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***Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Return to Campus***

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## Overview

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In light of the current status with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine has documented strategies for conducting a successful full return to campus for all employees and students. Our highest priority is the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff, and community. While the College cannot eliminate all risks, it intends to minimize and mitigate threats in every reasonable way possible. The College is committed to continual refinement in our ability to create a safe and productive educational environment for all students, faculty, and staff.

New Mexico has continued to see improvements in hospitalization rates and decreases in COVID-19 cases over the past several months. This positive news has prompted the College to move toward a full return to campus by June 1, 2021. This document will provide employees and students with clarity on how the College will operate with all employees and students back on campus full-time.

Although this document serves as guidance for the full re-opening of the College on June 1, the College anticipates another update from the State of NM towards the end June, 2021. Currently, the College is required to follow the [Red to Green Framework](#).

The College will continue to monitor directives from the federal and state resources including the New Mexico Department of Health's (NM DOH) COVID-19 webpage:

<https://cv.nmhealth.org/>

## Conditions of Building Entry

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The College will follow the guidelines from NM DOH for student and employee health screening procedures. Conditions that must be met prior to entering a College facility include the following:

- You are not currently under NM DOH quarantine requirements due to a COVID-19 positive test result. Please see the [NM DOH](#) for quarantine requirements for a positive test result or contact the Office of Compliance for clarification.
- You have not had close contact with or cared for someone diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 10 days unless you are fully vaccinated<sup>1</sup>.

Upon arrival at a College facility, all students, faculty and staff are required to swipe their ID at the entrance. The card swiping application is used to ensure employees and students followed the screening procedures as a condition of entry to the building. Card swiping also provides data for contact tracing, if needed. All visitors are required to check-in with the Security Desk utilizing the College's QR Code check-in process. All entrance doors will remain controlled by keycard access only. If the door is held open by a person, you must still swipe your ID card at the building entrance.

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<sup>1</sup> Fully vaccinated is defined as (i.e.,  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of one dose of a single dose vaccine. Exposed individuals also have to have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure in order to return to work without quarantining.

## Self-Monitoring and Face Coverings

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All students, faculty and staff are asked to monitor themselves for signs and symptoms of COVID-19:

- Fever, cough and/or shortness of breath
  - Fever is defined at 100.4°F or higher (<https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/air/reporting-deaths-illness/definitions-symptoms-reportable-illnesses.html> )
- Other early symptoms to watch for include chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, and/or new loss of taste or smell.

Students, faculty and staff are expected to wear face-coverings under the following guidance:

- Wear an appropriate face covering when indoors in the presence of others; this includes hallways, restrooms, instructional spaces, and other common areas. Face coverings can be medical grade masks, cloth mask (homemade is OK), or other covering as recommended by the NM DOH.
- Fully vaccinated individuals do not have to wear a face-mask when outdoors on Burrell Campus.

When alone in a private office or cubicle space, a face covering is not required. Hand sanitizer stations have been setup in restrooms, common areas, entries, and instructional spaces. Additional hygiene protocols may be required for certain areas and/or lab activities.

Face covering procedures and COVID-19 safe practices may update throughout the semester in compliance with the NM DOH and the CDC recommendations. Please be sure to regularly check emails from the Office of Compliance on the most up-to-date COVID-19 safe practices updates which will be provided in a timely manner.

## Social and Physical Distancing

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All students, faculty and staff are required to follow NM DOH guidance and maintain a minimum 6ft distance between individuals. Cubicle spaces and open desk spaces have additional plexiglass barriers for additional protection.

Shared spaces, such as the lecture halls, seminar rooms, library, physical diagnosis lab, anatomy lab, and common areas have maximum occupancy placards placed visibly in the area. Occupancy numbers are based on the [Green to Red Framework](#) in accordance with the [NM DOH](#). It is expected that all students, faculty and staff adhere to maximum occupancy limits posted. These areas will have reduced seating to accommodate a minimum 6ft distance between individuals. Please adhere to posted signage.

Students are required to submit reservations for study spaces, study spaces have limited capacities due to the minimum 6ft distancing measures. Students must utilize the following link to reserve a study space: <https://bcomnm.org/students/student-life/study-space/>.

Due to the capacity requirements, it might be necessary to host meetings via Zoom or Microsoft Teams. In advance of scheduling meetings, please be sure to check capacity requirements in the

desired meeting place, if necessary please also include a Zoom or Teams meeting to your calendar invite.

Microwaves and refrigerators are available for use. Sanitizing wipes have been stationed near the microwaves and refrigerators for students, faculty and staff to utilize.

## Travel

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The NM DOH recommends that non-essential travel be postponed. Please see the following link <https://cv.nmhealth.org/travel-recommendations/> for up-to-date travel information and restrictions. In accordance with the current recommendations by the NM DOH, the College does not track any out of state travel nor will the College provide excused absences for any type of travel quarantine.

