

Strategies for teaching that help protect student health, foster empathy and facilitate student success:

1. What are the expectations for classroom attendance for students who are isolated due to a positive diagnosis of COVID 19? What guidelines should faculty use for accommodations and lenience?

- Faculty should consider adopting attendance policies that encourage students to stay home when they are sick or if they have to quarantine. Fatal attendance policies (e.g. 9 absences = failure) should be abandoned during this term.
- Faculty should consider providing students with opportunities to make up or complete alternate assignments when student health circumstances require them to avoid face-to-face classes.

Here are some options faculty may want to consider:

- If you are teaching from a room where recording sessions is a possibility, try to capture lecture and other classroom activities using available technology.
- Share lecture notes or slides with the student who is sick or in quarantine.
- Ask the student to complete readings or activities that will help them obtain the learning objectives. Perhaps there are some good podcasts or videos that would be helpful.
- Meet with the student via zoom (perhaps consider hosting regular zoom office hours) to help clarify questions that may arise from readings/activities.

2. What are my options if a student won't wear a mask?

- Be sure you have communicated to students the expectations for mask wearing indoors on campus. Please refer to and use the [suggested syllabus language](#) in the ETSU mask policy. It's also helpful to talk about the importance of mask wearing in class.
- Your range of options for students who do not wear a mask is broad as are your options when responding to any classroom conduct issue. Here are some options you may want to consider:
  - Place a disposable mask on the student's desk.
  - In addition to providing a disposable mask, ask the student to stay after class and discuss the issue with the student. This strategy saves the student from a potentially embarrassing discussion in front of his/her/their peers. Be sure to let the student know about the potential consequences for continuing to violate university policies.
  - In circumstances where a student consistently refuses to wear a mask, you may ask the student to leave class.
  - **SPECIAL NOTE:** Avoid dismissing the entire class because one student is not wearing a mask. Having most students complying with the mask mandate and continuing to teach is much preferable to denying the majority of students' access to instruction because of a few students who are non-compliant.

3. If a student reports they have been exposed to COVID-19, should I ask my entire class to quarantine?

- No. If an infected or exposed student comes to class, the instructor should report the incident to the Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) Office at 439-7785. This office will then interview the positive student and advise them to quarantine for 10 days after onset of symptoms, or 10 days after the last date of contact (with a positive) if they are a contact exposure. If the student is a positive, EH&S will ascertain who has been in close contact with the positive, that is, within 6 feet for at least 15 or more minutes within 24 hours (as per CDC/TDH guidelines). ***This may or may not be the entire class.*** The contact exposures will be notified that they have been in close contact with a positive and are required to quarantine for 10 days after the last date of contact with the positive. Please keep in mind that a vaccinated contact exposure does not have to quarantine.

#### Other Considerations:

- **Be sure to remind students that vaccination is an important part of protecting themselves from illness due to COVID-19.** ETSU is hosting vaccine clinics throughout the early part of the semester and there are a number of other locations in the region that provide vaccinations. ETSU has also issued a [vaccine challenge](#) that will award prizes to students who enter the vaccine challenge.
- **Consider a syllabus statement about the likelihood of changes to the course. A statement that acknowledges the uncertainty of the term may be helpful.** A statement like, “While I’ve made a sincere attempt to create a flexible plan for teaching during the pandemic, the reality is that I cannot predict the future. Course meetings, learning activities, and assignments may change as the realities of the pandemic in our region change and require a shift to a different operational stage of the university’s pandemic framework.”
- **Consider a conversation where you set class norms and remind students of the University’s conduct policy.** At a time when tensions are running high for everyone, it is a good idea to set course norms during the first week of class. Ask students to help develop these class ground rules and be sure to include the following topics in that conversation:
  - Discuss how you will work together in the course, how respect will be defined, and how conflict will be resolved.
  - Describe the university's academic integrity policy and what academic integrity means for the course.
  - Remind students of the university's values and how they interact with your course goals, content, and policies.

#### Reach out when you need support:

- Contact the Center for Teaching Excellence if you would like to talk with someone about how to respond to specific situations in your class. You can do that by calling 423-439-8445 or emailing the Center staff at [smithpa@etsu.edu](mailto:smithpa@etsu.edu) or [johnsoad@etsu.edu](mailto:johnsoad@etsu.edu).
- The people in the Dean of Students Office will be helpful as well. The best way to reach that office is to email at [deanofstudents@etsu.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@etsu.edu) or call 423-439-4210.
- Consider attending a **Together in Community** event hosted by the Center for Teaching Excellence, the Office of Equity and Inclusion, and the Strong BRAIN Institute. Dates and times for these sessions are forthcoming but you can read more about the series below:

- Returning to campus also means returning to a broader community, an extended ETSU family. As we come together again, we'll also be thinking again about what it means to have productive conversations, respect differences, and build community. Some of us will be thrilled to see people in person and some will be anxious about potential virus spread. We invite you to join us as we provide resources and opportunities throughout the semester to help each other navigate challenges and identify opportunities this "in-person" semester may present. We will provide evidence-based tools and strategies, problem solve challenges, and seek to find mutually supportive ways to smooth the transition back to mostly in-person teaching and learning and working side-by-side with our coworkers. Not only do we want the ETSU community to feel supported through this transition, we want to equip and support community members to navigate the transition as well. We plan to provide opportunities to discuss ways to enhance community throughout campus.