without real-time interaction and include activities such as recorded lectures and self-guided lessons.

Face-to-face courses – These in-person courses are similar to what NIU students have experienced in the past. Most of the courses selected to be face-to-face – in particular laboratory, performance-based or clinical classes – require personal interactions. Class sizes are small enough, or the academic spaces large enough, to maintain proper physical distancing. If you enroll in these types of face-to-face courses, you will be expected to attend in-person unless you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or other health concerns.

Hybrid courses – In hybrid courses, student learning experiences will include both online and face-to-face interactions. For example, a science or engineering course might have online lessons with regular hands-on laboratory experiences.

Additionally, we will offer some staggered-attendance courses. In a small percentage of face-to-face courses, classrooms cannot accommodate a full contingent of students at one time because of physical-distancing requirements. In those cases, students will either attend class or watch livestreamed events on a staggered and rotating schedule. For example, half of the students in a course might be in a physical classroom on Tuesdays, with the other half watching livestream; and vice versa on Thursdays. Faculty will determine the schedules for those classes.
Academic support services
We will make academic support services available to students through a variety of delivery methods. In many cases, services will be virtual, but physical offices will be open on campus. There will be some optional face-to-face interactions offered with careful consideration of health and safety guidelines. Many services will have extended hours beyond the normal 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. business hours. Our academic support services include:

- Advising
- ACCESS Tutoring and Support Services
- University Writing Center
- Orientation and First Year Programs
- University Honors
- CHANCE
- Cultural Resource Centers
- Disability Resource Center
- Career Services
- Jobs PLUS
- Counseling and Consultation Services

Learning resources
A wealth of tips and resources for online learning resources can be found on NIU’s Keep Learning website.

Library services
University Libraries will continue to support students and faculty.

- Founders Memorial Library will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, with weekend hours yet to be determined.
- Protective face masks will be required in the library building.
- Patrons will be able to request books for pickup from the Circulation Desk or from special secure lockers in the lower-level entrance.
- Solo study tables will be located throughout the first floor and lower level, and access to the building will be limited to NIU community members.
- Reference Services and research consultation will be available online through the library’s webpage.
- Laptops and Wi-Fi hotspot devices will be available for checkout from the first-floor Circulation Desk or for pickup from the special secure lockers in the lower-level entrance.
- Faraday Library will not be open during the fall semester.
- The Music Library will be open with abbreviated hours.

Technology access
We’ll be providing support to keep our students connected.

- The Holmes Student Center and Founders Memorial Library will be among the designated Wi-Fi accessible spaces on campus. Most buildings on campus have Wi-Fi capabilities as well.
- Laptop computers and Wi-Fi hotspot devices, which provide laptop internet connections, will be available for checkout from Founders Memorial Library on a limited basis.
- Students will be able to use their devices, such as laptops or checked-out laptops, on the lower-level and first floors of Founders Memorial Library. Face masks are required within the library and physical distancing will be respected.
- For students living on campus, all residence halls have Wi-Fi connectivity, and a limited number of workstations are available in common spaces in each complex.
- Computer workstations, printers and parking lot Wi-Fi connections will be available to students at several off-campus sites, including NIU Naperville (815-753-8975), NIU Rockford (815-753-8740) and NIU Hoffman Estates (815-753-8850). For use of computers and printers, students should call ahead to confirm operating hours.
- Some students might qualify for emergency technology-needs assistance from the Student Emergency Fund.
Student accommodations
Students who use the services of the Disability Resource Center (DRC) will continue to be able to do so virtually through a platform of their preference. The DRC will follow all protocols and guidelines outlined by the university when campus reopens. When the DRC opens for face-to-face appointments and accommodated exams, protective face masks will be required. Students can contact Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity and Education (AAEOE) to request a workplace accommodation and/or report an accessibility barrier.

Courtesy, kindness and patience
We understand that the future is unpredictable. With that in mind, we are focused on creating a caring and safe place to learn, in an environment that prioritizes individual well-being and builds hope for tomorrow. We encourage our students to do their part, too. Please be patient, stay on top of university communications and stay in touch with your advisors and instructors.

More information
More detailed information will be provided closer to the start of the school year. Students also should see the list of Frequently Asked Questions about the Fall 2020 semester.
TEACHING

Whether a student is learning in person or online, we know that a great teacher makes all the difference. In these challenging times, we recognize that the work of our faculty members has never been more essential — and we are here to support them in their efforts to help our students succeed. The following information includes guidance and resources for faculty in the coming semester.

Syllabus guidance
It is recommended that faculty develop a syllabus statement outlining expectations for course participation. In classrooms that will involve some face-to-face interaction, the syllabus should address health and safety expectations.

