Return of Pirate Nation™

Navigating Spring 2021: GUIDELINES FOR SAFETY ON CAMPUS

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With health and safety as our top priorities at East Carolina University®, our ability to offer a residential, in-person educational experience hinges on the willingness of our campus community to come together in support of these priorities. Each of us has a responsibility to know and act on these standards and policies in a way that maximizes a safe and healthy environment for us to teach, work, learn and live.

To this end, we are developing a set of community standards and policies for ECU’s employees, students, faculty and visitors. We are all in this together, and we believe that together, we can face the challenges presented by COVID-19 with resilience, determination and great support for the Pirate community.

Communication Is Key

These community standards have been established to promote the health of our students, faculty, staff and visitors. We fully expect that everyone on campus will understand and appreciate the critical impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and follow these standards. Our first and preferred approach to assure compliance with these standards will be through public health education and communication. If necessary, however, ECU and other governmental authorities will institute applicable enforcement measures (including disciplinary, legal or other appropriate actions) to address certain violations. As we prioritize safety, we will need your help to return to normal on-campus operations. We all have a role to play in this process, and we need your help to make this phased reentry as safe and successful as possible.
Universal Campus Expectations

1. Effective July 1 and throughout at least the fall 2020 semester, face coverings will be required to be worn by students, faculty, staff and visitors in all ECU buildings and in all university programs held in non-university buildings. This includes face coverings being worn at all times in classrooms and laboratories.

   Face coverings will also be required in outdoor spaces on campus property where appropriate physical distancing cannot be guaranteed.

   Face covering exceptions include private offices and residence hall rooms when alone or with a roommate. Individuals are also not required to wear a face covering when they are not in close contact with someone else, such as walking alone in an uncrowded outdoor location.

   Everyone on campus is expected to carry a face covering at all times, in case they encounter an unforeseen situation where at least 6 feet of physical distance cannot be maintained. Such situations are likely to occur in hallways, stairwells, elevators, restrooms, kitchens and break rooms.

2. Require social distancing of at least 6 feet whenever possible while on campus.

3. Wash your hands often! Everyone should practice regular hand hygiene following the CDC guidelines.
Universal Campus Expectations  ...continued

4 Complete the daily health screening using the CDC’s COVID-19 symptoms list available at [go.ecu.edu/screening](http://go.ecu.edu/screening). If you are experiencing symptoms, you should not report to work or class and should contact your health care provider. Individuals should watch for emergency symptoms and seek emergency medical care immediately if experiencing any of these symptoms:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

_This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you._

Call 911 or call ahead to your local emergency facility: Notify the operator that you are seeking care for someone who has or may have COVID-19.

5 If you test positive for COVID-19, or if a health care provider tells you that you are presumed positive, you should notify the university by completing the self-reporting form on PiratePort.
PROTECTING OUR PIRATES

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to someone with the virus. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the primary way the virus spreads is through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks. Research studies have demonstrated that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms (asymptomatic). There is currently no vaccine available, so understanding how to prevent infection, particularly for those with increased risk of complications, is critical.

Accommodations for Students Testing Positive

Students with a confirmed case of the COVID-19 infection, suspected infection or exposure are required to report status on a self-reporting form through Student Health Services, found on PiratePort.

Residential students required to quarantine will be assigned ECU-provided off-campus housing. A small inventory of rooms off-campus will be reserved for residential students who need quarantining or isolation. Food delivery will be made available to quarantined residential students. ECU will provide alternative delivery of instruction for students in quarantine or isolation.

The self-reporting form will be used to notify administrators and instructors of expected absences, and Student Health will be in touch with you to offer additional resources. Faculty require illness verification PRIOR to students missing exams or assignments in order to reschedule exams or provide arrangements for making up missed work. This self-reporting form does not supersede any academic policy within a course syllabus.

Please fill out this form if:

- You have been diagnosed by a medical provider with COVID-19
- You are under instructions to self-isolate for suspected COVID-19 infection
- You have been advised to self-quarantine due to an exposure to COVID-19
This process is intended to:

- Help you report your illness and to notify your instructors of expected absences.
- Generate an email confirmation for you showing that you have reported your illness.
- Reduce exposure to well students, faculty and staff.
- Help the university keep track of ill students.
- Provide a link to the ECU Student Health website for additional COVID-19 information.

