

**College of Law  
Spring 2020 FAQs  
[please check back periodically for updates]**

**Following Information Updated as of 2/4/2021**

**1. Are there any policy/procedure changes relating to Covid-19 for the Spring 2021 semester?**

Spring 2021 will closely mirror that of Fall 2020. About half our classes are in-person and the other half online. Masking and social distancing are still required within the College of Law, and food must be consumed outside the building.

Additional hand sanitizer and disinfectant stations have been added throughout our building. The administration is currently considering the purchase of additional electrostatic air purifiers and a touch-free temperature scanning device to be installed in the student areas. We continue to closely monitor OU and CDC guidelines to ensure our protocols are consistent with best practices. Classrooms are sanitized twice daily and electrostatic cleaning takes place weekly.

It is important to note that, campus-wide, there have been no known transmissions of Covid-19 in any OU classroom. This remarkable achievement could not have happened without your diligence in masking and maintaining social distance. Thank you!

**2. Can student organizations meet in the classrooms in the Spring of 2021?**

Yes! Student organizations may reserve a classroom through the Courtyard. Social distancing and masking are required for your meeting, so please do not underestimate your in-person attendance, as we need to assign your organization to a room that provides sufficient space for social distancing. You cannot eat while in the building, but you may provide boxed or grab-and-go meals for members to take as they leave the meeting. Grab-and-go type packing is required, e.g., a platter of chicken nuggets or pizzas for everyone to share would violate this rule but individually packaged sandwiches, fries, etc. are acceptable.

**3. Will classes be in-person or online in the Fall 2021 Semester?**

Current plans are for the College of Law to return fully to in-person classes in Fall 2021.

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Current plans are for the College of Law to return fully to in-person classes in Fall 2021.

**4. Have the Covid-19 screening requirements been updated?**

Yes, they have. The current Covid-19 screening requirements (current as of October 16, 2020) for OU students, staff, and faculty are as follow:

Each time you experience one of the following scenarios, you must complete an [online screening tool](#)\* for assessment and clearance PRIOR to returning to campus or returning to a University-related function.

- Experiencing Symptoms – Employees and students experiencing symptoms that could be consistent with COVID-19, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, recent loss of taste or smell, and/or extreme fatigue, must complete the COVID-19 Screening and Reporting Tool. They should also contact their health care provider regarding specific symptoms.
- Close Contact – Employees and students who have had close contact with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 (been within 6 feet, for approximately 15 minutes or more)\* or with someone who has been tested for COVID-19 and whose results are pending in the last 14 days must complete the COVID-19 Screening and Reporting Tool.
- Positive Test – Employees and students who test positive for COVID-19 may not return to campus until they have been cleared by Student and Employee Health to return.

**\*The definition of “Close Contact” no longer includes a statement about mask wearing.** For this reason, if you have been within 6 feet of a person diagnosed with Covid-19 for approximately 15 minutes or more, **regardless of whether you or the other person were wearing masks**, you still meet the CDC’s criteria for close contact or exposure, and you must complete the online Covid-19 Screening and Reporting Tool. Because you had a mask on, the probability that you contracted Covid-19 is decreased substantially, but it’s important to complete the online Covid-19 Screening and Reporting Tool and let a health professional evaluate the risk.

**In addition, please note that while online screening should be completed immediately after experiencing a triggering event, Goddard recommends PCR testing at DAY 7 following a known exposure. Earlier testing may result in a false negative test. The rapid screening test sometimes administered in minor emergency centers are useful only if the test is positive, as the % of false negatives is significant.**

**5. Am I required to quarantine or produce a negative COVID-19 test result before arriving to Norman or returning to the College of Law?**

No. Students are not required to undergo testing before returning to the College of Law. Within seven days before returning to campus, all students must, however, complete the COVID-19 Screening and Reporting Tool available through the University of Oklahoma Goddard Health Center website, accessible [here](#). Mandatory screening is triggered by absence from campus for seven or more consecutive days, travel outside the state of Oklahoma, participation in gathering of ten or more persons without wearing a mask and distancing, contact with a household member or other individual diagnosed with or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, or symptomatic presentation. It is possible that screening will generate the requirement for a COVID-19 test. For assistance contacting your campus health clinic, call OU Norman Goddard Health Center Nurse Line (405-325-8732); [covidscreening@ou.edu](mailto:covidscreening@ou.edu).