The following is an example.

Your health and safety are my No. 1 priority. We are all members of the Huskie community, and we owe it to each other to protect ourselves and each other. When I come to class, I’ll be wearing a face covering. I expect you to do the same. If there is some reason that isn’t possible for you, please contact me by email, and we’ll see what arrangements can be made. If you come to class in person, you’ll need to be wearing a face mask.

I also expect you to monitor your health, and you should stay home if you’ve been exposed to someone who recently tested positive for COVID-19 or if you develop any symptoms that might be related to COVID-19. I’m going to be using the #CampusClear app to document my symptoms, and I want you to do the same. If you do have symptoms, stay home and complete NIU’s COVID-19 Screening Checklist (go.niu.edu/covid-checklist) to report your symptoms and get advice.

Where appropriate, instructors should make it clear that during official institutional activities taking place off-campus, such as clinical experiences, students might be required to follow additional public health guidelines.

Course-delivery methods
In offering a mix of fully online, face-to-face, hybrid and staggered-attendance courses, we remain committed this fall to the health and safety of our community and to preserving our academic mission. Faculty members who might have concerns with face-to-face teaching should collaborate with their department chairs to find amenable solutions. As much as possible, classroom activities that require mandatory attendance should include multiple modes to accommodate students who might not attend or those who would rather remain virtual.

‘Flexible teaching’ resources
Our Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL) stands ready to assist faculty in creating resilient, flexible courses that will be successful in any mode of delivery – face-to-face, online or hybrid. We’re calling this effort “flexible teaching,” and it relies on the same learner-centered principles that our faculty have long used in their course designs, albeit adapted for a digital environment.

Our new Flexible Teaching website includes:
• Guides to course design, course materials and course delivery that will help our faculty take advantage of the options, tools and flexibility offered by digital learning.
• Blueprints that show what flexible teaching looks like.
• A list of learning technologies that include recommended and institutionally supported software and web tools.
• Links to recommended resources, and much more.

CITL will continue to provide a Help Hotline (815-797-2477), opportunities to connect with knowledgeable experts, sign-ups for online teaching workshops and more.
Attendance policies
We encourage faculty members to be accommodating in their classroom attendance policies.

Instructor absence
If an instructor cannot be present in a physical classroom due to illness, the instructor should notify the department chair, in addition to following other university protocols.

Academic support services
We will make academic support services such as advising, tutoring and career services available through a variety of delivery methods. In many cases, services will be virtual, but physical offices will be open on campus. There will be some optional face-to-face interactions offered with careful consideration of health and safety guidelines. Many of our academic support services will have extended hours.

Courtesy, kindness and patience
Both the pandemic and social issues this year took an emotional toll on everyone, and we understand that the future is unpredictable. With that in mind, we will practice patience with our faculty, staff and students, and ask that faculty do the same as we continue to work through decisions for the fall. We are all working together to create a caring and safe place to learn, in an environment that prioritizes individual well-being.

More information
More detailed information and guidance will be provided to faculty and staff closer to the start of the school year. We also ask that you continue to monitor communications, as well as our Coronavirus FAQ as we approach the Fall 2020 semester.
NIU is following federal, state and local public health guidance, and we have incorporated additional sanitation and safety measures to protect students, faculty and staff. Accordingly, we expect recommendations for physical distancing, hand hygiene and face coverings to be followed in classrooms and academic spaces.

**Courses requiring face-to-face interactions**
Some courses require students’ physical participation, such as laboratory, performance-based and clinical experiences. Students who are not comfortable participating in face-to-face learning should not enroll in these courses and will need to discuss this with their advisor. Enrolled students should be aware that instructors will make every effort to provide students with an opportunity to make up work if circumstances require modification or further restriction of their face-to-face learning activities.

**Laboratory, clinical and performance-based settings**
Individual academic colleges and departments will have latitude to decide on safety precautions for their unique academic spaces, in accordance with federal, state and local public health guidance.

**Classroom arrangements**
- Classrooms will be configured to ensure physical distancing can be maintained.
- Room capacities will be roughly 20% of normal room capacity.
- There will be no more than 50 people in a lecture hall at one time.
- Seating will be arranged so that there will be a minimum space of 6 feet in all directions from the nearest seat.
- In fixed-seating classrooms, seats that are not to be used will be clearly marked. For all other classrooms, excess seating will either be removed or marked in some manner.
- Faculty are being encouraged to use assigned seating.
- Students are not allowed to bring food and drinks to classrooms.

