



CPG Update: April 9, 2021

FALL 2021: WHAT'S THE PLAN?

As we proceed with the planning for the in-person fall semester, we wanted to share with you additional details on how that will translate to specific operations.

Academic Instruction

Instruction will be in-person in the fall. Currently we have a schedule in place and maximum capacities that reflect 6' social distancing within the classrooms and other learning spaces. Given the recent CDC announcement that 3' is acceptable (where windows can be opened and other air flow requirements are met), we will also revisit the classroom set-up and max capacities. Generally speaking, if a classroom space can be setup with the full 6' of distance, that will be our default. But if there are spaces where reducing that distance is possible and doing so will positively affect that course's outcome, it will be considered. At this point, we also expect that masks will still be required in the classroom.

On-Campus Housing

We have approval from the Kent County Health Department to proceed with our on-campus housing plan, which includes housing up to 900 students. We will place students in a mixture of singles and doubles, prioritizing the doubles for first-year students. We are still required to have separate housing available for both Isolation and Quarantine, so that we can continue to manage COVID infections and/or exposures that occur amongst the student population.

Off-campus housing: Many students who have applied for an exemption to our residency requirement and are requesting to live off campus have already been notified about their status and we hope to complete the review process and notify all applicants within the next two weeks. Because we will still have reduced occupancy on campus next fall due to the requirement to have quarantine and isolation residence halls, we will be able to approve some qualified applicants for off-campus living who, in future years, might not be eligible.

Athletics

We expect that the Fall Sports season will include the normal slate of practices and competitions for our fall teams. We also expect that some COVID protocols will remain in place, though we do not yet have the full picture of what exactly that will look like. We will continue to follow Centennial Conference requirements and communicate those updates as decisions are made.

Campus Life

As we move more towards "normal", we anticipate the return of many of the non-academic activities that are an integral part of life on campus. In-person club and organization meetings, attending games, sharing meals in the dining hall, more freely accessing campus facilities and informally socializing with friends are all activities that we are planning for. As with all things, it is likely that some COVID restrictions - such as mask-wearing or social distancing - will remain in effect. But we will be making every effort to restore as much of the normal in-person campus life as we can.



FALL 2021 - UNDER REVIEW

While we have many of the major "big picture" questions answered, there are also questions or topics that are still under consideration. Below is a list of those items that are currently being evaluated by CPG. Once a decision is reached, they will be announced either via this Update or in a separate communication.

Vaccination Requirements - we are aware that some colleges and universities have announced that COVID vaccines will be required for all students as a condition of enrollment for the fall semester. This important question is under careful consideration and we will announce that decision once we have worked through the due diligence.

Allowances for Continuation of Virtual Learning - We are looking greatly forward to reconnecting with our wonderful community in person in the fall, and as we've announced, instruction will be in-person. What is under evaluation is if/how we may be able to accommodate special requests to continue with virtual learning/teaching, even as we return to the in-person experiences. We are using existing ADA guidance around accommodations to aid in this review.

COVID Testing, Attestation & Other Protocols - While we believe that we will retain some measure of testing and/or attestation for the fall, we have not yet determined the full plan. Certainly symptomatic COVID testing will be offered in the fall as it is now. As mentioned, it is likely that some of the basic best practices for preventing the spread of COVID will also remain.

NEED A RIDE TO GET VACCINATED? WE WANT TO HELP!

if you need transportation to get vaccinated, please send an email to transportation@washcoll.edu with the date, time, and location of your vaccine. We need at least 72 hours notice and can only provide transportation to sites that are within a 100-mile radius of Chestertown (this includes the mass vaccination sites at M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore and Wicomico Civic Center in Salisbury). Students who secure a vaccination in Delaware within the 100-mile radius and don't have alternate transportation can also request transportation. Note that we will do everything we can to provide transportation but cannot guarantee it. We encourage you to have a backup plan or continue to pursue other methods of transportation in the event we are unable to accommodate your request.