All students are encouraged, but not currently required, to self-monitor (including temperature-taking) before entering Coats Hall or otherwise coming to campus.

**6. Given that policies might change, what are the best sources to consult to determine current policy applicable at the University of Oklahoma or the College of Law?**

As much of our College of Law policy has been driven by university-wide directive, the best and broadest source for information is the OU Together website found [here](#). A link to that website, along with a link to these FAQs, the College of Law's internal Canvas Site, and other important material can be found on the College of Law Homepage across the top tab banner. Moreover, please consult your course syllabus carefully for specific course information.

**7. Will the College of Law enforce a mask requirement?**

Yes. All persons inside any campus building must wear a cloth or surgical-style mask that fits snugly and fully covers the nose and mouth. Face shields, buffs, gaiters, and bandannas do not qualify. OU will provide masks for all students, staff, and faculty, and the COL will retain extra masks for students who forget to bring a mask. You may also wear your own mask as long as it meets the above requirements. You may not remove your mask while in the building unless you are alone in a fully enclosed space. Otherwise, with the exception of drinking from a water bottle, you will need to step outside the building and maintain social distancing while eating or drinking.

**8. What will happen if someone refuses to wear a mask inside the building or lowers or takes the mask off while inside?**

The health and safety of all members of our community and their families are a priority. At the College of Law, together we work hard, and together we care for one another. It is impossible to know whether a classmate or member of our faculty or staff – or one of their household members – faces increased risk of COVID-19 complications. Wearing a mask helps us protect our vulnerable friends. We do not anticipate encountering difficulty where anyone refuses to wear a mask or wears it improperly when required. Should that circumstance occur, faculty and staff will offer a mask and request that the individual comply with OU and College of Law policy. One who refuses will be asked to leave the class and building. If necessary, for the safety of other students, a professor may dismiss a class in which an individual does not comply. The student may subsequently be required to meet with a College of Law or University of Oklahoma administrator. For additional information on masks and other policy, see OU Together [here](#).

**9. May I wear a mask that has an air vent to make breathing easier or a buff or scarf?**

No. A mask that has an air vent protects the wearer but does not protect those in close proximity to the wearer. Masks marketed as N95 masks that have an air vent are not the same as N95 masks used in hospitals. To protect your colleagues and our staff, you will need to wear hospital-style masks only.

**10. Will the library be open for student use in studying this spring?**

Yes. The library will be open for student use this spring. The library staff has identified physically distanced spaces for student study, and continues to work toward identifying a section of the library for specific use for students with back-to-back online and in-person classes who need space at school in which to participate in the online class.

**11. If the library is open, what hours will it be available for study?**

The library will be open the week of August 17–21 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and August 24–28 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. As we re-open the building for the fall semester, we will continue to assess occupancy, need, safety, and access to assess appropriate expanded hours.

**12. Where can I attend an online class if I have a quick transition to/from an in-person class? You have several options:**

1. A “zoom room” is set up just to the east of the Great Reading Room in the library.
2. On the 1st and 2nd floors of the CoL there are roughly 200 socially distanced seats for studying. You can zoom in pretty much any of those. Headphones are suggested.
3. Outside, the wifi reaches around the building and to the parking lot. The tents are very pleasant until the afternoon and have seats and tables for you.
4. 1LS - Classroom 1, the Crowe& Dunlevy LRW Classroom, and Seminar 1016 will be available for 1Ls participating in an online class from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each weekday. Scheduled classes and events take priority over individual study.
5. 2Ls & 3Ls - Classrooms 5 and 6 will be available from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each weekday for upper-level students participating in an online class.
6. Classroom 1 will also be available for upper-level students during those hours except when the board outside the classroom shows it has been reserved for scheduled classes and events.