**Protective face masks required**
To help keep our community healthy, students and instructors will be required to wear protective face masks in class, including when they are speaking. Students are expected to supply and maintain their own face masks. We will provide each member of the faculty and staff with two washable face masks. Additionally, we plan to provide face shields to faculty who request them to support classroom lectures and discussion. Disposable face masks will be available in departmental offices for faculty members who wish to have some available in classrooms for emergency student use.

Students who cannot wear face masks or other personal protective equipment because of a disability should proactively contact, or be referred to, the Disability Resource Center (DRC) prior to the start of the fall semester. The DRC will engage in an interactive process to determine any reasonable accommodations. Faculty can request to view the approved accommodation documentation that students receive from the DRC.

**Non-compliance**
Students are required to follow all reasonable directives from a faculty member while in class. A student who fails to comply with a request to wear a face mask in class will be considered to have disrupted the educational environment. If a student chooses not to comply with the request, the student will be asked to leave and, ultimately, the instructor has the authority to cancel class. If this happens, instructors should notify their chairs, who should follow the “Classroom Disruption” process articulated in the catalog’s Academic Regulations. Purposeful non-compliance by a student can result in loss of the privilege of attending class or receiving credit in the class.
Classroom cleaning and supplies
Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected daily and will be cleaned between class meetings as feasible. While the objective is to disinfect between each class, there may be periods of peak classroom demand which may not make this possible. In such cases, classes with high enrollment or classrooms that are used frequently will be prioritized. As an alternative and additional option, disinfecting wipes will be available in classrooms to allow individuals the opportunity to sanitize personal work surfaces.

Backup technology
We plan to equip all classrooms that are being used for face-to-face interactions with streaming capabilities. The level of technology will vary by classroom and could allow for two-way interaction, live streaming or lecture capture. The Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL) and DoIT are planning to provide training in the use of the technologies.
Research, scholarship and artistry (collectively, scholarly activity) are fundamental to the mission of NIU. Further, the talent and expertise of faculty, staff and students are critical to address the complex challenges faced by society today. The following guidance supports the safe resumption of scholarly activity.

In brief:

- All scholarly activities that can be performed remotely should continue remotely through the end of 2020.

- All faculty, staff and graduate students can continue to participate in scholarly activities with appropriate safety measures.

- Starting August 16, undergraduates can participate in remote or onsite research activities provided activities are consistent with health and safety guidelines. Until August 15, undergraduates can participate in remote activities only, unless the provost has approved individual exceptions.

- Travel associated with scholarly activities must follow the guidance outlined in the Travel section.

Scholarly activities must comply with four principles that university personnel must ensure are enforced and respected:

1. Follow all applicable local, state and federal public health guidance and orders.

2. Protect the health and safety of employees, students and stakeholders, including research subjects.

3. Support the career progression of faculty, with special attention paid to those who are early in their careers.

4. Policies and procedures will be developed collaboratively and transparently.
The multi-phase reopening of scholarly facilities and spaces began in May, and is detailed in the Guidance and Reopening of Facilities and Spaces for Research, Scholarship and Artistry Plan. NIU is currently in the fourth and final phase. At this time, all facilities and spaces can remain in operation with appropriate precautions and safety requirements as listed below:

1. Anyone ill or feeling ill should not come to campus. Guidelines for evaluating personal wellness can be found in the section on Expectations.

2. Everyone must wear face coverings at all times while in shared spaces (even if they are the only occupants). The university will provide a face mask, but if alternative face masks are preferred, they should meet university-supplied specifications.

3. Any facility or space with an established safety plan should review and ensure the plan is up to date with particular attention to the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) hazard form.

4. A minimum 6 foot distance between people must be maintained unless properly equipped or unless doing so creates a personal safety hazard. If additional equipment is needed, contact the Office of Research, Compliance, Integrity and Safety for guidance on equipment and procedures.

5. No more than two (2) people per enclosed area at any given time, for example in a single laboratory or studio. Exceptions must be justified as described in the Guidance on Reopening. If necessary, implement a staff rotation that maintains restricted use of the facility to a limited number of persons at any given time.

6. All non-NIU personnel are prohibited from entering facilities except to make deliveries.

7. Utilization of other facilities or resources, such as libraries or instrument cores, are permitted but should be minimized to the extent possible.

8. All program leaders must formally assign a daily sanitation regime that includes decontamination and cleaning of all high-touch spaces. Work assignments must be consistent with job descriptions and expectations.

9. Appropriate, enhanced safety measures must be implemented and maintained to assure safe operations in a reduced-staff environment. Leaders must discuss enhanced safety with staff at every meeting.

Should public health guidance and orders require stricter safety measures, we will revert to earlier phases in the Guidance on Reopening.