## Pre-Clinical Education

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The College is planning for all OMS I and II courses to be in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 academic year. Face-to-face instruction will adhere to NM DOH occupancy limitations (we are anticipating the lift of occupancy limits at the end of June per Governor Lujan Grisham's announcement on 4/28/2021). Lab activities that require close contact will require PPE appropriate to the encounter. The College has a contingency plan in the event labs need to be postponed or transitioned to virtual instruction.

## Clinical Education

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OMS III Introduction to Clinical Rotations (ICR) course begins on June 21. The ICR course will be held in a hybrid model at the hub locations.

Students are required to follow the health and safety procedures for their clinical rotation sites. In the case a OMS III or IV student tests positive for COVID-19 or is in close- contact to a COVID-19 positive individual, the student will be required to follow the clinical site rotation requirements. In addition, the student is required to complete a College [Incident Report](#) after a COVID-19 positive test result.

## Academic Support and Other Student Services

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Students are asked to seek faculty support which continues to be available virtually through email, Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and discussion boards in LEO. Educational Specialists, the Career Counselor, and the Offices of Student Affairs, Registrar, Financial Aid, and Finance will also provide virtual support through phone, email and/or Zoom, as necessary. The Office of Admissions will provide virtual interviews of applicants and virtual assistance, as needed. In-person meetings may be able to be accommodated based upon NM DOH capacity restrictions and social distancing provisions. Please reach out to the appropriate faculty and/or office to inquire about an in-person meeting.

## Research

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The BioScience Research Laboratory is open and operating with necessary restrictions to ensure safety. All personnel must swipe their ID badge at the entrance. Bench assignments allow for a minimum 6ft distancing between individuals. Investigators must wear a face covering to enter the research laboratory space and adhere to the laboratory cleaning standard operating procedure. Please refer to the Office of Research and Scholarly Activity Standard Operating Procedures for up-to-date procedures on Research: <https://bcomnm.org/about-bcom/sop/>

## Library

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The Library is currently open with limited access based on capacity requirements. Students can request a study space at the following link: <https://bcomnm.org/students/student-life/study-space/>. The library space has a maximum occupancy limit which is posted on the library doors.

## Health and Wellness

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Students have continued access to NMSU health and wellness services. Please visit the NMSU Aggie Health and Wellness Center website for more information: <https://wellness.nmsu.edu/>. Students should can see a full list of health and wellness resources on our website: <https://bcomnm.org/students/>. Hub specific resources for OMS III and OMS IV are available on our website: <https://bcomnm.org/students/resources/health-services/>

The College offers an employee assistance program (EAP). The EAP is a free, confidential counseling and referral services for employees of the College. Please visit our website for more information: <https://bcomnm.org/human-resources/employee-assistance-program/>.

## Exposure Containment

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The College has a standard operating procedure regarding its Exposure/Containment Plan in the event of a positive case of COVID-19 in a College facility. Please visit our website for more information: <https://burrell.edu/GA007/>.

If an employee or student has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, or close-contact to someone with confirmed COVID-19, the employee or student is required to submit an [Incident Report](#). If the employee or student has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, the employee/student is also required to contact the NM DOH. Please contact the NM DOH through their COVID-19 hotline: 1-855-600-3453.

If an OMS III or IV student is in close-contact to or contracts COVID-19 while at their clinical rotation site, please contact your Hub Coordinator and submit a College [Incident Report](#). Please see our standard operating procedure for more information: <https://bcomnm.org/GA011/>.

The Office of Compliance and the Assistant Vice President of Administration will review building access logs for contact tracing, and will contact those that have been exposed as soon as possible.

Additionally, the Office of Compliance and the Assistant Vice President of Administration will determine if area closure or building closure is necessary and clean areas as appropriate.

If a member of the College community identifies themselves as sick while in a College facility, please isolate yourself immediately and stay put. Employees and students must immediately notify Security at 575-674-2299.

## Temporary Telework

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If an employee is required to quarantine per the NM DOH and/or the employee's PCP due to a confirmed positive diagnosis of COVID-19, an exposure to someone who has a confirmed positive diagnosis of COVID-19, or requesting childcare related accommodations due to a COVID-19 exposure, the employee will be allowed to temporarily work from home during the required time of quarantine, as long as they are physically able to do so. If the employee is experiencing symptoms and is not able to work from home, they will be required to utilize either sick or annual leave if applicable or time off without pay. The employee may be required to provide proof of the need to quarantine.

## COVID-19 Vaccine Information

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The Burrell College encourages all employees and students to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. If you have not yet received your vaccine and would like to, you can register for the vaccine through the [NM DOH Vaccination Website](#). You can also schedule an appointment with a local [CVS Pharmacy](#). The NM DOH posts regular updates regarding the COVID-19 vaccine which can be accessed [here](#).

Burrell students can schedule an appointment with the [NMSU Aggie Health and Wellness Center](#) to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

As a reminder – members of the Burrell Community are not permitted to ask employees or students about their current vaccine status as this is considered personal health information.

## Compliance

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For suggestions regarding compliance with the guidance provided in this document, please visit: <https://bcomnm.org/covid19/covid-19-suggestions/>