



The Return of the Flock

EMAIL TO THE WASHINGTON COLLEGE COMMUNITY – 1/21/22

To the Washington College Community,

It's wonderful to see students getting back to campus, and even better news that, to date, the number of positive cases from gateway testing has remained low and manageable. We had 7 total student cases from the Monday-Thursday testing and a few more cases amongst the staff. In most cases, the students are isolating at home. With many students still due to arrive over the next few days we are continuing to monitor the situation closely. Please remember that gateway testing is required for ALL enrolled students, so if you have not yet scheduled an appointment for that test, please do so ASAP.

As we look ahead to the official start of the spring semester on Monday, please review the below information:

Masks:

As a reminder, the indoor mask policy remains in effect. This safety measure is one of the key reasons that we are able to safely offer in-person classes and in-person extracurricular activities, so compliance by all is critical. In addition to the classrooms though, please check your compliance with those "other" areas on campus where we noticed some were "letting their mask down" in the fall, so to speak! This includes areas and activities like the Toll Atrium, Goosenest, the weight room and when attending indoor sporting events. These are still considered public areas and masks must be properly worn in all of these areas, as well as the classroom.

Distribution of KN-95/N95 masks:

With data showing that the KN-95 and N95 masks are a much better defense against the Omicron variant, we will be distributing one of these masks to everyone to start the semester. Students should plan their mask pick-up as follows:

- **Off-campus students** - please stop by the CAC tomorrow (Saturday) to pick up your mask. The SGA will be staffing a distribution point in that building for you.
- **On-campus students** - please see your RA to receive your mask.

There will also be a table set up in Hodson next week for additional distribution. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to provide a replacement for this after this initial round, so please take care to properly clean and store your mask. Should it break or you lose it, you will be responsible for replacing and we strongly recommend that you look for a KN-95 or N95 replacement, or opt for the double-mask (surgical mask with a double-layered cloth mask on top).

Eating/Drinking and Mask-Wearing:

We of course understand that it's necessary to remove your mask when actively eating or drinking, but please note that sitting for a long period in a public area with a drink and/or a snack sitting in front of you is not an excuse to go unmasked indoors. We also ask that you take your meals in designated eating



The Return of the Flock

areas like Hodson or Sophie's Café and refrain from sitting in other public areas to eat your lunch or dinner. Having a small snack or a sip of a drink (if those items are permitted in that facility) are fine...using that as a reason to go mask-free is not.

Booster Documentation:

If you haven't already done so and have received your booster, please upload your updated vaccine card showing the 3rd dose. It should be added to the [Student Health Portal](#). When uploading, you will select the option named "Proof of COVID Vaccine" for the booster documentation.

We have received a few new exemption requests for the Booster. **Please note that the deadline to submit a request for a religious or medical exemption from the COVID Booster is Monday, January 24.** No exemption requests will be honored after that deadline. For more information about how to request a medical or religious exemption, [visit the FAQ](#).

Students who are eligible for the booster but do not yet have booster documentation on file will be added to the pool of students required to participate in regular surveillance testing. Currently, that testing is conducted weekly, but the frequency is subject to change. Failure to report for surveillance testing if required is considered a violation of the Code of Conduct.

Student Conduct & COVID:

Students are reminded that failure to adhere to COVID Safety protocols can present risk to our campus community and therefore, incidents citing lack of compliance constitute violations to the standing Code of Conduct. All members of the Washington College community are asked to address violations of policies if they are observed. In the event of more serious or repeated alleged non-compliance incidents, reports should be made to Public Safety and/or Student Affairs. These referrals will be resolved through our existing conduct system.

Examples of violations include failure (repeatedly) to wear a mask indoors, refusing to put on a mask when reminded to do so, failure to report for required surveillance testing, etc.

COVID Operations Manual – Spring 2022:

The information about our operations is currently detailed in the COVID section of our website. [You can access that here](#). We are finalizing a document that compiles all of the operational information contained within that section of the site and will distribute that via email early next week.

Have a great weekend!