



CPG Update: February 17, 2021

Please read through this week's Update, as we have included a number of reminders or clarifying details on our Operations. We thank you for your compliance with the COVID policies and procedures up to this point, and for your patience as we work through some questions that have come up since campus has re-opened.

UPDATED: Travel Restrictions This Semester

The policy on travel during this semester, as originally stated, is that it is very strongly discouraged. If any student had to leave campus or Chestertown for more than 24 hours, it was to be for an essential activity only.

At this time, we must reiterate this and explicitly state that travel is ONLY permitted for emergency situations or essential purposes. In such case, a student must notify us by sending an email to WCResponseTeam@washcoll.edu. A contact will be assigned to work with you on your return date and to manage your required quarantine upon arrival back to campus or Chestertown.

Essential activities include things like medical appointments, employment, religious services, or the purchase of essential personal care items or medications.

Please note that all students living on campus or in Chestertown are also subject to the state guidelines around travel. Currently, Maryland remains under an emergency order requiring those living here (even if Maryland is not your state of residence) to limit all travel to essential purposes only. All Marylanders (students living in Maryland) who do travel outside of Maryland must either obtain a negative COVID-19 test result or self-quarantine for 10 days. This applies to all states, with the exception of Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, DC. Read the governor's order and the companion health directives.

We understand that emergencies happen and that there may be situations that require travel away from campus, but it is critical that you refrain from travel that isn't absolutely necessary. Every time you visit an area outside of campus or Chestertown and then return, you are re-introducing risk to our entire community. Unnecessary travel - particularly to areas or states with high infection rates and/or limited COVID restrictions - has the potential to negatively impact operations for everyone.

To Mask or Not to Mask - That is a Good Question!

Now that athletic practices have resumed (hooray for that!) and many students have cleared quarantine and are exercising outside, there have been some questions surrounding the mask policy during physical activity. Here are the guidelines:

Any student - even if a member of a Washington College athletic team - who is working out informally outside, is required to wear a mask while doing so. By informally, we mean not as part of an official team practice.

During official team practices, student-athletes are following the NCAA's recommendations, which were released in the Resocialization of Collegiate Sports: Developing Standards for Practice and Competition. These standards allow for student athletes to remove their masks while participating in an official outdoor athletic practice or competition. Practices are supervised by coaches, who will monitor and enforce compliance with social distancing.

Any student working out inside is required to wear a mask.

COVID VACCINATIONS

We wanted to provide some information and visibility into how we are managing COVID vaccinations currently.

At this time, Washington College does not have a vaccine supply available to administer directly. We have applied for this, but approval is pending and we do not have a timeline for when we might receive a response, or even how quickly we could move through the logistics surrounding the setup of a vaccine clinic. We are in constant communication with our local Health Department, and have been able to direct some of our Category 1A and 1B personnel to vaccine clinics that they have made available for us. We will continue to take every opportunity to help employees secure vaccine appointments, following the prioritization mandated by the state of Maryland.

We are also encouraging every single member of our community who wishes to be vaccinated to seek any options available through their local Health Departments. Some employees have successfully secured vaccination appointments this way. There are also vaccines coming to some local retail pharmacies as well as some mass vaccination clinics being offered. If you feel you may be able to get an appointment at any of these locations based on your personal health information, we encourage you to do so.

Our hope is that we can extend this opportunity to every member of our community, but as you are likely aware, there is currently not yet enough of the vaccine to cover the general population. We will continue to provide updates, as the situation evolves.

SYMPTOM ATTESTATION THROUGH EMOCHA

Big thanks to all of you who have adopted daily use of emocha for symptom checking. This tool is one of our primary strategies for reducing the overall risk to our community.

As a reminder, any student who falls into one of these categories should have emocha set up and be using it daily:

- Students that live on campus
- Students that live in the Chestertown community
- Students that are listed as a commuter student and may be on campus more than 1 time in a two-week period.
- Any student who is going to be on campus working or doing research with prior expressed permission from your supervisor or faculty member.

Employees who are on campus on a regular basis should also be using the emocha app daily - this is defined as being on campus at least one time every two weeks. An employee who is only on campus once or twice a week should still be completing the attestation daily, not just on the days they are reporting to campus.

VISITOR POLICY

A reminder that the campus is restricted to visitors whose purpose is essential to College operations.

General pedestrian traffic is permitted through the campus grounds, but all visitors must comply with the mask policy.

No general visitors are allowed to access any facilities, to include the Bookstore, Dining Hall, Library or athletic facilities.



