



Hounds Stronger Together: Ensuring Educational and Operational Continuity

A comprehensive plan to promote the health and safety of the Assumption University community for fall 2021 assuming a 90 percent vaccination rate for students, faculty and staff.

Contents of this document are current as of October 6, 2021 and subject to change.



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Introduction

Assumption University is committed to providing safe in-person living and learning experience for students, faculty and staff this fall. This document shares the safety protocols enacted under the continued COVID-19 pandemic for vaccinated and vaccine exempt individuals. In keeping with our commitment to the health and well-being of individuals and the community, the following protocols are dependent upon the infection rates on campus, in Worcester and in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. As such, these protocols are subject to change. Any changes will be communicated to the community.

Testing

Surveillance testing is a key mitigation strategy in the spread of COVID-19. The University Testing Center, located in Hagan Hall, will be open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Fridays from 8:45 a.m. until 12 noon. At present, fully vaccinated individuals are tested twice per week. Students, faculty and staff not vaccinated, due to an approved exemption, are tested three times per week.

Masking

The University continues to follow the guidelines of the CDC, state and local departments of public health. On campus currently, masks are required indoors for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. We will continue to monitor the health conditions and our campus vaccination rate. As such, the masking policy will be revisited in the hopes that masking would be optional for fully vaccinated individuals*. There are many reasons why individuals choose to wear a mask, including but not limited to, high risk for Covid complications, someone at home is high risk or unable to be vaccinated, allergy season, or is having symptoms.

Unvaccinated individuals, approved for an exemption, will be required to wear a mask indoors and outdoors in all public spaces including classrooms, the recreation center, library, residence hall common areas, etc.

All campus community members, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, are required to wear a mask in the University Testing Center and in the Health Center.

**A mask requirement may be reinstated for both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals based on changing conditions due to the Delta variant or other variants and guidance from the CDC, federal, state and local public health officials.*

Symptom Tracker

All members of the community are required to complete the daily symptom tracker honestly. A member of the Health Services team reviews symptom tracker data and can guide community members of any quarantine or isolation procedures necessary because of even minor symptoms.

Community members will be expected to show their symptom tracker at the front gate, Testing Center, Taylor Dining Hall, Charlies, Post Office, Plourde Recreation Center, etc. Community members are expected to comply with any request to show their symptom tracker.

ID, Lanyard and Vaccine Sticker

Controlling access to campus to promote the health and safety of the community is a priority for the University. Given that some members of our community must wear a mask when outside of offices and residence hall rooms or opt to do so, the University must have a means to easily determine if individuals are authorized to be present on campus. As such, all students, faculty and staff are provided an Assumption University branded lanyard that must be worn at all times when outside of offices or residence hall rooms. Lanyards will accommodate University-issued identification and are distributed in the Testing Center.

In addition, faculty, staff and students who have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 will be issued a sticker to adhere to the front of their ID badge. This will enable members of the community to identify if masks should be worn around a person granted an exemption for the COVID-19 vaccine. Tampering with the sticker is a violation of University health protocols and Community Promise.

Classrooms

Classrooms have returned to full occupancy. Should the current indoor mask mandate be lifted, vaccinated students and faculty will not be required to wear masks during the class period. However, unvaccinated students and faculty with an approved exemption are required to wear masks while indoors and outdoors. Depending on the infection rates on campus, in Worcester and the state, and guidance from the CDC and public health officials, vaccinated students may also be required to wear masks in the classroom. Drinking and eating will not be permitted in classroom spaces regardless of vaccination status. Students should wipe down their desks following the class period for the next student. Classrooms will be deep cleaned each evening.

Inter-hall Visitation Policy

Residential students are permitted to visit friends in other residential areas. Vaccinated and unvaccinated students, with approved exemptions, are required to wear masks while visiting friends in other residence hall areas.

Gathering Policy

The maximum occupancy for gatherings in Alumni, Desautels, Hanrahan, Nault, Salisbury, West, Worcester, and Young Residence Halls is double the occupancy of the room, plus two (times 2, plus 2). For example, a residence hall room that houses 4 students may have a gathering with up to 10 people present (including the resident(s); a room that houses 2 students may have a gathering with up to 6 people present including the resident (s).

While the University historically permits larger gatherings in apartment-style housing as described under the Gathering Policy, out of an abundance of caution due to COVID-19, the maximum occupancy for all residential settings will be limited to double the occupancy of the room plus two (times 2, plus 2) until further notice. For example, an apartment that houses 6 students may have a gathering with up to 14 people (including the resident(s)).

Off-campus Visitors

Effective Friday, September 24, 2021, the University began welcoming vaccinated individuals to visit campus during the day only (8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.) No overnight guests are permitted. Visitors are required to register no less than 5 days prior to their arrival on campus. Unvaccinated guests will not be permitted on campus at this time.

Spectators at Athletic Events

Faculty, staff, and students are welcome to attend athletic.. Unvaccinated guests will not be permitted on campus at this time. (See above policy for registration information.)

