



WC CPG Update: Summer Edition



EMAIL TO THE WASHINGTON COLLEGE COMMUNITY

CPG Update – August 20, 2021

To the Washington College Community,

As you might imagine, there has been a flurry of activity on campus with the arrival of Peer Mentors, RA's, fall student-athletes, and others this week. We are also hard at work making those final preparations for the mass arrival of our first-years, followed shortly thereafter by the rest of our upperclassmen.

Seeing students back on campus is something to celebrate, and we can't wait until everyone returns.

Additionally, we are happy to report that our **Washington College community vaccination rate stands at 87%**, and still climbing. Our goal was 85% or better, and we are very pleased to have exceeded that. We also expect that number to further increase in the next few weeks.

We also want to note that the level of community transmission within Kent County is now categorized as High, an increase from when we last reported it as Substantial. We continue to monitor conditions daily and will make adjustments as needed.

This update includes some new information, along with a few important reminders and action items so please review this communication in full.

Indoor Mask Policy – Modification for Residence Halls

As was announced last week, until further notice we are following CDC guidance, which means that face masks are required in all indoor public areas on campus, regardless of vaccination status.

We have made one modification within that policy. It is **strongly recommended** that all students wear masks in lounges, kitchens, laundry rooms, etc. when they are in the company of other students. However, given that the student vaccination rate is now up to 95% and encouraging early results from our gateway testing, we will not be making that a requirement, as was originally announced.

Students, please use your good judgement around mask-wearing in those public spaces within your residence halls, particularly if there is a large number of students congregating in a small area.

Mask Policy for Student-Athletes

Last week's announcement omitted one additional reference point for masking – the requirements for student-athletes. It should also be noted that Athletics will be following the NCAA guidelines regarding masking during practices, contests and other team activities. This includes:

- Masking during all team travel, regardless of vaccination status.
- Universal masking and physical distancing for any unvaccinated student-athletes during team meetings or "Other Athletic Activities", as well as all non-athletic in-person interactions.



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- Masking in indoor settings for vaccinated student-athletes during team meetings or “Other Athletic Activities”, as well as masking in indoor settings for all non-athletic in-person interactions.

NEW - No Overnight Guests Until Further Notice

One additional factor in allowing an extra degree of freedom and discretion within student living spaces is that until further notice, overnight guests are prohibited. An overnight guest is anyone who currently does not live on campus, so this does apply to off-campus students.

Our hope is that this restriction will be a temporary measure, but at this point we do not have a defined end date. We will be re-evaluating this policy after the start of the semester.

NAVICA App – ACTION REQUIRED!!!

All enrolled students are required to undergo gateway COVID testing upon arrival, and that testing is being managed through the NAVICA App. Therefore, **ALL students must be connected to the NAVICA testing app and then connected within the app to Washington College prior to arrival.**

Failure to register in advance is going to result in lengthy delays at the testing site, and students cannot progress to the next step in the check-in process until they have been cleared with a negative gateway test. Health Services has begun to administer testing and have noted that any student who arrives without being setup within NAVICA is taking 20+ minutes to process. Those with the NAVICA app are in and out within 2-3 minutes.

We can reasonably expect that these delays will only increase on Monday with close to 300 students arriving within a short timeframe. So please help us to help you get through this process smoothly by taking the time now to get set up within NAVICA.

If you did not yet receive the email from NAVICA or are missing the code to connect to Washington College, please contact Health Services immediately so that they can assist.

Gateway Testing – Options for a Positive Result

All arriving students should also be prepared to make a decision on how they would like to proceed in the event that the gateway test returns a positive result.

The three available options are:

Student can return home with family member and get a PCR test at the location of their choosing. If the PCR test is negative, documentation can be sent to Health Services and then they will be permitted to move in. If the PCR test is positive, they will need to isolate for 10 days before moving into the residence hall. Isolation can be done at home.



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Students can receive a rapid PCR test on campus. Results will be returned in about 20 minutes. There is a \$75 fee for this type of test, and the charge will be added to the student's account. If the rapid PCR test is negative, the student can proceed with the check-in process. If the test is positive, the student can choose to isolate in the designated Isolation housing on campus, or return home to complete this 10 day isolation period. If the student lives off campus, they can isolate in their off-campus residence.

Students can receive a send-out PCR test (typically LabCorp), which is NOT a rapid test. This is a send-out test and results are typically returned in 48-72 hours. Washington College will not bill anything to students for this type of test, it will instead be processed under the student's health insurance plan. The final expense will depend upon the type of plan in place. Students waiting on a PCR test result must quarantine until results come back. If the test is positive, the student can choose to isolate in the designated Isolation housing on campus, or return home to complete this 10 day isolation period. If the student lives off campus, they can isolate in their off-campus residence.

Weekend Testing

Finally please note that for students arriving on a weekend, the 3rd option is only available Monday – Friday during normal business hours. Therefore, if the send-out PCR test is your preference as a follow-up to a positive rapid antigen test, you will need to wait until Monday to get that test. In this case, the student will be required to quarantine on campus or at home until the PCR test is completed and a negative result is submitted to Health Services. If the PCR test is positive, they will follow the same steps noted above.