

# **BERGIN UNIVERSITY OF CANINE STUDIES**

## **COVID-19 PROTOCOLS AND POLICIES**

**Dated 3/5/2021**



## **Table of Contents**

General Campus Measures	Page 3
Healthy Hygiene Measures	Page 5
Maintaining Healthy Environments	Page 6
Dog Sanitization Protocols	Page 8
Field Trips	Page 9
Preparation – When Someone Gets Sick	Page 9

# Bergin University of Canine Studies COVID-19 Protocols and Policies

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a novel virus that has spread worldwide. This document is intended to describe the University's measures to prevent the spread of the virus on campus. It is important for each individual to take responsibility for limiting the spread of COVID-19 and to be an active participant in keeping themselves and others healthy **on and off campus**.

## GENERAL CAMPUS MEASURES

- Fall 2020 semester was held via remote learning for the sole purpose of inhibiting the spread of the virus on our campus.
- Spring 2021 semester classes will be offered in a hybrid format using Google G Suite Enterprise for Education. Please note the following:
  - Dog classes will be held in small groups of 10 students or less on campus.
  - Many lecture classes will be held remotely while some dog training/health lecture classes will be held on campus.
  - Many classes will be held outside.
- Temperatures will be taken in the COVID kiosk by an approved machine **of any and all persons** who enter the campus.
  - Individuals must wear a mask when entering the COVID kiosk before entering the campus.
  - The Turing machine will determine if the person has a fever by taking their temperature. The fail setting is set at 99.9F.
  - Staff and students can choose to fill out the CDC questionnaire at home or check in directly at the kiosk. Filling the questionnaire out at home will save you time when on campus.
    - If you choose to fill out the CDC questionnaire at home, if you pass, you receive a QR code that will be scanned by the Turing machine. Temperature will be taken and a badge will print for the day clearing the individual. The badge is to be worn while on campus.
    - If you choose to check in on campus, fill out the CDC questionnaire on the machine, temperature will be taken and a badge will print for the day clearing the individual. The badge is to be worn while on campus.
      - CDC Questions:
      - Name
      - In the past 24 hours, have you had any signs or symptoms of a fever, such as chills, sweats, feeling “feverish,” or having a temperature that is elevated for you or 100.4F or greater?

- Do you have new onset or worsening of any of the following symptoms in the last 48 hours NOT related to allergies: Cough, shortness of breath, or chest tightness. Sore throat or unexplained loss of taste/smell. Diarrhea, nausea or vomiting?
  - In the last 14 days, have you: traveled outside of the United States? Been in contact with anyone who has a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis? Been notified that you may have been exposed to COVID-19?
- If an individual does not receive clearance:
  - The individual will be sent home and, if possible, the student can view classes via Google Meet.
    - Staff is to advise appropriate instructors to make Google Meet available in their classroom if possible.
    - Administration will coordinate with dog program staff.
- If a guest or volunteer has any of the above named symptoms:
  - That individual must not enter the campus.
- Staff must be aware of **Emergency Warning Signs**:
  - Trouble breathing
  - Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
  - New confusion
  - Inability to wake or stay awake
  - Bluish lips or face
- Staff will call 911:
  - If an individual exhibits any of these signs.
  - Notify the operator that you are seeking help for someone who may have COVID-19.
- Staff or required medical staff will administer COVID-19 tests at such time as they are available, and will follow the required guidelines.
- Student/Faculty and guest waivers must be signed **PRIOR** to entry to campus. Volunteers are required to sign a guest waiver. Volunteer numbers will be kept to a minimum.
- Reminders of healthy hygiene and protocols are placed throughout the campus.
- **If employee, faculty or student feels sick**, contact appropriate staff **prior** to entering the campus via University phone (707) 545-3647 or email:
  - Denise Gregersen, COO – [denise@berginu.edu](mailto:denise@berginu.edu)
  - Rebecca Richardson, CAO – [becca@berginu.edu](mailto:becca@berginu.edu)
  - Connie Van Guilder, Director of Admission Services – [admissions@berginu.edu](mailto:admissions@berginu.edu)
- **No individual is to be identified when alerting others** that there may be someone who has entered the campus with COVID-19 symptoms or a diagnosis of COVID-19.

## HEALTHY HYGIENE MEASURES

### *Wash Your Hands!*

- **Frequently wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water.** Follow these five steps:
  - Wet your hands with clean running water and apply soap.
  - Lather your hands by rubbing them together with soap. Lather the backs of your hands, your thumbs, between fingers and under your nails.
  - Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds – you can hum the Happy Birthday song TWICE!
  - Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
  - Dry your hands using a clean paper towel or air dry them.
- **Always wash hands:**
  - Before touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
  - Before, during and after preparing food.
  - Before and after eating.
  - Before and after caring for someone who is sick with vomiting or diarrhea.
  - Before and after treating a cut or wound.
  - After using the toilet.
  - After blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
  - After touching animal food or animal waste.
  - After touching garbage or lids of garbage cans.