COVID VACCINE INFORMATION

A reminder that in Maryland anyone 16 and older is now eligible to get a COVID vaccine at any of the state's mass vaccination clinics. Starting next week (4/12), this will extend to all providers which means that retail outlets like CVS, Walgreens, Safeway, etc. will also be administering vaccines more broadly. Chester River Pharmacy – which is within walking distance of campus – has announced that they will begin administering vaccines. You can visit their website at <https://www.chesterriverpharmacy.com/> to sign up.

To locate any of the mass vaccination clinics and schedule an appointment, visit <https://massvax.maryland.gov/>.

We also suggest students check into options in nearby Talbot County (Easton). For information about vaccine clinics there, contact the Talbot County Health Dept at 410-819-5641.

We have also received numerous questions about the potential for a Washington College vaccine clinic. The answer right now is that while we are pursuing this, we do not have any confirmation that this is something that will be made available to us before the end of the semester. With that in mind, we encourage all of our community members who wish to be vaccinated to continue to seek appointments at the mass vaccination sites, retail pharmacies, etc. Starting on Monday 4/12, those retail sites will also be required to administer the vaccine to anyone 16 and older. If a student is able to secure an appointment in his/her hometown, we encourage you to take it; please just let us know if that is going to require travel away from campus for more than 24 hours (email us at wrcresponseteam@washcoll.edu).





Washington College's 238th Commencement Exercise for the Class of 2021 is scheduled as an in-person event on Saturday, May 22nd at 10:30 AM. Rain date is Sunday, May 23rd. This event is not open to the general public.

Graduates are able to invite and register two guests to attend the outdoor ceremony. More detailed information has been sent to graduating seniors about the registration process.

Katie Hood, Executive Director of the One Love Foundation, has been announced as the Commencement speaker. You can read more about that [here](#). For full details on Graduation, [please visit the website](#). The site is being updated as details are confirmed and now also includes an FAQ about the COVID protocols and testing requirements for graduates and guests.

Family Members of Seniors Approved to Celebrate Senior Day on Campus

The Centennial Conference has voted to allow up to four family members of senior student-athletes to attend senior day this spring. All family members will maintain all health and safety measures including face masks and social distancing at any given venue.

"We understand that all parents would like to be able to see their students play in person and we continue to livestream our home events," stated Thad Moore, Director of Athletics. "We felt it was important to focus on our graduating seniors and their families first. Given the restrictions and guidance we have agreed to with the Centennial Conference the only allowance is for senior families on a senior day. To not comply would risk all of our teams' eligibility to finish their seasons."

"Covid-19 infection rates, while still stable on our campus, continue to be at concerning rates, particularly in younger, unvaccinated people in Maryland and adjacent states," stated Sarah Feyerherm, Vice President for Student Affairs & Dean of Students. "We continue to try to find the correct balance between protecting the health and welfare of our community and allowing for some in-person activities to resume. Celebrating our graduating seniors is important and we are pleased that we have a safe way to do so."

The following dates have been designated for senior day at Washington College:

Men's & Women's Rowing: Saturday, April 10

Men's Soccer: Saturday, April 10

Field Hockey: Sunday, April 11

Women's Soccer: Friday, April 16

Volleyball: Saturday, April 17

Softball: Saturday, April 24

Baseball: Saturday, April 24

Men's Lacrosse: Saturday, May 1

Women's Lacrosse: Saturday, May 1

Men's & Women's Tennis: Saturday, May 1

Family Members of Seniors in Performing Arts Approved to Attend Recitals

Similar to the decision around approving family members to celebrate senior day athletic events, seniors in the Performing Arts Program will also be given the opportunity to invite up to four family members to attend final recitals. All family members will be required to maintain and health and safety measures, including face masks, social distancing and symptom attestation.



STATEMENT FROM THE AMERICAN COLLEGE HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Washington College fully supports the below statement from the American College Health Association; we stand in support of Asian and AAPI students, faculty and staff.

FROM THE ACHA:

"Although the SARS-CoV-2 virus was first reported in Wuhan, China, the pandemic has affected people of all races and ethnicities and encompasses the entire globe. Unfortunately, this has not prevented many individuals from blaming people of Asian descent for the pandemic. As a result, discrimination against Asians and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) is on the rise. From March 19, 2020, to February 28, 2021, the Stop AAPI Hate reporting center received 3,795 incidents of discrimination against Asian Americans. According to the group's national report, verbal harassment (68.1%), shunning (20.5%), and physical assault (11.1%) were the most common forms of discrimination experienced, and more women than men reported having experienced discrimination.