As a reminder, these phases are:

Scholarship Phase 1: Remote and essential research and scholarly activity. This phase follows stay-at-home orders. Most research and scholarly activity is conducted remotely; exceptions for essential activity, as defined and approved as required in the coordinated guidance for responding to the Executive Order can proceed.

Scholarship Phase 2: Preparation of shared facilities for operations. Facilities such as stock rooms, shops, archives, museums and instrumentation cores will be permitted to prepare to resume operations. These preparations will require full physical distancing and strict hygiene protocols.

Scholarship Phase 3: Operation of individually used facilities. Research and artistic facilities, such as dedicated laboratories or studios used by single individuals or single groups, can return to operations. These preparations will require full physical distancing and strict hygiene protocols.

Scholarship Phase 4: Operation at NIU field sites or third-party field sites. In this final phase for return to scholarship, activities will require full physical distancing and strict hygiene protocols; some protocols could be specific to remote sites. Third-party guidance must also be followed. Except for essential exceptions, this work cannot occur if stay-at-home orders are in place.
HOUSING and DINING

Living on Campus
Living on campus will look and feel different than it has previously, of course, but NIU is doing all we can to cultivate the most engaging, rewarding and healthy “college experience” possible in our residence halls. Whether you are a new or returning Huskie, we’re sure that you’ll love your home on campus.

You’ll meet new people and make new friends. You’ll have fun during movie-discussion nights, room decorating contests, online book clubs, Huskie History events, daily trivia and even virtual open-mic nights where you can share your talents. You’ll also have easy access to professional staff who can connect you with valuable campus resources, which include high-speed internet.

HERE’S WHAT YOU’LL NEED TO KNOW.

Moving in
New students to NIU will move in during prescheduled appointments August 19, 20 and 21. Returning students also will have prescheduled appointments to move in between August 21 and August 23. All students living in NIU residence halls were notified on July 16 that they will be required to take COVID-19 PCR tests and send the results to NIU prior to moving into their residence halls.

• Students need to be tested no sooner than 7 days before their scheduled move-in dates.

• Students will need to submit their test results to NIU Housing no later than 24 hours prior to their scheduled move in. Information about how to submit test results will be sent to students in early August.

• Students will not be permitted to access their residence hall if they are unable to document their negative COVID-19 PCR tests.

• A student who receives a positive test result will need to isolate at home for 14 days, and contact NIU with those results.

• COVID-19 PCR tests are available at Illinois community based testing sites and personal health care providers. Appointments might be needed to obtain tests, so students should plan in advance. Before scheduling or taking a test, please consult your insurance provider on its requirements or instructions. Students will be responsible for any testing costs not covered by insurance. If you have questions about insurance and the test, please contact the NIU Center for Student Assistance at studentassistance@niu.edu or by calling 815-753-8300 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Room assignments
To provide physical distancing consistent with public health recommendations, all residence hall bedrooms are single occupancy this fall. Any student who is assigned to a suite or mini-suite will share common space with one other student, and in certain situations a semi-private bathroom.
A responsible community
Because Huskies care about each other, all students and staff in the residence halls will play a collaborative role in maintaining a safe and healthy environment. We are working to provide a fun, engaging and inclusive experience this fall with community-building activities and improved access to professional staff who can offer helpful support and resources.

- NIU will provide one (1) face mask to each student living on campus this fall.
- Restrooms and public spaces will continue to be cleaned and disinfected at least daily, often more frequently.
- Staff will sanitize and disinfect high-touch surfaces in the common areas, including door knobs, elevator buttons, handrails, counter tops, light switches, entry glass and door push plates.
- Each hall has multiple hand-sanitizing stations.
- Student should bring their own thermometers and hand sanitizer along with multiple face masks.

Policy changes
Policies of NIU Housing and Residential Services will evolve to meet updated and official guidance on COVID-19, and comply with health and safety laws. All residents, staff and visitors will be required to abide by these policies at all times.

- Face masks are required to be worn in all public spaces of the residence halls and Northern View Community apartments. This includes shared living rooms in New Hall and Stevenson, elevator landings, hallways, lobbies, stairwells, laundry rooms and lounges. Face masks should always be worn when physical distancing cannot be followed. Face masks are not required while in a student’s room, or restroom area. Persons who might need an accommodation for this requirement can reach out to the Disability Resource Center. While visiting residents in their rooms, students must practice safe distancing and are encouraged to wear their face masks.
- Students should not congregate in hallways, elevator landings, stairwells, lounges or other areas where safe physical distancing is not possible.
- Other than lobby areas or dining locations, visitors and guests to the residence halls and apartments are prohibited.
- Anyone who comes to a residence hall to meet a resident is allowed to safely distance in the lobby area and wear a face mask while waiting for that student but is not permitted to leave the lobby area.
- If further de-densifying becomes necessary on campus, residential students must comply with these efforts, which could include relocation of some residential students to alternative housing.
- Residential students are prohibited from creating hazardous situations. Persistent or reckless behavior that threatens the health and safety of others could be considered a violation of policy, and university staff can ask or require students to leave areas where they are putting other members of the community at risk.

