

CPG Update: Spring 2021 Campus Life

Welcome all students!

On these pages, you will find additional details and important information about the requirements, deadlines, what to expect, and more. If you have questions that aren't answered here, please contact the Residential Life Team at Residential_Life@washcoll.edu - they will be happy to assist you!

While we are pleased to be able to invite all students back to campus, the Together Again model is designed for us to learn and be together, no matter where a student wishes to live this spring. Staying at home is still the best choice for some, and thanks to the continuity afforded by online instruction and our commitment to providing a variety of programming outside of academics, all students will have the opportunity for a productive and successful semester, whether from home, on campus or from Chestertown.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Due to the ongoing pandemic and our efforts to mitigate risk, life on campus/in town will be different in many ways. The entire campus community is expected to comply with all safety protocols. These include:

- Mandatory use of face masks/face coverings while on campus
- Flu shot requirement, with proof provided prior to arrival
- Regular COVID testing – including being tested upon arrival and then again about 12 days later, followed by regular surveillance testing and symptomatic testing as needed
- Self-quarantine is expected two weeks prior to arrival, and then again for two weeks after arrival to campus/Chestertown (reminder that classes begin Feb. 1)
- Traveling off campus (outside of visits to town) is **STRONGLY DISCOURAGED** and may require self-quarantine upon return; this applies to students living in Chestertown also
- Adherence to quarantine and isolation protocols for any student who tests positive or has confirmed exposure
- Daily use of the emocha app to monitor symptoms

HOUSING APPLICATION:

Unless you are already living in Chestertown or have already submitted your application for spring 2021 housing, please complete and submit the application **no later than October 28**. The application will indicate if you wish to live on campus in the spring, or remain at your permanent home address. All students will be housed in singles for the spring semester.

Link:

https://washcoll.datacenter.adirondacksolutions.com/washcoll_thdss_prod/login



TESTING PROTOCOLS

Key to a safe and successful semester together on campus is a robust COVID testing strategy. Our plan for testing is as follows:

GATEWAY TESTING: All students will be tested upon arrival. Students are expected to self-quarantine in their housing for the first two weeks. On day 12, each student will be re-tested. Upon confirmation of a negative test, the self-quarantine will end.

SURVEILLANCE TESTING: We will test a minimum of 15% of the campus population weekly. All students, staff and faculty who are on campus will be in the pool for surveillance testing. Getting tested is then required. Surveillance testing will be funded by the College. The final plan for surveillance testing has not been determined, but any change will represent an increase in the % of the community that gets tested weekly.

Additionally, we will offer testing for symptomatic students. These tests, just like any other diagnostic test that a student requires, will be covered by the student's health insurance plan. Health Services has the capability to provide in-house COVID testing for ill students.

Please note that for all students returning to campus housing or to live in Chestertown, we also expect there to be a two-week quarantine-at-home prior to arrival.

FACE MASKS

All students, employees, and visitors to campus, are required to wear a mask any time they are on campus or any Washington College property (indoors and outdoors.) Washington College will be providing all students and employees who will be on campus with two washable and re-usable cloth masks before the beginning of the Spring 2021 semester. Masks should adhere to CDC guidelines and be worn covering the mouth and nose completely.

In addition to on-campus rules, students will be expected to comply with local and state regulations regarding masking when they are off campus.



KNOW WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

If you have a fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, you might have COVID-19. Contact Health Services or your healthcare provider to determine if you need to be tested and follow all recommendations for quarantine or isolation. Most people have mild symptoms, but those should be monitored closely. If you have any emergency warning signs (to include difficulty breathing) seek emergency care immediately.

GET YOUR FLU SHOT!

An influenza immunization is now required for all returning Washington College students, living either on campus or off campus in Chestertown or the surrounding areas. This additional vaccine requirement is an important step in reducing flu-related illnesses and the overall impact of the respiratory illness during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Proof of vaccine must be submitted through the Health Portal. For students who will be living on campus, the deadline is two weeks prior to the scheduled move-in date. For students already in Chestertown or on campus, the deadline is December 1. For any student that will be living off-campus in the spring, the deadline is by Feb. 1.

