

Student-Athlete Zoom Conference

August 19, 2020

All official communication related to COVID-19 and Bluefield College can be found at www.bluefield.edu/covid-19

General information as of 8/25/2020

- There are 485 students on campus
- 5% have COVID 19
- 16% have quarantine without a positive COVID-19
- In the classrooms wear your masks.
- Cafeteria, stay separate from other sports as much as possible.
- Should not be in each other's rooms.

Accountability: It is important that we hold each other accountable. If you see individuals that are not following protocols, please share with your coach, student development, or AD Walker.

Q: What do I do if I have not picked up my textbooks?

A: Email Darrin Martin at dmartin@bluefield.edu or Jessy Mounts at jessymounts@bluefield.edu for your books.

Q: How is the school helping with this “bubble”? There are still activities that the school is holding that are not going along with team separation.

A: Student development and student activities are planned with safety in mind. Students are encouraged to wear their masks and practice social distancing at any event. College leadership does not desire the experience to resemble anything to a prison sentence. That is why quality activities will be offered. Students should take part and take part responsibly. Please refrain from going outside of campus for entertainment as much as possible to lessen the possibility of exposure to the virus. The athletic department is encouraging you to stay in small groups of team members at these events. Student Development is going to make better efforts to offer sanitation stations and cleaning supplies at all events.

Q: Why doesn't the school just transition its classes online to eliminate the mixing of students in class?

A: Bluefield College is committed to providing an in-person learning experience. When all protocols are followed, the classroom is a safe place to learn. The college is constantly referring to CDC and VDH for guidance and will continue to do so in order to make traditional learning possible. Should the decision to move from in-person to solely online instruction have to be made, it will be made by College officials in cooperation with health officials, government officials, and many other variables at that time.

Q: How are we practicing team separation if everyone is allowed to go to the cafeteria?

A: While in the cafeteria, we encourage you to sit socially distanced and around teammates from your sport. When you go to the cafeteria, keep your distance in line. Wear your mask, and only take it off to eat. When you are finished eating, do your best to not hang out in the cafeteria. Remember, you can take your meals to go and enjoy them outside or in your residence hall, too.

Q: If we receive a negative test one day, how can we receive a positive test the next day?

A: You may not be showing the virus at the time of the test. If you were exposed it may take a period of time for the virus to incubate. That is why there is an importance on exposure date and isolations/quarantine to ensure you are not tested too soon.

Q: What do I do if I go to class and the social distancing and mask protocols are not being followed?

A: You are not obligated to stay in the classroom if you do not feel safe. We encourage you to let the Office of Academic Affairs know that protocols are not being followed. In addition, nearly every class is offering synchronous learning. You may choose to complete your class from the safety of your dorm room. One of the keys to success in doing this is regularly communicating with your professors.

Q: Are we allowed to go home for Labor Day?

A: If you are in quarantine or isolation you may choose to complete the required number of days on campus or at home. You are NOT allowed to go back and forth. If you choose to go home, those in your household will then have to quarantine or isolate as well. If you go home, upon your return, you will have to self-isolate until the Sports Medicine department can be sure you are not carrying the virus in order to practice. We are asking that any travel outside of the college is limited to reduce exposure. If you leave campus be sure to notify residence life and if you are an athlete, your athletic trainer.

Q: Is there a remote option for chapel? What protocols are in place for chapel?

A: There is a virtual option for chapel. If you choose to attend chapel in person, practice social distancing and wear a mask as you would anywhere else on campus. Keep in mind, we are working through the stumbling blocks that pop up from streaming chapel. Students will get credit if they are logged on to watch the live stream or a taped version.

Q: How does self-isolation work with sports?

A: If you are required to self-isolate then you will not be allowed to practice or compete until the isolation period is over.

Q: Can you choose to do remote learning and still compete?

A: Yes, you are permitted to do so provided that you can attend all team events such as practice, trainings, conditioning, and team meetings. You are still required to partake in temperature checks and to follow all other athletic protocols. If you do not live locally, you may partake in remote learning during your off season. While in season, you will have to be on campus to be able to attend the above mentioned team activities.

Q: What do I do if I have a class that does not offer remote learning?

A: Reach out to your professor and ask what remote options there are for your class. If they are unable to help you, direct your question to Academic Affairs.

Q: Are we considered still eligible if we choose to do distance learning?

A: You are still eligible if you choose to do distance learning. Refer to the above question on being able to compete while in remote learning for additional details.

Q: Can you go to conditioning if in quarantine/isolation?

A: No, you are required to remain in in your room until your quarantine/isolation period is over.

Q: Can the weight room be utilized if I have received a negative COVID test.

A: No, the weight room is currently closed until September 8, 2020. Please keep an eye on your email for further information. This date may be extended if there is continued increase of COVID positive cases.

Q: Are non-athletes being held to the same standard?

A: The Bluefield College COVID-19 policies and procedures apply to all students. Student-athletes have additional policies to allow for gatherings such as practice. If you are aware of a non-athlete that is in violation of COVID policies, notify Student Development.

Q: Can we sit outside to get fresh air if we are in masks and socially distanced if we are in isolation or quarantine?

A: Leaving your room is not advised under the policies that we have due to cleanliness of living spaces. If you must leave your room for approved reasons, like retesting, it is very important to have a mask and stay socially distant. Limiting touched surfaces and places where others may be exposed to you is important.

Q: Can COVID travel through ac unites and vents?

A: It can. All of the AC units on campus are contained and have their own air ducts. Therefore, it cannot be spread from room-to-room.

Q: Are we still planning to have all winter and spring sports?

A: The NAIA's focus is on fall sports at this time. We are being told that that the discussion about winter sports should begin around early September.

Q: The ACE used to put up study group sessions before a test was going to occur for a class, on the white board. Will this continue in an online type of way or some other form?

A: The ACE is committed to providing all previous resources in one way or another. More information will be coming soon.