### **13. Can I park at the OCCE with my OU Law Parking Pass?**

Yes! You can park in any space marked as “multipurpose.” There are many such spaces surrounding the OCCE. In fact, you can park in any multipurpose parking space across campus.

### **14. I can't login from home. What can I do?**

Please contact our IT department at [law.help@ou.edu](mailto:law.help@ou.edu).

If you have repeated problems logging in from home but not from school, the issue may be related to your home wifi service. You can contact our IT department at [law.help@ou.edu](mailto:law.help@ou.edu) for help in determining the source of the problem and possible fixes.

### **15. I can't access a Zoom class. What can I do?**

If you are at the law school, please go to the IT support desk on the first floor for immediate help. If you are unable to find an IT staff person (they may be assisting others in a classroom), please email [law.help@ou.edu](mailto:law.help@ou.edu) for assistance.

## **16. Will the Amicus café be open?**

Yes. The Amicus café will be open to provide “grab-and-go” food during regular weekday hours this semester. We are working to ensure that you can pre-order your selections; payments will be cashless to increase community safety. Because of masking requirements, food cannot be consumed inside the law school unless you are alone in an enclosed office. However, water bottles may be used. You may consume food and beverages outside on-campus with appropriate physical distance.

Until further notice, there will be no self-serve microwave, coffee, or beverage access within the College of Law other than through the vending machines. We are working with OU Food and Beverage to secure Sooner Sense cards for law student use within the café.

## **17. How can I order food from the Amicus Café?**

Our in-house Amicus Café is open every weekday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. You can use Grubhub to order food from the Amicus Café without waiting. You will need to register as an OU student on Grubhub. Instructions can be found here: <https://www.ou.edu/housingandfood/dining/mobile-ordering>.

## **18. Will lockers be open?**

Lockers will not be available for student use during the fall 2020 semester. Locker cleanout will occur the first week of class for those who left items in lockers last spring. We will be placing additional student study space within the locker area.

## **19. May we serve food at student organization meetings?**

Food may be provided in grab-and-go packaging only, and may not be provided self-service, as passed, or buffet-style. Food may not be consumed within Coats Hall but may be consumed in our surrounding spaces. There are no restrictions on food service for student organization meetings held off-campus, subject to restriction or ordinance adopted by the City of Norman.

## **20. May I bring a visitor into the law school?**

Our building is presently open only to law students, staff, and faculty through ID card, key, or fob access. For our collective safety, we ask that you do not invite or bring visitors into the building without prior approval of a

dean. All vendors and campus visitors will be required to undertake and be cleared through the Goddard COVID-19 Screening and Reporting Tool before entering campus.

**21. May I choose to participate remotely in an in-person class?**

We have worked diligently to provide a mix of in-person and online courses across the curriculum to offer choice and range. While we know that the semester will bring COVID-related challenges that may require students to participate online in a course scheduled as in-person, we are not able to offer the option of participating online in an in-person course unless the student has been approved for an online accommodation.

**22. I have a diagnosed health condition that I believe places me at high-risk for COVID-19 complications. May I get an accommodation to take in-person classes online?**

If you have a diagnosed health condition that puts you at high-risk for COVID-19 complications, please contact the Accessibility and Disability Resource Center to request an accommodation. (405) 325-3852 (Voice); (405) 217-3494 (VP); (405) 325-4491 (Fax); Email: [adrc@ou.edu](mailto:adrc@ou.edu)

**23. I do not have a high-risk condition, but a member of my household has a diagnosed health condition placing her at heightened risk for COVID-19 complications. May I get secure an accommodation to take in-person classes online?**

If a member of your household has a diagnosed health condition that puts the household member at high-risk for COVID-19 complications, please contact Dean Dishman or Dean Mullins to discuss your situation.