Quarantine and Isolation
With approval of the DeKalb County Health Department and in accordance with CDC guidance, NIU has created plans for quarantine and isolation. Students who cannot quarantine or isolate in their current spaces have two options. If possible, they can quarantine or isolate at their home residence after notifying the DeKalb County Health Department and the NIU Housing and Residential staff of their building of their intentions. If a home residence is not possible or preferred, the student will be relocated to an NIU staff-monitored facility.
Dining

- Residential meal plans work in the Neptune and New Hall dining rooms as well as in the Stevenson Retail Dining Center. Gilbert Hall’s dining area is not open this fall.

- Retail locations in the Holmes Student Center and in Founders Memorial Library will be open, including Qdoba, Huskie Grill, Starbucks, Huskie Depot and Einstein Bros. Bagels.

- Meal exchanges can be used at Einstein and the Stevenson food court all day. Qdoba, Huskie Grill and Huskie Depot will accept meal exchanges after 1 p.m.

- Dining halls will open three times a day for breakfast, lunch and dinner, with suitable time in between each service to thoroughly clean and sanitize all areas.

- Face masks will be required in all dining halls and retail locations.

- Campus Dining Services staff all will wear face masks and gloves.

- Meals at all facilities are packaged for carry-out only to begin the semester at all dining locations on campus. As the semester progresses, NIU will work with local and state health officials to phase in seating capacity.

- All dining locations will serve similar menus. Special dietary needs will continue to be met.

- Students must maintain proper physical distancing in ordering lines.

- Emphasis will be placed on speed of service to prevent a congregation of customers.

- Self-service stations will not be available this semester.

- To limit interaction between customer and cashier, we are introducing mobile ordering via Grubhub.

- The Huskie Classic Plan is unavailable this fall because unlimited access does not provide physical distancing.
STUDENT LIFE

We know life outside the classroom is often just as significant for our students as time spent within the classroom. We’re finding creative ways, through both virtual and in-person opportunities, to keep students connected to one another and our entire Huskie family this fall. Through thoughtful planning involving faculty, staff, students and alumni, we’ve built a comprehensive student life and engagement plan that takes into consideration the health, safety and well-being of our students. Even with today’s physical distancing limitations, we are committed to providing opportunities for students to get involved in our Huskie community and have fun.

Week of Welcome
Our new Huskies will take part in exciting and friendly events designed just for them at our Week of Welcome (WOW) hosted by Orientation and First Year Programs, in collaboration with many partners from across the campus community. WOW allows first-year students and new transfer students to experience campus about a week before the start of fall classes. Our goal is to provide an experience that builds community and NIU pride among our incoming students, while introducing them to all NIU has to offer - whether they’re living on campus or off. Programming involving a combination of virtual and face-to-face events from August 19 through August 23 is still being finalized. Keeping in mind safety recommendations from public health officials, we’re working on a schedule full of engaging activities that will help build excitement about coming to NIU and set expectations for new students about what it means to be part of the Huskie Pack.

Student Organizations and Activities
Our more than 300 student organizations - focusing on service, diversity, culture, entertainment, sports, politics, government, academics and so much more - provide valuable and meaningful experiences. We’re working to foster an environment this fall that supports the activities of these organizations, while prioritizing the health and safety of their members.

Plans remain flexible, but our aim is to:
- Provide specific guidelines to all student organization leaders and advisors, as well as advising directors, unit heads and staff.
- Offer a mix of virtual and face-to-face programs and meetings for organizations and their members throughout the year.
- Create a new platform for Huskie Link to enhance online capabilities for student organizations. Through Huskie Link, students will be able to:
  - Discover new organizations.
  - Learn about events throughout campus.
  - Track organization rosters.
  - Communicate with fellow members.
  - Register and update organizations and events electronically.
- Provide multiple modes to accommodate all students, including those who would rather remain virtual, at activities when attendance is mandatory.
- Include approved signage in activity spaces to remind guests of health standards, actions to take if feeling ill, the need to maintain physical distancing and responsible health-related behavior.

Fraternity and Sorority Life
Our more than 40 fraternities and sororities, some with off-campus housing, offer their members personal and professional growth, development and education. Although we are deferring formal recruitment activities to the Spring 2021 semester, we’ll continue to support and advocate for our Greek Letter organizations.