UPDATE ON TESTING OPTIONS THROUGH HEALTH SERVICES

- Health Services now has the ability to administer Rapid COVID tests through the Health Center. With the PCR machine now available, we wanted to review the various testing options available to students, and any costs associated with them. They are:
- **Surveillance Testing** - This is the mandatory bi-weekly testing being managed in partnership with MD Genomics. This testing is at no additional cost to the students.
- **Symptomatic Testing** - Any student who is exhibiting COVID symptoms or is being tested as a result of exposure through close contact with someone who has tested positive, should contact Health Services for COVID testing. With the addition of the Rapid test machine, there are now two options.
- **LabCorp Test** - We can administer a LabCorp test, which gets sent out to their facility and returns results in about 2 days (not guaranteed). When this type of test is sent, we include the student's health insurance information and then the associated billing (if any) will be determined based on the family's plan type. Nothing will be billed to the student or family by Washington College.
- **Rapid Test** - We can administer a Rapid Test using the PCR machine, which returns results in about 15 minutes. This test costs \$75 and will be billed to the student's account. We will not require a rapid test, it is a choice for students if they wish to know the results immediately. The expense can possibly be submitted to the family's insurance plan after the fact.

Medical tests for ill students will result in additional expenses. The billing for symptomatic tests is the same as it is for things like a flu test or rapid strep test.

DON'T LET YOUR MASK DOWN NOW WC!

By now we're all aware of the recent cohort outbreak on campus. This doesn't mean that you aren't collectively doing a GREAT job in complying with all the layers of safety measures. You are, and we want you to know how much we appreciate your efforts. The events of last weekend though are a stark reminder that this virus is invisible and even small moments of letting your guard down can have serious consequences.

In the wake of that outbreak, here are some key reminders:

- No visitors are permitted to enter another student's room/residence hall
- At this time parents/guests may NOT come to campus; now is not the time to meet up with family off-campus for lunch or dinner either!
- Suite-mates are encouraged to wear masks when in the common area
- If traveling off-campus for emergency or essential purposes (not permitted for any other reason) please follow all guidelines
- Wear your mask (make sure it fits correctly), indoors and outdoors, whenever you are not alone
- Maintain social distance – even outsideWash your hands frequently
- Monitor your symptoms daily -- if you begin to experience any symptoms, contact Health Services to schedule an appointment.

Even small, mask-free social stops in the bathroom, the hallway or the laundry room can lead to an outbreak. So please don't let your mask down now - help us get to GREEN and keep everyone safe!



COVID TESTING FOR EMPLOYEES

With testing underway, the surveillance program has now expanded to include every other week testing for workers in high-contact roles, and random testing at a rate of 15% of the workforce for those who work on campus less frequently.

Symptomatic Testing Options for WC Employees:

Not feeling well or believe you may have been exposed to COVID-19? You can get tested locally at one of many locations:

Kent County Health Department: testing through Kent County Health Department will take place on Tuesdays from 8:30 am-1:00 pm. Call 410-778-1350 for an appointment.

Chesapeake College: No cost, testing by appointment

LabCorp (your health care provider would send you here):

Queen Anne's County Health Department at 206 W. Commerce Street in Centreville; Drive thru, No appointment or cost on Tuesdays from 9:00 am-12:00pm

CVS in Chester, MD: Rapid Testing by appointment

In Delaware (Middletown/Dover areas)

JAVA GEORGE IS OPEN!



Java George is open and stocked with your favorite Chesapeake Bay Roasting Company Coffee, Pepsi products, Jack & Olive products and more! We have a new selection of salads, sandwiches and snacks to meet all dietary needs, so stop on in Monday - Friday 8:00am - 10:00pm!

KEEPING YOUR ELECTRONICS CLEAN DURING COVID (and beyond)

If there's one thing we've learned over the past year, it's to think more carefully about all of those high-touch surfaces we encounter and how to keep them and ourselves clean. While frequent hand-washing is one way to combat the spread of viruses, another is cleaning the surfaces themselves. What everyone may not be thinking about is their personal electronics. Questions? Feel free to email the Help Desk at help_desk@washcoll.edu

Here are links to cleaning tips for Lenovo and Apple products, and here are some general guidelines:

- Don't use any abrasive cleaners or bleach and don't apply liquid directly to any electronic devices - screens and displays may have delicate coatings that can be easily scratched or damaged.
- One exception is that Clorox or Lysol wipes are generally fine for stand-alone keyboard, just make sure they aren't dripping wet!
- Wipe any surfaces clear of dust or other debris with lint-free cloth before using any cleaning solutions.