Campus Events Involving Outside Guests

Campus events involving outside guests resumed on Friday, September 24, 2021. This later start will allowed the campus community to onboard residential and commuter students, begin classes and resume co-curricular activities. Organizers should continue to live stream events.

The process for hosting campus events with outside guests includes:

- Only vaccinated guests will be permitted on campus.
- Completing the registration process for all participants. The University will need to know who is permitted on campus at all times.
- Part of the registration process must include proof of vaccination.
- A list of participants should be shared with Campus Police 48 hours in advance for admittance through the front gate.

- Although room occupancies are back to pre-Covid levels, organizers should consider social distancing norms for crowds and proper ventilation.
- Event organizers will need to communicate any mask requirements for the event.
- Event organizers should alert participants that event plans are subject to change based upon state, local and/or campus COVID-19 positivity rates.

Resumption of University-sponsored Travel

Effective September 24, 2021, University-sponsored domestic travel resumed for faculty and staff. Employees are required to follow any guidelines by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the CDC. Any international travel requires approval from the employee's Vice President. Employees will not be permitted to travel to locations identified by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or Federal Government as a travel restricted location due to COVID-19..

Employee Use of Dining Facilities

Employees may purchase food for take-out from the University dining facilities but not dine in the facilities to provide ample space for the social-distancing of students. Employees may eat outdoors.

Catered Meals

Catered meals are possible but require pre-approval by the division Vice President. Catered meals should be individually packaged. BBQs are acceptable if the food is served by the Sodexo staff (i.e. no self-service).

Campus Eating Locations for Students

Students are encouraged to eat with others in Taylor Dining Hall, Charlies in Hagan Hall or outdoors. Students may eat and drink in common area spaces only if sitting alone.

Faculty-Staff Use of Conference Rooms

Meetings are encouraged to continue to be held virtually however, in-person meetings were permitted effective August 2, 2021. Group size and room configuration should be considered in providing ample social distancing and proper ventilation. Masks are required indoors for all community members at this time. If the mask requirement is lifted for vaccinated individuals, any members not vaccinated because of an approved exemption must wear a mask or join remotely.

Student Meetings

Student meetings are encouraged to continue to be held virtually however in-person meetings are permitted. No more than 10% of the group may have an approved exemption from the vaccine to meet in person. Group size and room configuration should be considered in providing

ample social distancing and proper ventilation. Masks are required indoors for all community members at this time. As the mask requirement is lifted for vaccinated individuals, any members not vaccinated because of an approved exemption must wear a mask or join remotely.

Travel Quarantine

Members of the community who are fully vaccinated are not expected to quarantine following any kind of travel if they are asymptomatic. Symptomatic vaccinated individuals should follow the guidance of their health care provider and quarantine until a negative COVID test is obtained.

Unvaccinated travelers, including those with an approved exemption, must follow any recommendations of quarantine by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Unvaccinated members of the community who travel and return to campus should test, then quarantine, until a negative result is determined.

Exposure Quarantine

Fully vaccinated members of the community who are not symptomatic do not have to quarantine following an exposure to someone with COVID-19. Should a vaccinated individual begin showing symptoms, the person must begin wearing a mask and follow quarantine procedures outlined by the Health Center.

Unvaccinated members of the community including those with an approved exemption must quarantine for 10 days (test on day 8, released on day 10) following an exposure to someone confirmed with COVID-19. Unvaccinated students will quarantine at home.

Typically, vaccinated individuals do not have to quarantine however, when the University identifies COVID-19 spread in an identifiable group (i.e. residence hall floor, off-campus apartment, athletic team, class, group, etc.) a decision may be made to quarantine an entire group to thwart the further spread of COVID-19 on campus. .

(This protocol is subject to change pending guidance from the CDC and Massachusetts Department of Public Health.)

Testing Positive for COVID-19

Both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate for 10 days from the positive test if asymptomatic or 10 days from the onset of symptoms. Individuals may return to campus following those 10 days once they are fever free for 24 hours and symptoms are gone or significantly improving. Residential students that live within 200 miles of campus will isolate at home. If the student lives more than 200 miles from campus, they will be isolated in a designated facility on campus. We have very limited isolation space on campus. Students will not be refunded for any room and board for time missed living on campus.

Travel off campus

Residential students may travel off campus and resume activities in accordance with state and local guidelines. Unvaccinated students are expected to wear a mask while off campus. All students are reminded that area businesses may have their own health protocols in place. As stated in the student handbook, students represent the University both on and off campus and student violations off campus including health protocols may be referred to the Office of Community Standards.

Off campus events, field trips, internships, practicum, volunteer service, work, etc.

The University continues to monitor our local, state and national COVID-19 infection rates to inform our engagement with off campus community partners. Volunteer service, field trips, internships, work, and other co-curricular activities are a critical component of the Assumption experience. Students, faculty and staff engaged in off campus activities should follow the health protocols of the visiting site. In the state of Massachusetts, masks are optional for vaccinated individuals but required for unvaccinated individuals with an approved exemption. Individual businesses can determine their own health protocols and members of the community are expected to comply with both state and business health protocols.