If you are sick with COVID-19 or think you might have COVID-19, follow the steps below to help protect other people in your home and community.

- Stay home except to get medical care. Most people with COVID-19 have mild illness and are able to recover at home without medical care. Do not visit public areas. Call your doctor before you go to their office for care. Avoid public transportation, ride-sharing or taxis.
- Take care of yourself. Get rest and stay hydrated.
- As much as possible, stay in a specific room and away from other people and pets in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available.
- Wash hands frequently. Cover coughs and sneezes or use a cloth face covering if you must be around others. Discard used tissues. Do not share household items. Clean frequently touched surfaces with CDC-approved disinfectants.

People with COVID-19 who have stayed home can stop home isolation under the following conditions:

- You have had no fever for at least 72 hours (three full days of no fever without the use of medicine to reduce fever),
  \[\text{AND}\]
- other symptoms have improved (for example, when cough and shortness of breath have improved),
  \[\text{AND}\]
- at least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.

In all cases, follow the guidance of your health care provider and local health department. The decision to stop home isolation should be made in consultation with your health care provider or state/local health department representative.
TAKING CARE: IT’S A PIRATE’S LIFE

When leaving your residence hall room or home, and especially when returning from your class or work, you are strongly encouraged to follow the “Know your W’s” guidance from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

KNOW YOUR W’S

WEAR
a cloth face covering any time you are with other people.

WAIT
6 feet apart. Avoid close contact.

WASH
your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer.

Clean and Disinfect Spaces

Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces you interact with and touch with CDC-approved disinfectants. Cleaning and disinfecting supplies will be provided in each workplace, classroom, residence hall, dining facility and other campus facility.

Keep to Small Groups and Virtual Settings

Individuals and groups, including student and community organizations, should limit in-person programs, events and social gatherings to the number of individuals specified by national, state and local guidance. On-campus space reservations will be limited to those individuals and groups that abide by this guidance.

Follow Immunization Recommendations

Individuals are encouraged to remain current on their recommended immunizations which are covered by most health plans, including the annual flu shot. Stay up-to-date on upcoming flu shot clinics and other health resources available to ECU students, faculty and staff by regularly visiting the Student Health Services website.
By getting an annual flu shot you are less likely to get sick from influenza, thereby reducing the burden on the health care system.

All new and transfer students are required to submit documentation of state-required immunizations to Student Health Services.

Students who were previously enrolled at ECU are not required to resubmit immunization documentation; however, they may be required to submit updated information for any immunizations that have expired.

Self-check for Symptoms Daily

Complete the daily COVID-19 self-screening using the CDC’s list of symptoms. Learn more and link to the screening website at returnofpiratenation.ecu.edu.

If you are experiencing symptoms, you should not report to class or work and should contact your health care provider. At this time, COVID-19 symptoms include the following:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Muscle or body aches
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting

This list of possible symptoms is not comprehensive.

Anyone who is experiencing any symptom(s) indicated on the screening checklist must not go to class or work and should contact their health care provider.

Individuals should watch for emergency symptoms and seek emergency medical care immediately if experiencing any of these symptoms:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

Call 911 or call ahead to your local emergency facility: Notify the operator that you are seeking care for someone who has or may have COVID-19.
Seek Medical Care

Individuals with COVID-19 symptoms, or knowledge of exposure, should contact their health care professional and not report to classes or come to campus (unless your primary residence is on-campus) until you receive clearance to do so.

Provide Medical Clearance for Return

Students who receive a positive COVID-19 test should provide a statement from their medical professional that they are clear to return before attending in-person classes.

Participate in Medical Monitoring and/or Contact Tracing

If identified as a potential close contact of a COVID-19 positive person or if determined to be an asymptomatic COVID-19 positive person, individuals will wear a cloth face coverings, if they are able; quarantine in their living quarters or a designated housing location; and self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days. Individuals may also be required to participate in testing when directed to do so by a medical professional or public health official.