### *Use Hand Sanitizer!*

- **Hand sanitizer stations are available in every building.** Use hand sanitizer when you cannot use soap and water. Rub the sanitizer over the surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry. This should take around 20 seconds. Again, hum the Happy Birthday song TWICE!

### *Wear A Face Covering!*

- Wear a face covering while on and off campus. Students and staff are advised to wear two face coverings **when inside** per CDC guidelines.
  - Cloth face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected without symptoms.
  - Cloth face coverings are also somewhat protective of the wearer.
- Cough or sneeze away from others and into a tissue – face the wall or turn away from those sitting next to you. Throw the tissue into a waste basket. If you do not have access to a tissue, sneeze into your arm or inside your elbow away from those sitting next to you.

### *Practice Social Distancing!*

- Practice social distancing inside the classroom, doorways and hallways as well as when out-of-doors. **Social distancing means keeping a minimum of 6 feet between yourself and another person.**

- Desks in classrooms will be set six feet apart from each other. **Students are not to move desks.**
- The training room allows for students to remain six feet apart from each other with their dogs. Please be mindful of social distancing while training.
  - Dog classes will be held outside when possible.
- There is one entry/exit in each classroom and the admin building. There are two entry/exits in the training room:
  - Students, faculty and staff should allow six feet of space between each other as you enter or exit a building.
  - **Always wear a mask** and be respectful of each other during these less spacious transitional points.
- There is one entry/exit in the restrooms. **Only two individuals may be in the restroom at a time.**
  - Students, faculty and staff should allow six feet of space between each other as you enter or exit a building.
  - **Always wear a mask** and be respectful of each other during these less spacious transitional points.
- Eating lunch or snacks (requiring removal of your mask from your mouth) demands even more careful maintenance of the six feet social distancing and head turned toward walls or covered by arm protocols during the time the mouth is uncovered. Lunches will be eaten outside or in the student's vehicle. There are plastic dividers on the outside tables to provide a protective barrier. There will be no community refrigerator – students, faculty and staff are expected to bring their lunch in an insulated bag or purchase their lunch at a local restaurant.
- **Students, faculty and staff should bring their own drinking water in personal water bottles.** Never share utensils.

## MAINTAINING HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS

- The University has purchased a disinfecting system which will be utilized each day. This is a system that involves spraying each building with a disinfectant proven to kill COVID-19. This spray reaches the underside of desks and small cracks.
  - Prior to spraying, all paper must be put in drawers or closed containers by students, faculty and staff. Paper objects will get wet and can be ruined.
  - **Students and instructors are responsible for removing their personal items and books from the classroom each day.**
- All University cleaning and sanitizing supplies are approved for use against COVID-19. These supplies are non-toxic, chemical-free, all-natural and 100% safe for humans.

- The restrooms are sanitized each day.
- Maintenance staff is equipped with proper protective equipment including gloves, eye protection, respiratory protection and other appropriate equipment as required by the product instructions.
- Touchless faucets, paper towel dispensers, and soap dispensers have been added to the restrooms.
  - A waste basket is placed near the door so that individuals may open the door using a paper towel and easily dispose of the paper towel once the door is open.
- Students, training faculty and kennel staff are responsible for cleaning and disinfecting used training equipment immediately following use.
  - Spray bottles with disinfectant and/or sanitizing wipes will be provided in spaces with shared equipment, as well as in-person instruction in proper procedures for using, cleaning, and disinfecting shared training equipment.
  - Each student will receive a bag of needed grooming and training supplies to be used with their assigned dog to prevent the spread of the virus. Students are not to share these supplies.
- The campus ventilation system is new and properly operates.
  - UVC lighting has been installed in the HVAC system to kill airborne viruses.
  - Faculty/staff may keep the door or windows open to improve ventilation.
- One or more AirSoap portable air cleaners known to kill virus droplets are placed in each building. **These purifiers must be left on and are managed only by maintenance and administrative personnel.**
- AC Clean UVC sanitizing cabinets, which use UVC light, are available to staff and students to disinfect laptops, tablets, headphones, dog training equipment, etc. A cabinet is located in the Training Room, Puppy Room and Room 103. Students and staff must practice social distancing and be aware of your surroundings when using the sanitizing cabinets.
- HomeSoap machines, smaller sanitizing machines, are available to staff and students to disinfect phones, leashes and keys. These machines are located in Room 102, Room 104 and the Administrative Building. Students and staff must practice social distancing and be aware of your surroundings when using the HomeSoap machines.
- Hand sanitizing stations are available in every building/classroom and outside.
- Classroom desks are placed six feet apart facing the front of the classroom.
  - Desks should remain facing the front of the classroom.
  - Students should always practice social distancing when working in groups.
- Do not share electronic devices, books or other learning aids without sanitizing the items and your hands first.
- Office staff will use sanitizing spray/wipes after using the copier/printers or postage machine. Students and faculty may use the copier/printer but must sanitize the equipment with the available

sanitizing spray/wipes. Students/faculty who do not sanitize the equipment will lose the free use of the copier/printer.

