

*Update for all Mayville State Faculty, Staff, and Students
January 7, 2021*

Happy New Year! We eagerly await the start of the spring semester on Monday, Jan. 11. Classes begin at 4 p.m. that day. The first full day of classes of the semester is Tuesday, Jan. 12. It will be great to be back in session after a refreshing semester break. Our top priority will be to offer in-person classes and services on campus throughout the spring semester while maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment.

Free testing events planned for Jan. 11-15

We are now able to offer rapid antigen COVID-19 testing (BinaxNOW) at Mayville State. Rapid tests are not a replacement for traditional PCR (polymerase chain reaction) tests, but they are a great tool as a first indicator, especially when there are no symptoms present. It may take 48 hours or longer to receive the results of a PCR test. The 15-minute turnaround for the rapid test is a big advantage in many situations. Quick identification of positive cases breaks the chain of transmission.

Mayville State will offer opportunities for faculty, staff, and students to take the BinaxNOW test next week in the Campus Center Fish Bowl. There is no cost to anyone who tests. The testing schedule is as follows:

- Monday, Jan. 11 – 10 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 12 – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 13 – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Thursday, Jan. 14 – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Friday, Jan. 15 – by appointment only (Call 701-788-4865 to make appointment.) Ongoing testing will be available by appointment.

Pre-registration at <https://testreg.nd.gov/> is required. If individuals have registered for COVID-19 testing in the past, they do not need to register again. Participants will be required to watch BinaxNOW Testing modules prior to testing. This will take approximately 10 minutes. [Click here](#) to access the modules.

All Mayville State students, faculty, and staff are strongly encouraged to test. Testing is one of the best things we can all do to help keep one another safe and well. It's up to each of us to do our part to help mitigate the spread of the virus. Please direct any questions regarding testing to Lindsey Hall at lindsey.m.hall@mayvillestate.edu or 701-788-4865.

Mayville State will host a free PCR testing event Wednesday, Jan. 20. It will take place from 10 a.m. to noon in the Campus Center Luckasen Room. This free testing event is open to Mayville State students, staff and faculty, as well as the public. Details will be shared closer to the event date.

Welcome to Lindsey Hall

We are delighted that Lindsey Hall has joined us at Mayville State as our campus health nurse. The university is now in partnership with Sanford Health to provide campus health services for all Mayville State students, faculty, and staff. By leveraging the resources of Sanford Health, we will be expanding

our health services in the scope of services provided and increased hours of operation, and we will also include referral and telehealth options for online students.

Lindsey has done excellent work in serving as our COVID-19 liaison and we look forward to having her with us in a broader role. She will continue to serve as the COVID-19 liaison.

COVID-19 survey executive summary

Thank you to all who participated in the Mayville State COVID-19 survey in December. The executive summary, prepared by off-campus consultant Crowell Consulting, will be released to all students, faculty, and staff on Monday, Jan. 11. Various subcommittees of the campus COVID-19 Taskforce have been formed to specifically address the themes identified in the survey. A session where the data and action steps will be discussed is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 21 at 2 p.m. in the auditorium and via ZOOM.

North Dakota COVID-19 risk level adjusted

North Dakota will shift from a high to moderate COVID-19 risk designation on Friday, Jan. 8. This means capacity limits for restaurants, bars, and gatherings will be increased, as active cases and hospitalizations due to COVID-19 have decreased in the state. This situation will be monitored carefully as people return to work and school following the holidays.

In this same vein, Comet Athletics will increase the number of spectators allowed in the Lewy Lee Fieldhouse for athletic events. Following the lead of the North Dakota High School Activities Association guidelines, we will allow up to 550 people in the facility. Masks will be required, extensive disinfecting maintained, and social distancing guidelines will be followed. Family units will be allowed to sit together, but there will need to be social distancing between groups.

Legislative work underway

North Dakota's biennial legislative session began this week. The work of the legislature will determine Mayville State's budget for the upcoming biennium. It is a very important process and I anticipate that Vice President for Business Affairs Steve Bensen and I will be making several trips to the capitol in Bismarck over the next months.

In addition to the regular budgeting process, Mayville State has requested funding for a very important capital project, installation of natural gas fueled boilers. The request was approved by the State Board of Higher Education and is now in the hands of the legislature. We are asking for \$1.6 million in state funding to replace fuel oil burners with those that burn natural gas. Use of natural gas will provide efficiencies for our institution and reduce deferred maintenance. The project will enhance our infrastructure and improve our campus while providing a cleaner and sustainable footprint.

Let's have a great spring semester!

It's a great day to be a Comet and we look forward to a successful spring semester. There is much for which to be thankful and we look to the future with optimism for what lies ahead and gratitude for where we've been. Remember to be kind to one another. The pandemic adds stress in different ways to different individuals. Be understanding. Use the counseling opportunities that are being provided. Don't hesitate to reach out to your supervisor, advisor, or colleagues about anything you may have questions

about or do not know how to handle. We're in this together and it's important that we are flexible and supportive of one another. Do whatever you can to keep yourself and the campus community safe and healthy. Wash your hands often, wear your mask, and follow the social distancing guidelines. If you're not feeling well, stay home. Be sure to contact Lindsey Hall at lindsey.m.hall@mayvillestate.edu with any questions or concerns you have related to health and safety.

Thank you for all of your contributions as a member of the Mayville State family.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian Van Horn, President
Mayville State University