Stay Active

Get outside, exercise and take breaks regularly, and connect appropriately with family or friends.

Manage Your Mental Well-being

You should reach out for support if you or someone you know needs help coping with or navigating concerns around mental health and well-being. You can contact the Center for Counseling and Student Development.

Social Distancing Does Not Mean Isolation

Physical distancing should not mean social isolation. Seek opportunities to connect appropriately with small groups and student organizations, and take advantage of the virtual programs and services that can keep you engaged as a proud Pirate.
Travel
Travel increases the chances of getting infected and spreading COVID-19 and non-essential travel should be limited to the maximum extent possible. As such, students are encouraged to remain on campus for the duration of the semester and only travel when it is essential. If you do travel, be mindful that state, local and territorial governments may have travel restrictions in place, including testing requirements, stay-at-home orders and quarantine requirements upon arrival. Follow state, local and territorial travel restrictions.

Public Transportation
Students who use public transportation or ride sharing are encouraged to use forms of transportation that minimize close contact with others (e.g., biking, walking, driving or riding by car either alone or with household members). Further, students who use public transportation or ride share should follow CDC guidance on how to protect yourself when using transportation. Additionally, students are encouraged to commute during less busy times and clean their hands as soon as possible after their trip.
ACADEMICS

This fall semester will look and feel different from the past. The plan for delivery of instruction and the academic calendar will remain flexible and we will modify our strategy if conditions change and the situation warrants.

Calendars

For the academic year 2020–21, ECU will move to block scheduling (8-week blocks) within the semester framework (15 weeks). ECU will begin fall semester earlier than normal and will begin spring semester later than normal. Opportunities for extended departures from campus (fall break, spring break) are removed from the calendar.

Given the uncertainties of the current public health climate, the case for transitioning to the block schedule is strong. Transitioning to a block schedule provides the university with flexibility in deciding when students return to campus, allows the university to pivot in the instance of a resurgence of a public health dilemma, reduces student-to-student contact and reduces faculty-to-student contact in a given term.

Two broad sets of expectations are highlighted with regard to block scheduling and the adjustment to semester start and finish dates.

1. Fall 2020 and spring 2021 will each be organized into two 8-week blocks. Normal student class loads (15 credit hours) will be distributed across the two blocks, e.g., two courses in the first block and three courses in the second or vice versa.

2. Course design will include online (hybrid) components in all 8-week classes.

3. Most large courses will migrate to online formats (and be coded as DE) with the threshold being 50 students.

4. ECU’s Office of Faculty Excellence will continue to support faculty with superior professional development opportunities throughout the summer to assist with improved online approaches and course design.

5. The resulting modifications to fall and spring semesters are summarized on the next page.
## Spring Semester 2021 Calendar

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<td>Note for spring term:</td>
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<td>Full Session</td>
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<td>First 8-week block</td>
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<td>Second 8-week block</td>
<td>LDOC = Last Day of Class</td>
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Expectations Within Academic Spaces

Academic facilities on campus comprise varied educational spaces including typical lecture halls and classrooms, clinical teaching labs, basic science labs, computer labs, library resources, health care clinics with student providers, offices, reception areas and conference rooms. For academic buildings that also serve clinical functions, each clinic should defer to clinical professional practice management guidelines. Facilities that are involved in these dual functions must follow the same guidelines and should refer to the Brody School of Medicine’s Reopening Guidelines and CDC Guidelines.

Class Delivery

In order to meet the required social distancing within classrooms, all courses with enrollments of 50 students or greater will normally be delivered online. Hybrid modes of instruction will be developed in all other cases when physical presence is not required. In hybrid (face-to-face and online) designs, online delivery should be less than 50% of the class time. Assigned seating and attendance records will be kept in order to facilitate contact tracing when needed.

When possible, paths of entrance and exit will be designated to minimize physical contact. For instance, when classrooms have two or more access points, the areas for entrance and exit will be separate.

