

Le Moyne College
Respiratory Virus Syllabus Statement
Fall 2025

Overview. The following information describes the health and safety guidelines for in-person classes and classrooms, which **are subject to change¹**. The College may adjust health and safety protocols pending prevalence of respiratory viruses and their transmissibility on campus, in Onondaga County, and/or the State of New York. Major respiratory viruses include COVID-19 and its variants, RSV, Pertussis (whooping cough), and the flu. *Please note, given the continuing dynamic and evolving nature of the coronavirus as well as other respiratory viruses, all students, faculty, and staff are expected to monitor campus email announcements for policy updates.*

Summary of Key Classroom Health and Safety Protocols:

1. No one should attend class if feeling ill.
2. Individuals who contract a respiratory virus are expected to follow CDC guidance on “Preventing Spread of Respiratory Viruses When You're Sick” ([CDC Respiratory Virus Precautions](#)).
3. All *eligible* undergraduate and graduate students together with faculty, staff, and administrators are highly encouraged and recommended to stay up to date with COVID-19, RSV, Pertussis (whooping cough), and flu vaccines.

Respiratory Virus-Related Symptoms.

Regardless of vaccination status, **students who are experiencing respiratory virus-related symptoms must not attend class** and are encouraged to contact the Student Health Center [healthservices@lemoyne.edu, (315) 445-4440] or their primary medical provider. Respiratory virus-related symptoms may include one or some combination of the following:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Chest discomfort
- Decrease in appetite
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Sneezing
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Weakness
- Wheezing

Respiratory Virus Recovery Recommendations and Expectations.

Any individual who becomes ill with a respiratory virus should adhere to the following CDC guidelines:

- Stay home and away from others.
- Seek treatment to lessen symptoms and lower the risk of severe illness.
- Individuals may return to normal activities when, for at least 24 hours, both of the following are true:
 - symptoms have been improving overall, and,
 - if a fever was present, it has been gone for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.
- Upon resuming normal activities, take additional prevention strategies for the next 5 days to curb disease

spread, such as taking steps for cleaner air, enhancing hygiene practices, wearing a well-fitting and **appropriate² face covering**, keeping a distance from others, and/or getting tested for respiratory viruses when around people indoors.

Following these recovery recommendations and expectations are especially important to protect those most at risk for severe illness from respiratory viruses.

Approved Student Absences from Class.

Students are expected to attend classes in-person as scheduled and require appropriate approval to be excused from in-person classes. Students may be excused from attending in-person classes for short-term absences due to accidents or illness such as colds or respiratory viruses, e.g., COVID-19, RSV, Pertussis (whooping cough), and the flu. Students who must miss class for illness should follow the [Policy on Student Absenteeism in the Event of Illness or Accident](#) which stipulates the following: **If illness or injury requires more than three consecutive days of hospital or home care, Health Services needs to be informed [(315) 445-4440].** If the student has been treated by a doctor off campus, some documentation from that office will be expected. Health Services will then notify the Registrar who will inform the student's instructors, advisor, and the appropriate academic dean. ***It is the student's responsibility to contact his or her instructors, as soon as possible, to explain the absence and make arrangements for the completion of missed work or tests.***

Vaccine and Boosters.

As part of the College's strategy to reduce the risk of transmission and serious illness, Le Moyne highly encourages all *eligible* community members to remain up to date on recommended vaccines for respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19, RSV, Pertussis (whooping cough), and the flu. Individuals are encouraged to consult with their health care provider to determine which vaccines are appropriate for them to receive. Several vaccine clinics will be available to community members during the upcoming semester.

College Face Covering Recommendation.

The CDC continues to recommend that individuals regardless of vaccination status may choose to wear a face covering at any time regardless of the level of viral transmission as a prevention strategy, particularly if they are immunocompromised or at increased risk for severe disease from respiratory viruses such as COVID-19, or if they have someone in their household who is immunocompromised, at increased risk of severe disease, or not fully vaccinated. As a caring community, the College respects and supports individuals who choose to wear face coverings. At this time face coverings **are optional on campus.**

Responsibility to the Le Moyne Community.

Finally, in keeping with our values as a Jesuit college, each member of the community is expected to act honestly and ethically regarding any experienced respiratory virus-related symptoms. Further, each member of the community is expected to take care of not only their own health, but to be mindful of the health of others and to avoid actions that may jeopardize the health and welfare of those we learn, work, and live with at the College. A well-informed and attentive community better protects the vulnerable amongst us and loved ones at home.

¹ The College's policies remain subject to public health orders issued by the Onondaga County Health Department and New York State Department of Health, and will be adjusted if directed by public health authorities.

² Appropriate and recommended face coverings include N95, KN95 or KF94 respirators, surgical masks, and face coverings made of at least two layers of cloth. Above all else, a snug fit (no gaps, wired nose bridge, adjustable ear loops), offers the best protection to the user and the community. Most importantly, face coverings with an exhalation/release valve, single-layer gaiter-style neck fleeces, and bandanas should NOT be worn on campus.