

THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY

HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN

Spring 2022



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Introduction

The 2021-22 Academic Year

For the 2021-22 academic year, Thomas Jefferson University is committed to delivering our students' education in person, and enhanced with the advantages of digital learning, while continuing to operate within a framework that maximizes safety and abides by local, state and federal regulations related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of extensive planning, collaboration with numerous internal and external stakeholders, and most importantly, the engagement of students, faculty and staff, the University was able to carry out a successful 2020-21 academic, and will now strive restore more "normal" campus operations. The University has remained flexible to respond to changes in the situation of the pandemic in our local and regional communities, and will continue to make alterations in educational delivery and academic operations when needed.

Purpose of this Plan

This *Health and Safety Plan* provides a top-level summary of the health and safety measures the University is taking to provide our campus communities with a safe learning, living and working environment. Students, faculty and staff are also being provided with additional detailed information about campus operations and services, health and safety policies, return-to-campus and workplace re-orientation programs, and other resources. The most current policies, alerts and other updates can always be found at <https://www.jefferson.edu/coronavirus.html>.

Development of the Health and Safety Plan

The University commissioned a Relaunch Committee to develop a comprehensive relaunch plan with components related to students, faculty and staff, academic programs and operations, research operations, campus operations, and communication protocols. This *Health and Safety Plan* is a summary of that planning related to the health and safety of our campus communities. The Committee sought input from multiple stakeholders in developing its health and safety plan, including:

- Academic programs, colleges, and academic operational units
- Faculty and staff members via town halls and meetings
- Consultation with enterprise-level partners, including Facilities, Public Safety, the Jefferson Health System, Infection Control, Human Resources and an enterprise-wide Return-to-Workplace Task Force
- Collaboration with local and regional colleges and universities
- Guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Philadelphia Department of Public Health



STUDENTS

Students

Housing

- After successfully restoring double occupancy in its residence halls during the Spring 2021 semester, the University is continuing double occupancy in University housing for the 2021-22 academic year.
- Numerous policies and procedures, as well as educational programming, have been put in place to maintain the health and safety of residential students.

Dining

- Dining services on the East Falls campus are continuing with normal operations, within the City of Philadelphia's requirements for indoor dining.

Student Vaccine Policy

The University is requiring all students who have any on-campus presence to provide documentation of vaccination. The full policy can be accessed at: <https://www.jefferson.edu/life-at-jefferson/handbooks/health-safety/covid-19-vaccination-policy.html>. The policy allows for students to apply for exemption for medical or religious reasons. Students who are granted exemptions will undergo frequent on-campus surveillance testing during the semester and must wear a mask at all times while on campus. International students can satisfy the vaccine requirement by providing documentation of vaccination with WHO-authorized vaccines, but will undergo on-campus surveillance testing during the fall semester.

Student Screening

- Students must complete an online return-to-campus orientation and initial screening prior to return to campus; if they have signs or symptoms, or positive risk factors, they must contact the University's student health services before arriving on campus.
- Students must follow the Jefferson-wide travel policy for guidance on what to do when returning to the Philadelphia area after any travel out of the region. This policy has been communicated to the students, updated regularly, and is available on the Jefferson.edu website.
- Students will be given frequent individual text messages during the academic year to self-screen for signs and symptom and evaluate daily their risk factors for COVID-19. If a student has signs or symptoms, or positive risk factors, she/he cannot come to campus and must contact the University's student health services.
- Students are also encouraged to download and use the COVID Alert mobile apps (either the Pennsylvania or New Jersey versions) to notify them of possible exposures.

Student Testing

Students who are symptomatic should contact the Student Health COVID hotline at 215-951-0168 regarding next steps and testing.

Student Case Management

The University has developed a protocol for managing students who are symptomatic or who have a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, which includes:

- Sending residential students who are symptomatic or diagnosed home immediately if they wish and can safely do so.
- Providing isolation space on campus for those students who cannot immediately or safely return home or do not wish to return home.
- Providing Jefferson telehealth services to symptomatic or diagnosed students.
- Providing healthcare, daily needs, and academic support services to students in quarantine or isolation.
- Providing criteria for students to safely return to campus.
- Providing quarantine requirements for students who have been in contact with confirmed COVID-19 individuals.

The University provides public information on current student COVID-19 suspected and confirmed cases, which is available at: <https://www.jefferson.edu/coronavirus.html>.

Absenteeism Policy

- University advisories on class attendance are in place to encourage students to stay home if they are not feeling well, without negative impact on their course standing.
- Students are responsible for reaching out to faculty regarding their absence but are not obligated to provide information on their health status or to provide a note from a medical provider to validate their absence.
- Students and faculty will work together to ensure that students still meet the class requirements for assignments, reading, etc.

Advising and Tutoring

- Academic advising and tutoring meetings and programs will resume in person, but there will still be opportunities for remote sessions.

Student Affairs and Student Support Services

- All Student Affairs services and programs, academic support services and programs, and other student services will resume in person, but some services may still provide remote service opportunities.

Student Wellness

The University provides a variety of physical, mental and other types of wellness resources, summarized at: <https://www.jefferson.edu/coronavirus/wellness-tips.html>

Campus Community Standards

- Supplemental requirements to the community standards have been added for all students to observe to promote health and safety, including:
 - Mask use for unvaccinated students
 - Social Distancing when eating and drinking for unvaccinated students
 - Frequent hand washing
 - Avoiding touching one's face
 - Coughing/sneezing into one's elbow
 - Staying home when feeling ill
 - Reporting signs and symptoms, and possible COVID-19 exposures, to University Student Health
 - Cooperation with contact tracing efforts carried out by the University or City of Philadelphia

Travel

Students must follow the Jefferson-wide travel policy for guidance on what to do when returning to the Philadelphia area after any travel out of the region. This policy has been communicated to the students, updated regularly, and is available at [Jefferson.edu/coronavirus](https://www.jefferson.edu/coronavirus).

