

COVID-19 Best Practices

Purpose: To help protect the health and wellbeing of our students, faculty, staff, and residents during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

Procedure: Providing a safe learning environment for the students, faculty, staff, and residents is essential to the mission of Wartburg Theological Seminary (WTS).

1. If a member of the Wartburg Community needs assistance or has questions/concerns about the seminary's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the COVID Task Force is available at 563-589-0200.
2. WTS depends on all members of the Wartburg Community to follow evidence-based guidelines from the Center for Disease Control and local departments of public health. These guidelines include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Cloth face coverings should be worn (unless directed by medical provider):
 - i. In all indoor public areas of the seminary such as hallways, stairwells, library, refectory, and all other gathering places;
 - ii. In all outdoor public areas when keeping a physical distance of at least 6 feet may be difficult;
 - iii. Except when alone in personal office or own residence.
 - b. Physical distancing (remaining 6 feet away from other people) should be practiced whenever possible while on campus, indoors, outdoors, and at other social situations.
 - c. Hand washing should be performed after being in a public place, bathroom use, coughing, blowing your nose, or sneezing. Hand washing may be performed by either:
 - i. (Preferred) Washing hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds; or,
 - ii. Hand sanitizer use (must contain at least 60% alcohol) over all surfaces of hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
 - iii. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
 - d. Maximize the use of technology by convening all meetings through Zoom and minimizing gatherings of more than 2 people in the same room wearing masks and with physical distance of 6 feet.
3. WTS depends on members of the Wartburg Community to monitor themselves and family members for symptoms, even when feeling well. This includes taking your temperature before leaving your home.
4. WTS expects members of the Wartburg Community to check one's temperature upon entering the main campus buildings. Digital thermometers are available at the main entrance of Fritschel Hall and in the reception area of the Business/Development office.
 - a. Thermometer should be cleaned with the cleaning supplies available.
 - b. The thermometer is a non-contact device that may be used on the forehead or the wrist.
 - c. The device should be either held 1-2 inches away from the forehead or 3-4 inches up on the inside of the wrist.
 - d. Please clean the thermometer after use.

5. WTS depends on members of the Wartburg Community and the public to isolate themselves when experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. It is currently recommended that those who are confirmed positive or are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should self-isolate for 7 days after the development of symptoms or the positive test. COVID-19 can have varying degrees of severity.
 - a. Common symptoms include (new development of symptoms):
 - i. Fever and/or chills;
 - ii. Cough;
 - iii. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
 - iv. Fatigue, Muscle aches or, Body aches;
 - v. Headache;
 - vi. New loss of taste or smell;
 - vii. Sore throat;
 - viii. Congestion or runny nose;
 - ix. Nausea or vomiting; or,
 - x. Diarrhea.
 - b. If you are experiencing an illness:
 - i. Stay home;
 - ii. Practice self-care (get rest and stay hydrated);
 - iii. Stay in touch with your medical provider and follow their advice; and,
 - iv. Avoid public transportation, ride sharing, or taxis.

6. WTS depends on the members of the Wartburg Community to self-quarantine when indicated. Symptoms can also vary but generally appear within 10 days after exposure to the virus. For areas where there is community spread of the virus (such as Dubuque), members of the community that reside in the household of someone exhibiting symptoms or has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 should self-quarantine for 10 days.

7. The Fritschel and Tower buildings remain closed to the public, visitors, and volunteers.

8. The COVID Task Force may modify these guidelines at any times based on public health information and other activities on campus.

9. Staff and faculty may require additional precautions related to their role and expectations.

10. All faculty, staff, students, and residents are expected to comply with these guidelines.

Examples for use of campus spaces:

- The Library is open and available for use per the best practices listed above.
- Community Lounge areas, Refectory, Chapel, and Classrooms are available for use for up to two people wearing masks and practicing appropriate physical distancing. Please do not rearrange furniture.
- There will not be table tennis in Fritschel Lounge until further notice.
- The Reformation Room (work out room located below Afton Lounge) will be available for use by one person at a time. Please wipe off equipment after use.
- Residence Hall residents, please steward your time in the kitchen and laundry to one person at a time.