**24. What will happen if someone in one of my classes test positive for COVID-19 during the semester? Will the entire class be required to quarantine for two weeks?**

Because the College of Law will enforce the campus-wide mask requirements and has arranged classrooms to provide at appropriate distancing, the positive test of one student in class will not require the transition of that class to online delivery. The class will continue in person while the student who tested positive is quarantined as directed by Goddard Health Center. You will be contacted by Goddard Health Center if warranted under its testing and contact tracing policy.

**25. What if I test positive for COVID-19 during the semester?**



If you test positive or have symptoms commonly associated with COVID-19, you should not enter campus or the College of Law building. Although you are free to choose your own medical provider, you will need to complete the Goddard Health Center screening and be cleared before you can return to campus. While you are quarantining, you may be able to access your classes online. If you become too ill to participate in your online courses, we will work with you to determine appropriate steps.

**26. Will the College of Law notify me if a classmate has tested positive for COVID-19?**

No. Student privacy laws will not allow the College of Law to publicly identify a student who has tested positive and is quarantining or has been exposed and is isolating. While health authorities will do contact tracing, the College of Law is not involved in that process. You will be notified by Goddard Health Center if it determines, under its testing and tracing protocol, that you have had close personal contact with an infected classmate and have been identified.

Currently, the CDC defines close personal contact as being within six feet of a person not wearing a mask for more than 15 minutes. Because we will enforce masking and physical distancing in the College of Law, no student should have close personal contact with any other student while in the building. If you encounter a situation in which a person in our building fails to maintain social distancing or proper mask-wearing, then you should *immediately* notify Dean Dishman [bdishman@ou.edu](mailto:bdishman@ou.edu)/Student Services Suite or Dean Mullins [gmullins@ou.edu](mailto:gmullins@ou.edu)/Room 3054.

**27. Whom must I notify if I test positive for COVID-19?**

You should immediately notify the Goddard Health Center and Dean Mullins at [gmullins@ou.edu](mailto:gmullins@ou.edu). Dean Mullins will inform your professors that you will not be in class; your professors will contact you to determine next steps.

**28. What if I believe I have had close personal contact with another person who has tested positive for COVID-19?**

Immediately complete the Goddard Health screening process. You will be notified of the appropriate next steps. You cannot return to campus until you have been cleared to do so through the Goddard screening process. If you will miss an in-person class as a result of any isolation or testing requirements, immediately contact Dean Mullins at [gmullins@ou.edu](mailto:gmullins@ou.edu).

**29. What happens if a professor teaching an in-person class tests positive for COVID-19 or becomes ill during the semester?**

If a professor tests positive or has close personal contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19, the professor will not return to campus until the professor has been cleared to return through the Goddard screening process. In the interim, the professor may move the classes to synchronous or asynchronous online sessions or provide alternate means of continued instruction. If a professor becomes ill and cannot teach either in-person or online, the College of Law will take next steps as it would in any situation in which a professor was unable to continue teaching.

**30. Public health officials are strongly encouraging flu shots this year. Can I get one on campus? Do I have to pay for it?**

Flu shots will be administered to all OU students, free of charge, at various locations across campus. It is not anticipated at this time that flu shots will be offered at the College of Law. Public health officials are recommending everyone who is healthy enough to be vaccinated against the flu to do so and to do so early in the cold and flu season. For a current schedule of flu shot clinics and locations, see <https://www.ou.edu/healthservices/flu>.

**31. Will mental health counseling services remain available to law students?**

Yes. Mental health counseling services will remain available, but are currently anticipated to be held online instead of within the building in Coats Hall. For more information or to book an appointment, please call 405-325-4441.

**32. What about the gym, the pool, and other outdoor amenities?**

Assorted opportunities for physical and mental well-being remain available. Please see <https://www.ou.edu/far> (gym); <https://www.ou.edu/far/aquatics> (pool).

**33. Should I anticipate all classes going online at some point this semester?**

We hope that in-person classes will continue throughout the semester but recognize that COVID-19 spread could make it necessary for the University of Oklahoma to move all classes online at some point.