The impact on Asian and Asian American students has been substantial and is multifaceted. Discriminatory practices, xenophobic statements, and microaggressions have caused Asian American students to feel ostracized in American society.

ACHA stands with Asian and AAPI students, faculty, and staff in our campus communities. We reaffirm our organizational statement of non-discrimination in support of "all initiatives to create a campus climate guided by the values of cultural inclusion, respect, equality, and equity." Additionally, we remind members of our guidelines Supporting Vulnerable Campus Populations During the COVID-19 Pandemic and the following considerations to support our Asian and AAPI students:

- Ensure that faculty and staff are aware of and avoid microaggressions driven by preconceptions about Asians and COVID-19 risk.
- Educate counseling and health center staff about the impact of coronavirus-related racial profiling and xenophobia on Asian American students.
- Avoid using imagery of exclusively Asian persons when communicating about COVID-19.
- Include Asians/Asian Americans when crafting plans to support communities that are heavily affected by COVID-19.
- Explicitly denounce xenophobic rhetoric or behavior."

Our Alert Level is
YELLOW



We are on alert due to increased risk factors
– check your compliance with all health and
safety protocols.

WEEK OF 4/9 RECAP:

- There have been no new COVID cases this week
- No students are housed in Isolation or Quarantine dorms
- Campus remains in YELLOW



ADMITTED STUDENTS DAY IS HERE! SATURDAY, APRIL 10

We are very pleased to be hosting Admitted Students Day this Saturday, April 10th from 11 am to 2 pm. In keeping with COVID protocols, the event will take place outdoors.

Rest assured that we have implemented rigorous safety protocols in order to host these soon-to-be students safely and without risk to the greater campus community. Admitted students and their registered guests (limit of 2) will go through a COVID screening process immediately upon arrival, to include temperature checks, symptom attestation and travel screening. Masks/face coverings are required at ALL TIMES, including outdoors. Once they have cleared the screening process, they will be given a wristband for confirmation that they are an approved visitor for this three-hour window.

These guests will primarily be visiting three tents, featuring the Academic Department Expo, Student Experience & Resource Fair and the Main Stage. Musical guests The Bachelor Boys will provide socially distant entertainment on the Campus Lawn at Noon and at 1 PM. **(Note: current students are welcome to enjoy the concert as well. If you do attend, please look for the section marked "Current Students" and sit there to enjoy the show.)**

As official campus visitors, they will have the opportunity to visit the Dining Hall for food service. We have strongly encouraged a staggered arrival, as well as eating on the patio. As noted, they will be required to follow all established protocols.

For more information about what activities are being offered, we invite you to [visit the website](#). The Admissions Staff has worked incredibly hard to put together a meaningful experience for this group that also accounts for the need to protect the health and safety of current students, staff and faculty.

IN-PERSON CLUB EVENTS - A Message from the SGA:

With Spring Break behind us and the weather warming up, we wanted to remind you of the potential for in person club and student group activities!

The Office of Student Engagement sent out an email earlier this semester with [detailed instructions](#) and a [tutorial video](#) on how to plan for and register in person events. All in person events that are hosted by clubs must be reviewed by the Events Working Group and approved ahead of time. Approval is not guaranteed. It is best practice to register the event through CampusGroups as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the SGA Vice President, Alex May at amay4@washcoll.edu, or using the SGA email, sga@washcoll.edu.

VACCINATION RECORDS

If you have received and completed the COVID-19 vaccination process and feel comfortable sharing that data with us, we encourage you to provide a scanned image of your vaccination card to the Health Center via email (health_services@washcoll.edu); the brand of the vaccine, the batch number and the date(s) administered are the necessary points of information and should be on the vaccination card. This request applies to students, faculty and staff.

This information will be maintained in the secure files/system in our Health Center and are not part of any educational records or employment-related personnel files.

This step is not required; however, having this information on file helps us to understand who might still need or want a vaccine and as well the collective status of our campus community with respect to the COVID vaccine.