The monthly presidents’ meetings will be held virtually through Microsoft Teams and resources to help chapters plan activities will be provided, and will include guidance for conducting new virtual activities, as well as supporting healthy behaviors.
RecWell Programs
The Recreation and Wellness Center will open Aug. 10. In the meantime, we encourage students who are automatically RecWell members to connect with our virtual activities such as fitness classes and personal training.

As of now, our plans are to provide the following this fall:

• Adjusted hours of operations, facility layout changes and restrictions, and options for both virtual and in-person group fitness and personal training.

• With approval from university leadership and public health experts, a gradual reintroduction over the course of the fall semester of activities and facilities, such as:
  - Intramural sports and sport clubs.
  - Outdoor Adventures’ events and rentals.
  - Anderson Hall Pool, Chick Evans Field House and the Outdoor Recreation Sports Complex.

• Wellness tips through social media, Mission Wellness and other programs to help you be proactive in your health and safety. With our T.A.C.O. (tobacco, alcohol, cannabis and other drugs) and Eat, Sleep, Move campaigns this fall, you’ll become more informed on how to remain social and safe amidst a pandemic.

Holmes Student Center
An integral part of campus, our newly renovated Holmes Student Center enhances student life, cultivates unity and promotes development through a variety of cultural, educational, social and recreational programs. In our planning, we are prioritizing the health and safety of all students. Here are some things to expect:

• Starbucks, a brand new Qdoba Mexican Eats, The Grill at Huskie Den and The Depot C-Store will be open. Meal plans offered through Campus Dining – a great option for eating on campus – incorporate both residential and retail dining. Those with meal plans should make sure to check the hours for meal exchange.

• With appropriate physical distancing precautions in place, the Huskie Den Bowling and Billiards Center is expected to be open later in the year.

• Huskie Books and Gear will be open to assist students with their textbook needs.

• Housed in the center, the Campus Activities Board (CAB) will host virtual and face-to-face activities for all students. Face-to-face programs will have the option of being recorded or streamed for participants. Spaces will be reservable, with priority given to student organizations.

• The student-run Ellington’s restaurant will not be open this fall.
UNIVERSITY EVENTS

Guidance on events will continue to evolve over the course of the semester. For now, however, it is safest to assume that conducting virtual events whenever possible is the best option. Also, while gatherings of up to 50 people are allowed by the state, we strongly discourage face-to-face meetings that large – whether on campus or off.

With that in mind, the university will abide by the following guidelines intended to provide opportunities to safely interact with your fellow Huskies outside of the academic environment:

• Indoor events are limited to a maximum of 50 guests.

• If the space where an indoor event is hosted has a capacity of less than 50 persons, attendance is limited to 50% of the room’s capacity.

• Outdoor gatherings can have multiple groups of up to 50 people as long as groups maintain a distance of at least 30 feet from each other.

• Physical distancing guidelines must be followed at all events, indoors and out.

• Face masks must be worn at any gathering conducted indoors.

• Face masks are not required at outdoor events when physical distancing can be maintained but are strongly encouraged to be worn.

• Shared objects should be limited and thoroughly cleaned between uses.
PROTECTING THE PACK

SELF-REPORTING COVID-19 INFECTIONS OR EXPOSURE

A successful fall semester requires every member of the NIU community to take timely and definitive actions to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Based on the latest guidance from public health officials, these protocols are designed to help us quickly identify individuals who might be infected and to immediately take steps to prevent the spread of the disease. The protocols apply to any member of the campus community who meets any of the following criteria:

- You have COVID-19.
- You have been tested for COVID-19.
- You have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.
- You are showing symptoms associated with COVID-19.

If you are an employee who meets any of those criteria, you should immediately contact your health care provider and self-quarantine until further guidance is provided by their health care provider or the DeKalb County Health Department (DCHD). You must also complete NIU’s COVID-19 Screening Checklist (go.niu.edu/covid-checklist) and answer a series of screening questions. Until cleared to return, you will be prohibited from entering the workplace or physically interacting with coworkers or students. Those who refuse to answer questions about whether they have COVID-19 symptoms and whether they have been tested will also be barred from campus.

If you are a student who meets any of the above criteria, you must complete NIU’s COVID-19 Screening Checklist (go.niu.edu/covid-checklist) immediately and answer a series of screening questions. You should also contact your health care provider. If the Northwestern Medicine Student Health Center at NIU is your health care provider, do not go to the health center without first calling (815-306-2777). After taking those steps, you should self-quarantine until receiving further guidance from your doctor or DCHD. If you fail to follow these guidelines, you might be referred to the university conduct process.
TESTING, TRACKING, TRACING and HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

In an effort to protect all members of the campus community, NIU has developed stringent plans around testing and tracing for COVID-19 that apply to all students, faculty and staff.

