



CPG Update: October 16, 2020

Spring 2021 - Additional Information

We have received many common questions about this upcoming semester, so in this update we have broken out a number of those topics and provided either clarification, additional details, or both. As plans continue to progress, we will add those updates here as well. Read on for more about the Spring schedule and why it changed, our plan for COVID testing, and a more comprehensive Housing/Life on Campus Update.

10/16/20 - UPDATE: The housing capacity for Spring 2021 has been increased and all students are invited to return to campus. Please see expanded Housing/Campus Life information section for further details.

Spring 2021 Schedule Review:

The Spring 2021 schedule is changing in a few key ways. To review, those are:

- Classes will now begin one week later, on Feb. 1
- Spring Break has been pushed to later in March and is shortened to a 4-day weekend
- Spring Advising Day has been canceled
- Reading Day has been rescheduled from Friday 5/7 to Monday 5/10
- Exams have been rescheduled from May 10-14 to May 11-15

We have fielded some questions around WHY the schedule changed, so further explanation is what follows.

The original start of the Spring semester coincides with what is typically the height of flu season. Therefore, the Health Services Team felt strongly that any number of days that we could push past that original date would be beneficial in keeping the campus healthy.

A second consideration of course was Spring Break. While we know students and faculty alike look forward to that time off, it would be irresponsible of us to send students home or encourage travel for a full week. Under the current plan, we have the potential to pivot to more in-person instruction around that same time; however, having students leave campus and come back would also necessitate another round of COVID testing and self-quarantine for all students awaiting test results. This would make that instructional shift much more difficult. This is also at odds with our general travel policy, which is that traveling beyond town is **STRONGLY DISCOURAGED**.

Shifting Spring Break to a 4-day weekend does provide at least a short break, which is the trade-off for pushing away from cold and flu season as much as possible.

Spring Advising Day was one casualty of that later start - in order to ensure that students are being provided with a full 15 weeks of instructional days, two additional days needed to be made up. The result is that a Monday-Wed-Friday class gets made up with the cancellation of Spring Advising Day. The 2nd class gets made-up by shifting Reading Day from 5/7 to 5/10. The 7th is now the final day of classes, and will be a Tues-Thurs class day.

Also of note is that we intentionally left Finals and Graduation in the same weeks that have been scheduled. Because these tend to be dates that people plan for well in advance, we thought it was important to keep those consistent.

The Health Center is open for COVID and non-COVID related health concerns by appointment, so call 410-778-7261 to schedule.

COVID Testing Plan

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 tested 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.

NEW FLU SHOT REQUIREMENT!

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.

Washington College already requires standard vaccines for all students to help mitigate risk to the community and to support public health efforts in disease containment. This additional vaccine requirement is in response to COVID-19 and part of the many safety measures being enacted to mitigate risk. **Per Maryland regulations, normal exemptions do not apply during an emergency or epidemic of disease.** Flu shots area available at most pharmacies, your healthcare provider, local health departments and drive through clinics.

OTHER REMINDERS

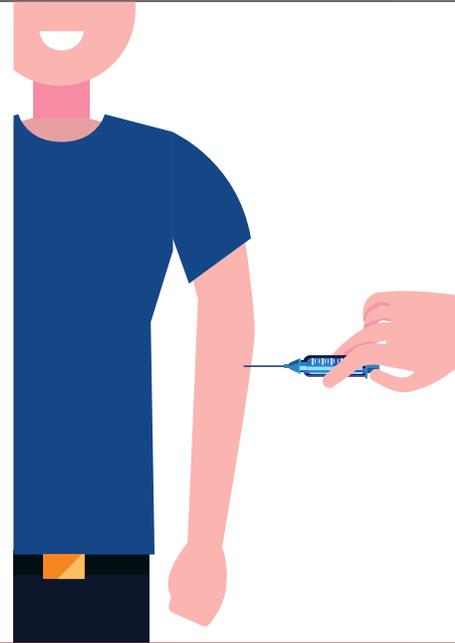
Just a couple reminders about information that was included in previous updates:

- Students are not required to come back to campus in the spring - online instruction will be available to those students throughout the entire semester, regardless of any move to in-person instruction on campus.
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- Washington College is developing a COVID Dashboard, along with the Key Indicators/Alert Level Chart. These will be published by the end of the calendar year. This will inform the decisions around additional operations once the semester begins.

FLU SHOT CLINIC

We are partnering with Walgreens to hold an **on-campus flu shot clinic on November 4**. Please call 410-778-7261 to reserve your flu shot. Walgreens will bill your health insurance plan.

The deadline to submit proof of this vaccine for students already living on campus or in town is **December 1**. Students will be receiving an email this week with further details about this new requirement, the deadlines to provide proof and how to upload.



WC COVID Data - as of 10/16/20

The data included here represents cumulative totals since classes began on August 24. As noted, we are in development with a more robust COVID Dashboard that will be made available to the public. Currently there are 245 off campus students, and 37 on-campus students.

- **Total positive cases among students:** 15 (1 on-campus student, 14 off-campus)
- **Total students quarantined due to exposure since Aug 24:** 51
- **Number of students currently in isolation:** 0 (student status is pending test results)