**34. What regular cleaning measures is the College of Law taking to protect the health of the students, staff, and faculty?**

The College of Law faculty and staff will wear masks unless they are alone in an enclosed space such as a private office. Our custodial colleagues will clean classrooms and bathrooms, as well as handles and doorknobs, frequently. Antiseptic lotion and disinfectant wipes, as well as spray bottle cleaners and paper towels, will be available throughout the building; you are encouraged to wipe down the area within which you are working when you arrive and before you leave. You may also wish to bring personal antiseptic and cleaning supplies to campus.

Main campus will use UV sanitizing equipment weekly to deep-clean hard-to-reach spaces, weekly, within Coats Hall. All air filters have been upgraded to hospital-grade Merv-13 filters. We have worked diligently to provide safe working options for our staff and faculty who are at high-risk for COVID-19, and we will work to provide safe options for our students who are high-risk or live with someone who is high-risk.

We are assessing hours of operation based on need, accessibility, and use, and will soon publish building hours needed to ensure that our maintenance colleagues maintain sufficient ability and clean and sanitize our building each night.

**35. Can we prop open doors so I don't have to touch the handles?**

We will prop doors open as allowed by the fire code, but some doors cannot be propped open for safety reasons. We have placed large bottles of hand sanitizer at locations throughout the law school. You may want to dampen a paper towel with sanitizer to use in opening doors that cannot be propped open.

**36. What should I do if I become ill while at school and do not feel well enough to drive myself home?**

If you become ill while at school and do not feel well enough to drive home or to a health care provider, please see Chase Maxwell in the Dean's Suite on the second floor. Mr. Maxwell is our designated COVID-19 officer, and he can take you to an empty office and assist you in making arrangements to be taken home or to a health care provider.

**37. If I encounter a student, faculty, or staff member who does not appear to be following masking or distancing requirements, what**

**should I do if I do not feel comfortable saying anything to that person?**

We encourage you to speak up. If you see someone who is not wearing a mask, you might ask whether you can get a mask for them. If the person says no, then you can ask them to go outside until you find someone who can talk to them. You should then come immediately to the Dean's Suite to report the incident and allow a staff member or a Dean handle the situation.

**38. Will the College of Law reduce tuition or fees for online classes?**

We do not plan to reduce tuition. The College of Law awards a significant amount in scholarship and tuition waivers each year, which we are committed to continuing in the coming year despite the recent downturn in the economy and an increase in operations cost. Our library continues to provide a complete complement of study aids, research and resource assistance, and textbook access without charge to our students. We have rearranged study spaces in the library to maximize socially distant study spaces.

Even when the library has been closed to the public, our library staff has worked tirelessly to assist patrons in locating and using research resources, and our faculty and staff colleagues continue to offer the level of assistance and individualized attention for which they are known. That work will continue. We continue to provide free iPads and intense digital initiative training for all students, and will also continue to deliver programming, assist with emergency funding requests, provide mental health and wellness access to students, and continue other programming to support student opportunity, mentoring, and access. We will, of course, review all fee assessments, and if we identify any areas for which COVID-19 has resulted in cessation of services or decreased costs and will work as permissible with the University of Oklahoma Bursar's Office to lower those fees for our students.

**39. Is OU providing any childcare resources?**

Yes. The university has launched [OU Connect](#), a person-to-person job posting website, to assist students, faculty and staff find providers who can help with family care needs. Services such as childcare, tutoring, topical lessons, and eldercare can be posted by providers, and faculty can connect directly to the providers via the website. The service is open to OU community members on all three campuses.

In addition, OU has established a temporary [program](#) to help support income-eligible faculty and staff who incur unexpected family care expenses during this period of school disruption. Faculty and staff who meet the criteria are eligible for up to \$500 (\$300, plus \$200 for an additional child before taxes) to pay for childcare expenses. While they cannot cover the entirety of additional childcare costs this semester, OU hopes that these funds will assist those in our community who have the greatest difficulty covering unanticipated childcare costs.

Information regarding [eligibility](#) and [the application form](#) are linked.