Testing for students living in residence halls
All students living in NIU residence halls MUST take a COVID-19 PCR (Polymerise Chain Reaction) test prior to moving onto campus. Tests must be done on the following timeline:

- Students must be tested no more than one week (seven days) prior to their move-in date.
- Students will need to submit their test results to NIU Housing no later than 24 hours prior to their scheduled move in. Information about how to submit test results will be sent to students in early August.

COVID-19 PCR tests are available at [Illinois community based testing sites](https://www.illinois.gov) and personal health care providers. Appointments might be needed to obtain tests, so students should plan in advance. Before scheduling or taking a test, please consult your insurance provider on its requirements or instructions. Students will be responsible for any testing costs not covered by insurance. If you have questions about insurance and the test, please contact the NIU Center for Student Assistance at studentassistance@niu.edu or by calling 815-753-8300 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Students unable to document their negative COVID-19 PCR test WILL NOT be permitted to move into their residence halls.

Testing for students living off campus
Although COVID-19 testing is not required for students living in Greek housing, in off-campus apartments or at home, it is strongly recommended for students who have in-person or hybrid classes.

Also, all students who have in-person or hybrid classes are asked to limit contact with others starting two weeks before the first day of classes August 24.

Surveillance testing:
Surveillance testing is a strategy commonly used by public health officials to help them better understand the spread of a disease and the effectiveness of steps being taken to slow or stop the spread. They do so by testing specific samples within a population in a way that allows them to make inferences as efficiently as possible.

NIU is currently in discussions with the DeKalb County Health Department (DCHD) and Northwestern Medicine regarding the efficacy and implementation of surveillance testing. More information will be forthcoming in the next few weeks regarding whether such testing will be implemented, and, if so, how the testing will be implemented.

Reactive testing:
Any student or employee who is showing symptoms of COVID-19 or who has been in contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 (as determined in conjunction with the contact tracing process explained below) can receive a COVID-19 PCR test at an [Illinois community based testing site](https://www.illinois.gov). If that individual does not have insurance to get tested or is experiencing other barriers (i.e., no transportation), testing can be arranged through the DCHD. If testing is needed to mitigate a potential outbreak (e.g., a student in a residence hall tests positive), the DCHD will facilitate testing to assist in containment.

Tracking and Tracing:
When a member of the university is found to be infected, the DCHD will conduct contact tracing. Contact tracing is used to prevent the spread of infectious disease by identifying people who have an infectious disease and their contacts (people who might have been exposed) and working with them to interrupt disease transmission. For COVID-19, this includes asking individuals diagnosed with the virus to isolate and those they have been in contact with to quarantine at home voluntarily. The health department also will provide support and guidance for those who have potentially been exposed to the virus.
Members of the NIU community are encouraged to make informed, cautious and flexible decisions when it comes to any type of personal and professional travel during the pandemic and, especially, to avoid areas that are considered “hot spots” for COVID-19 outbreaks. State- and local-based quarantine orders are likely to evolve over the next few months, and you will be required to follow any regulations or orders that pertain to you. The university will continue to closely monitor changes in public health guidance and will communicate with our community about the effect of those changes.

### Personal and University Travel Quarantine Guidance

As of July 6, the Chicago Department of Public Health issued an [Emergency Travel Order](#) that directs travelers arriving in Chicago from states experiencing a surge in new COVID-19 cases to quarantine for 14 days. The intent is to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Chicago as a result of people entering Chicago from high-incidence states.

All employees and students who have traveled to the states identified by the Chicago Department of Public Health as experiencing a surge in new COVID-19 cases should quarantine for 14 days and not return to any of the NIU campuses before the quarantine period is completed.

Although NIU is not technically located in the area affected by the travel order, many of our employees and students live in or near the Chicago area. We expect members of the NIU community to follow local, state and federal guidelines that pertain to them, and we will support them in doing so.

### University-Sponsored Travel

All non-essential, university-sponsored domestic and international travel for faculty, staff and employed students is limited and/or restricted through Dec. 31, 2020.

Travel can be approved by a supervisor if it meets one of the following conditions:

1. Required by an employee’s job (examples: admissions counselor visits to high schools; travel to Springfield for state relations; travel for athletic functions; necessary site visits to clinical agencies, etc.);

2. Essential to the progression of an employee’s professional development or research, scholarship or artistry (examples: participation in a professional workshop or service position; participation in a conference; delivery of a presentation; examination of documents at remote archives; collection of data; performances by a musician, etc.); or

3. An obligated activity associated with grants and contracts (examples: delivery of clinical services; data collection, etc.).