Departments and faculty will develop attendance and absence policies that acknowledge and support students who become ill without creating barriers or requiring unnecessary visits to health facilities for documentation of illness.

ECU will provide alternative delivery of instruction for students in quarantine or isolation. Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to wipe spaces clean before and after their own uses of those spaces (desks, tables, chairs, keyboards).
Experiential Learning

For the purpose of coping with the COVID-19 pandemic, experiential learning refers to academic program requirements which bridge the classroom and professional work environments, and that cannot be easily met through virtual or alternative means of instruction. Examples of experiential learning include but are not limited to:

- laboratory and simulation exercises
- clinical rotations
- internships
- field experiences

Experiential learning occurs on campus in the form of laboratory and simulation exercises, internships with campus agencies and clinical experiences in patient care clinics. In the off-campus setting, experiential learning occurs when students participate in field experiences, internships and clinical placements. ECU provides an abundance of programs with experiential learning requirements. While these programs share many commonalities, there are considerable variations in the resources needed to continue meeting educational and professional requirements. Experiential learning can be categorized two ways: 1) activity that cannot be completed virtually and that is a program requirement with no alternative mode of completion; 2) if the activity is not completed, either a) graduation will be delayed or b) the next cohort of students will be delayed. In addition, this set of criteria allows for participation in on-campus patient care clinics.

Programs must satisfy various return requirements and receive approval by the department chair, dean and Facilities Services. The return requirements were derived from CDC, UNC System and ACHA guidance. Examples of return procedures include health screening, use of personal protective equipment, social distancing measures and COVID-19 student training.

Please check with your program director about your on- or off-campus experiential learning requirements.

Capacity Restrictions

Room capacity is being revised based on social distancing guidance. Classroom capacity is determined by a minimum of 3–6 feet of physical distancing where possible. Signs will be posted with the new occupancy limitations.
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The outbreak of COVID-19 presents a constantly shifting landscape of risk assessment for higher education. The community expectations presented below are informed by guidelines from the CDC and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), as well as N.C. governmental guidance.

While these organizations and agencies already enforce regulations, new and proposed guidelines are implemented to further help universities open our doors again.

1. Face coverings are to be worn in public spaces and in face-to-face meetings while on campus, including classrooms and labs.

2. Face coverings are required when using the ECU Transit System.

3. Clinical spaces will follow their own infection control policies for the clinics (not limited to but including ECU Physicians, Student Health Services, College of Allied Health Sciences clinics, Dental Medicine).

4. A limited supply of disposable masks will be provided by ECU to employees, students and visitors, if needed. Students, employees and visitors may provide their own cloth face covering. Disposable masks will be available on campus from a variety of sources.
Testing and Tracing

Students and faculty involved in health care will comply with the COVID-19 safety guidance, including diagnostic testing, for their clinical setting unless the unit, division or university guidance is for a higher level of testing or more frequent testing.

1. If practical, students are encouraged to have a COVID-19 test for active virus either before arriving on campus or before engaging in activities on campus. If tested positive, students should isolate for 10 days and/or in accordance with your health care provider’s recommendations. Students who are unable to or choose not to have a test for the active virus may still attend class and participate in activities.

2. Regular health screening is required through the use of screening questions. Complete the daily health screening using the CDC’s COVID-19 symptoms list available at go.ecu.edu/screening. If you are experiencing symptoms, you should not report to class or work and should contact your health care provider.

3. The university will collaborate with the local health department to conduct contact tracing for every individual diagnosed with COVID-19 who is a part of the campus community. Infected individuals should be isolated, and exposed individuals should be quarantined.

4. Prior to the start of the term, the university will identify, review and, if possible, mitigate exposure risk from internal and external close contact for planned campus activities.

5. The university will require those on campus to receive training on the risks of COVID-19, including the risks of disease transmission in close contact, testing and interpreting test results and the details of and rationale for isolation and quarantine.