A separate email with further details on this enhanced vaccine requirement will be sent to all students. Per Maryland regulations, exemptions do not apply during an emergency or epidemic of disease.

FLU SHOT CLINIC: NOV. 4

We are partnering with Walgreens in Chestertown to hold an on-campus flu shot clinic on 11/4. You must reserve your shot by calling 410-778-7261. Walgreens will bill your health insurance provider.

MOVE-IN DATES

Students will be moving into residence halls on a staggered basis between Jan. 19 and Jan. 30. Move-in-dates will be assigned to all students. The Residential Life Team will be following up with those details at a later date.



DINING SERVICES

Hodson Hall will be open for student dining. You should select your meal plan when you complete your application.

Hodson Hall operations will be determined by the College's overall Alert Level.

Changes may include shifting to serving pre-packaged meals only, limited beverage service to bottles/disposable cups only, and/or distancing of tables and chairs within the dining room.

TRAVEL POLICY

All students need to be aware that during the spring semester, travel off campus will need to be limited to town visits.

It is **STRONGLY ADVISED** that you do not travel out of state or back home during the semester. Traveling during the semester may result in the need to repeat the self-quarantine procedures.

STUDENT PLEDGE

All students will be required to sign a student pledge stating that they will comply with all College guidelines that have been instituted in response to the pandemic. With a focus on their role in caring for others in the community, the pledge requires that students comply with the following (at a minimum): the masking policy, maintaining social distancing, restrictions on guests and gatherings, testing and contact tracing protocols, as well as isolation and quarantine guidelines.

By signing this agreement, they acknowledge that they agree that if they do not adhere to the guidelines that they may increase the risk of contracting COVID-19 for themselves and those with whom they come into contact both directly and indirectly. They also attest that they understand that non-adherence to the guidelines may be considered a violation of the Washington College Honor Code.

VISITOR POLICY

Students are not permitted to have guests in their rooms or suites. Small gatherings of less than 10 people may occur on campus outdoors with proper social distancing measures including the wearing of a mask at all times while on campus. On campus students are advised to not go to the residences of other students living off campus or to participate in any off-campus activities that violate local or state laws or social distancing guidelines. **Students living off campus are not permitted to host gatherings in their off-campus houses or apartments.** Small gatherings of less than 10 people may occur outdoors with proper social distancing measures.

Washington College's official Visitors Policy applies to visitors who are essential to the operations of the College.

EMOCHA APP

Everyone who comes on campus (including visitors), as well as students living on campus, will be required to demonstrate proof that they have completed the symptom checklist by completing the symptom attestation on the emocha smart phone app.

All students returning to campus or Chestertown for the spring semester will be provided with additional information about this app and how to access it and complete the attestation.

The expectation is that this self-monitoring tool will be used daily and that anyone accessing campus facilities will have at least 3 days of "green" via the emocha app, which will indicate that they are free of any symptoms of COVID-19.

QUARANTINE & ISOLATION PROCEDURES

As required of facilities who have residential occupancy when a Public Health pandemic emergency is declared, Washington College has identified spaces for students who must isolate or quarantine. An on-campus residence hall has been repurposed to accommodate students needing to isolate or quarantine. Students are expected to comply with all isolation and quarantine guidelines if ordered to do so by a Washington College official.

If a student becomes ill and tests positive, our first goal would be to try to get the student back home with their families, if at all possible. While understanding that ill students would not be able to use public transportation, this would require family members to pick them up. The student can be housed in the Isolation & Quarantine Residence Hall until the time they can be picked up to travel home. Students and families concerned that returning home may present health risks to other family members should communicate those to the **COVID Care Coordinator** or a staff member in Health Services.

COVID Care Coordinators will provide care and monitoring for our students required to stay in our designated Isolation & Quarantine residence hall. This care includes, but is not limited to:

- facilitating pick up of ill students and their necessary belongings from their residence hall room and transporting them to the isolation space;
- meal deliveries that will be ordered through College catering services;
- daily observation /check-ins with professional staff who will directly communicate with Health and Counseling as needed;
- provide over-the-counter medicines if needed;
- cleaning and linen services;
- coordination of and assistance with contact notifications for faculty, staff and students;
- notification of faculty when a student is unable to attend in-person classes or on-line classes;
- notification of faculty when the student is cleared to return to in-person classes;

Quarantine Requirements for Exposure: Any student who is found to have had close contact with a student that has tested positive will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days from the last contact with the ill person. For students living in suites, this means that self-quarantine will be mandatory if any of their suitemates test positive.