Approval should be provided by an employee’s immediate supervisor using standard travel procedures. This policy does not address funding for travel, which should be identified by the traveler separately from approval. Those who believe that they have reasons to travel outside of these three conditions can request waivers through the Office of the Provost.
TRANSPORTATION

Procedures have been instituted to help keep you safe, whether you are a student or employee using the Huskie Bus to get around town or someone who needs to use a university vehicle for essential travel.

DeKalb Public Transit System (Huskie Buses)

The Huskie Line is a free bus service to all active NIU students with valid NIU OneCards. It serves the main campus, including classroom buildings, parking lots, offices and residence halls, as well as routes heading off campus to local apartments, shopping centers and food establishments. One route serves the Sycamore shopping areas as well.

- ETA SPOT is a GPS app you can download that lets you know where the Huskie Buses are at all times.
- All public transit vehicles are thoroughly cleaned at least twice per day. This includes disinfecting commonly touched surfaces throughout the entire vehicle for the safety of the passengers and the bus operator.
- All passengers capable of doing so must enter and exit through the rear door of the bus. Individuals using mobility devices, boarding with strollers or with small children can request the use of the front door.
- All passengers riding the DeKalb Public Transit System are required to wear face coverings.
- At this time, all fixed routes are limited to a maximum of 10 to 12 people on board a bus at any one time. This ensures physical distancing can occur between passengers. This number could increase with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the State of Illinois.
- All routes, with the exception of the Route 12 to the Elburn Metra Station, are fare-free at this time. Fare collection is anticipated to return in the near future. All NIU students, faculty and staff can ride any fixed route for free with valid NIU OneCards. The Route 12 to Elburn requires all passengers to purchase tickets from www.niutickets.com.
- All passengers should do their part by maintaining a safe distance when traveling on the bus.
NIU Transportation Services

Fleet vehicles remain available for approved use, and Transportation Services is taking proactive steps and implementing measures to keep our students, faculty, staff and vehicles safe, and to mitigate the spread of viruses and diseases.

The following information is a guiding tool for drivers and passengers using university-owned vehicles.

- Avoid non-essential travel; if you must travel, do so alone when operationally feasible.

- Wear masks when traveling with more than one person and when interacting with others, such as at a toll booth or drive-up window.

- Drivers should ensure masks do not impede their vision or generally interfere with their ability to safely operate vehicles.

- Limit contact with high-touch surfaces.

- Maintain appropriate physical distancing as possible by keeping a 6-foot distance between individuals.

- Handle your own belongings.

Transportation Services is taking steps to keep vehicles clean to help minimize the spread of viruses.

- Cleaning high-touch areas after each use, such as:
  - Door handles
  - Steering wheel
  - Exposed dash surfaces
  - Radio controls
  - Seat belts and buckles
  - Cup holders
  - Gas door or cap

- Removing any visible contamination from soft or porous surfaces, such as fabric seats, and cleaning appropriately afterward.
RESOURCES

NIU's COVID-19 Response
NIU's Protecting the Pack Plan
Public Health and Higher Education Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Illinois Department of Public Health
DeKalb County Health Department
Illinois Board of Higher Education – Safely Launching Academic Year 2020

Health, Wellness and Support Resources for Students
COVID-19 PCR Testing Site Locator
NIU Health Services
Northwestern Medicine Student Health Center at Northern Illinois University
NIU Counseling and Consultation Services
NIU Center for Student Assistance
NIU Disability Resource Center
NIU Keep Learning/Remote Learning Resources

Resources for Employees
Return to Work at NIU site
NIU Remote Teaching Resources
NIU Frequently Asked Questions site for Employees
NIU Employee Assistance Program
Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity and Education

APPs for Download / Transit Links
#CampusClear App for Daily Symptom Checks
NIU Mobile for accessing MyNIU, Maps, Blackboard and more
ETA Spot for tracking Huskie Buses

Signage
Physical Distancing Signage
Health Safety Guidelines Signage
Campus Building Signage
In accordance with applicable statutes and regulations, Northern Illinois University is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, religion, age, physical and mental disability, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, political affiliation, or any other factor unrelated to professional qualifications; and complies with all applicable federal and state statutes, regulations and orders pertaining to nondiscrimination, equal opportunity, and affirmative action. Inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies may be referred to the Ethics and Compliance Officer, Title IX Coordinator, Health Services 230, 1425 W. Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115, TitleIXCoordinator@niu.edu, 815-753-5560.