6. The university is working to develop a protocol for voluntary COVID-19 random testing. The information gathered from this testing will assist in monitoring the prevalence of COVID-19 on our campus. Details about this program will be available soon.
Guidance and restrictions from the University of North Carolina System Office and/or the state of North Carolina supersede the policy described herein. As per UNC System Office guidance, no university-affiliated international travel is currently permitted by ECU students. This restriction will remain in place until UNC System Office guidance changes. Any lift on current restrictions will be made in accordance with CDC guidance and as described under ECU REG02.30.01, International Travel by ECU Students.

1. ECU has suspended all university-related international travel including study abroad activities for fall semester and until further notice.

2. Once reinstated, the Office of Global Affairs (OGA) will require students, regardless of destination, to participate in online or face-to-face training on general public health practices, with a module provided by Student Health Services or the Office of Prospective Health.

3. OGA will also provide prospective study-abroad students, and prospective directors of proposed faculty-led programs with a list of items to consider when deciding to and preparing to study abroad. These items will include the current status of the local recovery, travel considerations, local health system capacity and public infrastructure and economic conditions in the destination country.

4. Furthermore, for outgoing semester exchange students, ECU will work with the partner university to inform students of local living conditions, emergency response policies, online capabilities, refund policies and the university’s health policies and infrastructure.
Residence Hall Expectations and Policies

1. Campus Living will operate at normal capacity and will work with students who have special housing needs as best possible for the coming year to meet their unique requests.

2. Move-in process will be completed earlier and staged properly to accommodate fewer people in each residence hall per floor per day. This will operate on a reservation system.

3. Room configurations will be adjusted to allow for maximum social distance of furniture, especially beds. Students will receive examples of floor plans for their respective halls to determine how they can move furniture to optimize social distancing within the room.

4. There will be no in-person residential hall programming for large groups.

5. Roommates are considered to be the equivalent of a household, and face coverings are not required in the room. Residents are encouraged not to share items, such as dishes, office supplies, clothing, etc.

6. Visitation in campus housing will be limited only to residents of other on-campus residence halls for the coming year to minimize risk for on-campus residents. Nonresidents of campus housing will not be permitted to enter the residence halls.

7. If you test positive for COVID-19, or if a health care provider tells you that you are presumed positive, you should notify the university by completing the self-reporting form on PiratePort. Any residential student required to isolate is expected to do so at home or in designated, ECU-provided off-campus housing.

8. Students in suites with shared bathrooms and/or living areas must follow university recommended cleaning guidelines and furniture/appliance usage. Personal bins and labeling are recommended.
While housekeeping will increase cleaning throughout the day, students will be encouraged to clean their rooms more often.

Hand-sanitizing stations will be available on every floor, in every main lobby, and in computer labs.

Capacity in laundry rooms, recreational areas and other gathering areas will be restricted. Proper sanitation supplies will be provided in these spaces.

Outdoor (Campus Living Sports Court by Gateway) and indoor housing recreation policies and procedures will be aligned to be consistent with Campus Recreation and Wellness.

Shared bathroom spaces will include proper signage for entry/exit as well as proper handwashing, overall safety/health messaging and contact information for when supplies are limited or out.

A small inventory of rooms off-campus will be reserved for residential students who need quarantining or isolation.

**Move-in**

The university has announced that the first day of classes this fall will be Aug. 10, 2020. The acceleration of this date into early August has resulted in significant changes to the move-in process for students and families. Holding a traditional move-in experience is further complicated by the ongoing pandemic which requires that the university make social distancing accommodations in order to maximize the safety of students and their families.

- Arrival locations will be in designated areas and near the student’s hall to lower the impact of needing extensive staffing and other support infrastructure.
- Students will be able to select an “arrival for classes” window to return to campus. The number of students returning in specific time periods may be limited to maintain social distancing and parking management. Following these guidelines are essential to providing an atmosphere honoring the principle of social distancing.

A process has been created so that you can begin to make plans to come to campus safely during move-in and for the start of fall classes. All students will receive a link to sign up for their drop-off date with their room assignment prior to July 1, 2020.