Q&I Designations:

Isolation space (Corsica) is for students who are ill or are showing symptoms or have been confirmed to have COVID-19.

Quarantine space (Kent House) is for students who are not ill but have had a potential exposure or have been identified as a close contact.

Following the recommended standard, 10% of available housing has been designated as Quarantine & Isolation space. Our COVID Dashboard will report on the availability of this space throughout the semester.

QUARANTINE & ISOLATION PROCEDURES - cont'd

OFF-CAMPUS STUDENTS: CONTACT TRACING:

Quarantine and isolation space will be available to off-campus students if needed, but is not required. They will be permitted to quarantine-in-place in their off-campus housing. COVID Care Coordinators will provide support to off-campus students as well.

Students living off campus will be given the same access to campus facilities that those living in residence halls will have. Therefore, they are also expected to comply with all the same safety requirements and standards, including not hosting indoor gatherings in off-campus houses or apartments. Small gatherings of less than 10 people may occur outdoors with proper social distancing measures including the wearing of a mask at all times while on campus.

Washington College will work closely with the Kent County Health Department to conduct contact notification and training in the event of a positive or presumed case of COVID-19 or if someone is symptomatic. The process of contact notification will include outreach to anybody that the person identifies as a potential contact both on campus and off-campus.

Contact notification will begin when an individual either becomes symptomatic and /or is found to be COVID positive. Washington College has several employees who are trained as contact tracers and will begin the process of notifying those who may have had close contact with the individual.

All students are expected to comply when contacted by a contact tracer. Failure to do so may be considered a violation of College policy. If you are unsure about whether someone contacting you is a legitimate contact tracer, please call Health Services at 410-778-7261.

CAMPUS FACILITIES:

What will/won't be open and available to students during the spring semester?

We can't yet know what the status will be come late January. While we have formally set the Spring semester plan in motion, there are many decisions around specific services and campus access that remain contingent upon our Key Indicators and what Alert Level the College is operating within at any given time.

We will though make every effort to offer as many services and opportunities as possible once we are back on campus, while still operating within our safety guidelines and mandates.

Our plan to provide clear answers on these types of questions is to publish both the Key Indicators/Alert Level chart and a COVID Dashboard. This data will very clearly show how changes in the Alert Level will impact overall College operations and what will/won't be open. We expect this information to be live before the end of this calendar year.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Counseling appointments are available to all students including those in isolation or quarantine. Counseling appointments will be conducted via telemedicine sessions.

Students who have never seen a counselor on campus before can email health_services@washcoll.edu or call 410-778-7261. Students who already have an established counselor on campus can email their counselor directly to schedule appointments. There will be no walk-in counseling appointments available.

Students experiencing a mental health emergency who would like to speak with a counselor can call Counseling Services during weekday hours at 410-778-7261. After hours and on the weekends, Public Safety (410-778-7810) will assist students with locating a counselor with whom they can speak.

HEALTH SERVICES OPERATIONS:

Health Services will be open on campus in Queen Anne's Hall with modified appointment times and procedures to allow for additional cleaning and safety measures. All students entering the Health Center will be required to wear a mask and will be temperature screened.

In order to protect the safety of our campus, there will be no walk-in appointments allowed. Students must call 410-778-7261 from 8:30-12:00 or 1:00-4:30 to schedule an appointment and to have a COVID phone screening questionnaire completed. Upon arrival, students will need to enter the glass lobby and call to be let in. After hours, students should contact the COVID Care Coordinator on duty. Health Services will be offering well appointments, prescription refills and allergy injections during morning hours. Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner appointments will also be available.

Sick visit appointments will be held during late morning and afternoon hours. We will not be able to permit anyone to accompany students during their appointment as we cannot have anyone waiting in our lobby. The exception would be for a minor student to be accompanied by parent or legal guardian.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding spring housing and any health conditions you may have, please contact Health Services or Disability Services.