National health data indicated COVID-19 cases surged, peaked, and are now on a downward trend for the coastal regions. In contrast, North Dakota and Burleigh COVID-19 case numbers continue to surge, and we are hopeful local rates will follow the national trend. United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) also is experiencing the highest rates of positive COVID-19 cases since the pandemic began in March 2020.

Vaccinations continue to be available free of charge at the Health and Wellness Center for all UTTC students, employees, and their family members. Financial incentives are available for UTTC and Theodore Jamerson Elementary School (TJES) students and employees as we seek to get as many persons immunized as possible.

The goal continues to ensure a safe learning and work environment for all students, their families, and employees. The following protocols are required until further notice:

- Masks are mandatory in all UTTC facilities regardless of vaccination status, except when alone in an office or facility. If a person is alone in a workout area in Wellness, a mask does not need to be worn; however, if a second individual enters the workout area, all persons must wear masks.
- Faculty may unmask when lecturing, but physical distancing should be maintained. Students must always remain masked in the classroom.
- Physical distancing of six feet between individuals will be maintained.
- Temperatures will be checked at available kiosks when entering campus buildings.
- Hand sanitizer is available throughout campus and should be used often as possible.
- Persons should stay home if sick with cold-like symptoms and/or fever.
- Employees should conduct all meetings via Zoom until February 28, 2022. However, if a face-to-face meeting is needed for business, safety protocols must be followed strictly (e.g., board meetings, sensitive HR personnel meetings, building contractor meetings).
- Only UTTC events will be held on campus until February 28, 2022.

UTTC will move to a virtual synchronous and telework environment should the campus pandemic rate reach 10% of the campus community to include all students, their families, and employees. In this case, essential workers will continue to work at their assigned workstations and Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs of study, art classes, and science labs will continue with a face-to-face format.

Unvaccinated individuals will continue to test a minimum of once weekly with Student Health. Any UTTC student, family member, or employee may receive a rapid antigen Covid test at UTTC’s Wellness Center. A vaccine clinic is planned in February 2022 for TJES students (minimum age of 5 years) with parent approval.

Contact the Health & Wellness at 701-221-1764 for more information and/or refer to the COVID-19 Response Manual on the college website (uttc.edu).