Continue to watch for further messages concerning room assignments, drop-off logistics, and move-in procedures at your ECU email account. Students participating in a Living Learning Community (LLC) or other university programs – such as athletics or ECU Marching Band – may receive additional and different instructions from their respective programs in the near future.
Campus Dining Expectations and Policies

1. Meal plan parameters will be modified to maximize efficiency while maintaining social distancing.

2. Seating capacity will be reduced in West End and Todd dining halls between 25-50% of occupancy with clearly defined 6-foot distancing among tables.

3. A mobile app will allow advance ordering and pick-up for retail food orders in the Main Campus Student Center, Wright Place and The Croatan.

4. One dining option and Starbucks® will be open for grab-and-go in the Health Sciences Student Center.

5. In the Main Campus Student Center, seating options for dining will be expanded including into the second-floor ballrooms to promote social distancing.

6. Takeout and/or prepackaged food options will always be available at all retail operations.

7. All self-serve areas in the dining system, including but not limited to salad bars, cereal, drink and other stations will be eliminated.

8. Food delivery will be made available to isolated and quarantined residential students.

9. Silverware and plates/bowls will be individually handed out to each student in the dining halls to minimize the risk of contamination.

Available Dining Outlets

The latest information on dining options and hours of operation are available on the Dining website.
Recreation

1. Schedule personal training by appointments through the ECURec app.
2. Social distancing will be the minimal spacing applied to both indoor and outdoor activities, on courts and on fields.
3. Club sports, intramurals and services (i.e., towel service and equipment) with direct body contact will be suspended.
4. Group fitness classes, workouts and activities will require advance registration through the ECURec app.
5. Patrons will be required to assist in the sanitizing of equipment and areas before and after each use with provided supplies.
6. Virtual recreation classes will be offered through the ECURec app.
7. Locker rooms will be restricted to restroom use; no showering or overnight locker use will be permitted.

Theaters and Large Outdoor Spaces

1. Fixed seating will be reduced to ensure social distancing.
2. Equipment or markings will be used to indicate appropriate distancing in large outdoor spaces.
3. Signs will be placed to create entry/exit access and walking paths to limit contact.
Student Organizations, Activities and Events

1. Indoor programs are limited to 50 people or less based on new room capacities. For more information, contact the Central Reservations Office.

2. Student organization travel will be suspended for the fall 2020 semester.

3. For the most up-to-date information on student organization events and activities, please visit engage.ecu.edu and/or download the CORQ app.

Athletics

We will work closely with state health officials, the UNC System, the American Athletic Conference and the NCAA on plans for fall athletics. No decisions have been made yet on any adjustments to schedules or formats.
PARKING AND TRANSIT

The following are changes to expect on ECU Transit and SafeRide as we return to campus this fall.

1. Face coverings are required on all transit vehicles.
2. All buses and vans will operate with limited capacity – 50% normal load. Charter usage and occupancy will vary depending on the groups and the individually approved plans for rider safety developed by each group.
3. Passengers are encouraged to ride at least 40 minutes to 1 hour early due to reduced capacity.
4. Passengers will board using the front door and exit using the rear door. On buses with only one door, all exiting passengers should be allowed to exit before boarding occurs.
5. Hand sanitizer stations will be available on each bus.
6. Passengers should practice physical distancing while waiting for the bus and while onboard transit vehicles. Passengers should adhere to all decals/signage/operator instructions.
7. Bus service will end by midnight nightly.
8. Buses will not serve College Hill weekdays during daytime hours. Bus service will resume to College Hill at 6:30 p.m. on weeknights.
9. Pirate Express service to the Uptown area is suspended for fall 2020 and spring 2021.
10. Bus service to off-campus shopping will be limited and operate with reduced hours.
11. Halloween bus service will not be provided in 2020.
12. Cleaning/disinfecting will take place nightly on every vehicle used that day.
13. Operator barriers will be installed on all transit vehicles.
14. SafeRide will complete single/group reservations before picking up additional passengers. Grouping trips will be significantly minimized. This could lead to longer wait times at peak times.
15. Pirate Access service will operate utilizing one vehicle. Priority scheduling will be reserved for qualifying ADA customers. Customers with temporary mobility impairments will be accommodated as space/schedule permits.
Click here for up-to-date information on the coronavirus from East Carolina University.