

**Benedictine COVID mitigation agreement reached (KAIR)--Benedictine College in Atchison and the Atchison County Health Department have announced a joint agreement for enhanced COVID-19 mitigation efforts at the college, which will be in effect from September 5 until September 18.**

**The agreement was announced Friday in a joint news release following a full day of negotiations.**

**The plan, dubbed “Atchison and Benedictine: Stronger Together,” addresses on-campus learning, off-campus students, and athletics.**

**Under provisions of agreement, students who reside on the Benedictine College campus are not to leave campus, except for scheduled or emergency medical or mental health appointments; to fulfill academic requirements; to work or to obtain essential goods for an outside pick-up order at a local business.**

**The release says this avoids a quarantine order restricting students to their dorm rooms and allows for the continuation of in-person classes.**

**Off-campus students are not permitted on campus except for authorized athletic practices, religious services, work study, labs, or other necessary academic purposes.**

**Athletic teams that maintain no active cases may hold practice in smaller groups, determined on a team by team basis and authorized by the Athletic Director. Teams with members who are in isolation due to active COVID cases are prohibited from practicing until Sept. 12.**

**The release says the steps are in addition to the Raven Safety Plan and the updated mitigation protocols already in place at the college.**

**On Friday, Benedictine College reported 23 active COVID-19 cases on campus, 0.9% of the campus population. The active cases and new positive cases have been trending downward for the past week.**