- Students, faculty, volunteers and staff should bring their own drinking water and water bottles to prevent spreading germs.

## **DOG SANITIZATION PROTOCOLS**

The University has established standard guidelines for students, fosters, instructors, and handlers to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

- Dogs and dog-related equipment are to be appropriately disinfected between handlers.
- Students and/or fosters should only handle their own personal leash. Leashes are handler-specific, not dog-specific.
- Harnesses are to be handled as little as possible, and should be washed and/or disinfected at least daily. (Harnesses must be rinsed of any disinfectant used and completely dry before placing on a dog).

### **On Campus Procedure:**

- Before interacting with the dog or any supplies, the student and/or foster must wash their hands and/or use appropriate disinfectant on their hands.
- Fosters will drop off dogs in kennels at the rear of the training room. Students will retrieve the dogs from the opposite side. Fosters and students will maintain their own leash and harness. This will allow for zero contact handoffs.
- Handler should then disinfect the dog's coat with disinfecting wipes when first coming into contact with the dog. Wipes will be provided by the University.
- Handler should dispose of the disinfecting wipes directly into the trash.

### **Home Procedure:**

- Following a day on-campus, overnight fosters are encouraged to clean and disinfect the dog's harness. Since COVID is believed to be an enveloped virus, it is susceptible to heat/drying. Fosters are encouraged to completely dry the dog's harness in a warm, sunny spot, and/or dry the harness in a clothes dryer.
- Alert appropriate BUCS staff in the event that a dog has contact with someone with symptoms of COVID-19, someone who recently tested positive for COVID-19, and/or someone being isolated/quarantined for COVID-19.

## FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are an essential component of some dog training courses; mainly the Associate of Science, Assistance Dog Education dog training courses and Bachelor of Science Assistance Dog training course. It is important to keep students, dogs and the public safe during these field trips. Students must adhere to the following field trip requirements:

- Wear a mask while in public or if you are sharing transportation to and from the field trip.
- Keep dogs away from the public. Do not allow anyone to pet the dog in your care.
- Practice social distancing while on the field trip with other students and with the public. This can be difficult as some people will want to pet the dog or ask you questions. Step back and politely let them know you must follow the University's social distancing requirements during the pandemic.
- Faculty will provide field trip opportunities that will limit exposure to the public or will create small groups of students/dogs that will assist in providing a controlled environment in public places.
- Students involved in social therapy must always wear a mask, and in some cases, dogs will be on a six foot leash. Field trips will be provided that limit close exposure to the public.
- Sani-Wipes will be available to students to disinfect the dog's coat.

## PREPARATION - WHEN SOMEONE GETS SICK

The University has done its best to keep the virus from spreading throughout the campus. However, in preparation for the worse, the following procedures will be followed should an individual contract COVID-19.

- Administration (President, CAO, COO, Director of Admission Services) will advise staff, faculty and other students should a documented case of COVID-19 occur in an individual who is frequently on campus. **The specific individual will not be identified.**
- Students with a Bergin dog who have contracted COVID-19, and have symptoms that could prevent them from adequately caring for their assigned Bergin dog, **MUST** return the dog to the University until they have been cleared to return to campus.
- Students with symptoms or a diagnosis of COVID-19 will have access to Google Meet to access classes.

- Most people with COVID-19 have mild illness and can recover at home without medical care, but should not visit public places. Individuals with symptoms should stay in a specific ‘sick room’ or area and away from other people or animals. Use a separate bathroom if available. Students, faculty or staff members with symptoms should not return to the campus until they have met the CDC’s criteria to discontinue home isolation.
  - Three days with no fever **and**,
  - Respiratory symptoms have improved (cough, shortness of breath) **and**,
  - Ten days since symptoms first appeared
- Students, faculty, volunteers or staff members who have tested positive for COVID-19 but have no symptoms should stay home and away from the public until ten days have passed since the test. The CDC recommends receiving two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.
- Students, faculty, volunteers or staff members who have been around a person with COVID-19 should stay home, away from the public, for 14 days after exposure based on the time it takes to develop illness. Check your temperature twice a day and watch for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Always call your doctor and notify them of your diagnosis and symptoms for further recommendations.
- Administration (President, COO or CAO) must provide clearance before any student, faculty, volunteer or staff member returns to campus after a COVID-19 diagnosis. Administration and dog program staff will coordinate the return of a student.
- Areas used by a sick person will be closed off for 24 hours. Staff will wait the recommended time of 24 hours between notice of COVID-19 and cleaning and disinfecting the affected area. School staff will notify students, faculty and other staff of the mitigation plan and what areas are available for classroom and training activities.
- The University will notify Sonoma County Public Health of a campus COVID-19 diagnosis.
- For more information, please click on <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

All requirements related to COVID-19 will be updated per recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control, California Department of Public Health or Sonoma County Public Health.

***Working together, we can keep our campus and Sonoma County community safe!***