Athletics

The University plans to participate in intercollegiate sports for the 2021-22, while following all federal, state, local and NCAA regulations. Updated information about athletics can be found at www.jeffersonrams.com.

Masks and Social Distancing

The most current policy updates on masking and social distancing can be accessed at: <https://www.jefferson.edu/coronavirus.html#updates>.

The University requires all persons, regardless of vaccination status, to wear masks in all indoor University locations. Masks may be removed to eat and drink in designated areas, with social distancing. Masks may be removed in private offices if no one else is present.

Campus Meetings and Events

Campus meetings and events can be held in person as long as they follow University and local regulations. The most current University guidance on meetings and events can be accessed at: <https://www.jefferson.edu/coronavirus/university-updates.html>.



ACADEMICS

Academics

Academic Calendar

The University academic calendars (which vary among programs) are operating as scheduled, and are available at <https://www.jefferson.edu/university/academic-affairs/tju/academic-services/registrar/calendars/academic-calendars.html>.

Courses

All on-campus programs, courses and activities are continuing pre-pandemic delivery methods, including in-person/remote/hybrid/hyflex options as appropriate, and have returned to pre-pandemic classroom occupancy limits. Programs will be continuing some academic activities in fully online, hybrid or hyflex formats where it provides pedagogic value and programmatic flexibility for learners and programs. Programs will continue to maintain contingency plans to revert to completely online delivery if conditions warrant.

Clinical Rotations

Clinical rotations will continue even if classroom-based courses transition to online delivery unless conditions warrant the suspension of rotations.

Internships

Student internships will continue and requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis depending on the ability of the employer to provide a safe working environment for students.

Study Away, Honors and Creativity Programs

Study Away, Honors and Creativity programs have resumed pre-pandemic operations. For study away requests, careful consideration of the destinations and their current pandemic conditions will be part of the approval process.



FACULTY
& STAFF

Faculty & Staff

Workplace Health and Safety

The University is carrying out a phased-in return to workplace plan. All employees must complete a return-to-work re-orientation and attestation in order to promote workplace health and safety. Some employees may be able to fulfill their job responsibilities in a hybrid on-campus/remote mode or fully remote mode, which will be determined by employee supervisors.

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Faculty and Staff Wellness

The University provides a variety of physical, mental and other types of wellness resources, summarized at: <https://www.jefferson.edu/coronavirus/wellness-tips.html>

Travel

Faculty and staff must follow the Jefferson-wide travel policy for guidance on what to do when returning to the Philadelphia area after any travel out of the region. This policy has been communicated to the faculty and staff, is updated regularly, and is available on the Jefferson.edu website and on myJeffHub.



RESEARCH

Research

On-Campus Research Activities

University research activities have resumed their pre-pandemic policies and procedures while also being in alignment with enterprise and University guidance.



OPERATIONS

Operations

Facilities Guidelines

- Facilities personnel will monitor safety measures on campuses.
- Modifications to campus space setup and usage have been made to promote social distancing, cleanliness and other health and safety measures.
- Facilities will conduct regular deep cleaning in addition to regular cleaning, especially in high contact/high usage areas.
- Facilities will provide increased numbers of hand sanitizer stations and cleaning supplies and will ensure that building ventilation systems are operating at peak effectiveness.
- Routine building maintenance practices are being adjusted to maximize health and safety for all occupants and facilities staff.

Campus Dining, Libraries, Recreation Facilities, and Campus Stores

These facilities will be resuming their pre-pandemic services and operations for the Fall 2021 semester.

Visitors

Students will be allowed to have registered visitors on campus.

All visitors must adhere to campus policies for health and safety, including the use of masks as per current University policy. All visitors must complete an online vaccination attestation form prior to their visit. Visitors must also bring proof of vaccination to campus and be prepared to present it to a University official if requested. The vaccination attestation form takes only a few moments to complete. Visitors do not have to upload any documents and their information is completely confidential. Visitors will receive an email confirmation of their submission.

The online visitor attestation form can be found at:

https://premierpro.greensecurityllc.com/visit-requests/new?facility_id=749&affiliate_id=50

Confirmed COVID-19 Case Protocol

The University has established a protocol to manage campus operations, communicate with campus stakeholders, and ensure the safety of campus stakeholders in cases of confirmed COVID-19 individuals on campus.

University Relaunch Committee

The University has a standing Relaunch Committee that is charged with monitoring the health and safety of the University campuses relative to COVID-19 on an ongoing basis and coordinating all actions relative to exposures or outbreaks impacting the campus communities, as well as overseeing academic and administrative operations associated with the pandemic.



COMMUNICATIONS

Communications

The University will continue to utilize a variety of communication strategies and tactics to keep students, parents, staff, faculty and other stakeholders aware of the health and safety measures in place at the University; also the university will provide updates to stakeholders on current conditions on campus, and any internal or external circumstances that impact campus operations.

Closing

The *Health and Safety Plan* will be continually monitored and updated as pandemic conditions evolve, as we receive new guidance from government agencies, and as the University makes changes to policies and procedures to better promote the health and safety of our campus communities.



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