NAVIGATING OUR CLASSROOMS AND STUDENT SPACES

March 11, 2022
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## ACADEMIC SPACE
- Full occupancy permitted

## CLASSROOMS
- Face coverings must be worn in classrooms
- Food not permitted

## RESIDENCE HALLS
- Visitors limited

## LIBRARIES
- Face coverings must be worn
- No food and drink permitted

## EVENTS
- Events are permitted with appropriate approvals

## TRANSPORTATION
- Face coverings must be worn
- No food permitted

## FACE COVERINGS
- Not required outdoors
- Still required in teaching spaces
- University will provide face coverings

## REPORTING CONCERNS
- Violations of guidelines can be reported
  [https://coronavirus.rutgers.edu/COVIDObservation](https://coronavirus.rutgers.edu/COVIDObservation)

## VACCINATIONS AND BOOSTERS
- Required for employees and students
- Administered for free on campus
  [https://coronavirus.rutgers.edu/covid-19-vaccine/](https://coronavirus.rutgers.edu/covid-19-vaccine/)

## TESTING AND NOTIFICATION
- Required for certain employees and students

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS
- Resources are available
  [https://uhr.rutgers.edu/covid-19-telecommuting/wellness](https://uhr.rutgers.edu/covid-19-telecommuting/wellness)

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES
- Gratitude
- Health and Safety
- Safe Repopulation
Best practices with respect to human behavior are critical to co-existing with the virus. Wear a face covering (where required), Watch your distance (when around unvaccinated people), and Wash your hands remain effective preventive measures and defenses.

**ACADEMIC SPACE OCCUPANCY**

The Rutgers vaccination mandate, combined with the use of face coverings indoors and as permitted by NJ Executive Order 242, allows full occupancy of classrooms, residence halls, and other areas across campus. Common sense and courtesy should be used when gathering with others, but social distancing is not required.

**CAMPUS EXPECTATIONS**

Students are expected to fully comply with applicable state requirements as well as Rutgers policies, protocols, and guidance related to COVID-19. Failure to do so presents unnecessary risk to our community and may result in disciplinary action.

**CLASSROOMS**

The vaccination mandate, combined with use of face coverings and guidance from the state, allows classrooms, libraries, student centers, and other spaces on campus to be fully occupied.

Faculty are expected to communicate applicable safety protocols to students in their courses, including the required use of face coverings. Faculty will remind students to wear face coverings, should such a reminder be needed. If a student declines to wear a face covering after a reminder, the faculty member should ask the student to leave class and then report the event to the appropriate contact overseeing student conduct.

Food is not permitted in classrooms. Subject to rules that may be posted at individual classrooms, beverages may be consumed provided that face coverings are promptly replaced after taking a drink.

Extensive information regarding masks and face covering can be found on the CDC's website. Please note that the CDC does NOT recommend using face shields or goggles as a substitute for masks.
RESIDENCE HALLS

Students in residence halls need not wear face coverings. Visitors in residence halls are limited to fellow Rutgers students, and resident students must be aware of rules specific to their location. Student Life staff and Resident Assistants may be consulted with questions specific to a building.

STUDENT SPACES

Face coverings remain required in classrooms, lecture halls, seminar rooms teaching labs, computer labs, and similar teaching spaces. Effective Monday April 4, use of face coverings in student centers, recreation centers, and dining facilities will be optional.

LIBRARIES

Like other student spaces, libraries will be open to normal capacity to serve students and faculty. The general public will not be permitted in Rutgers libraries. Face coverings must be effectively used in all areas of the library - stacks, common spaces, group study rooms, and even when seated alone. Staff on duty will be responsible for enforcing face covering requirements. Food and drink will not be permitted in libraries.

COMMON SPACES

Elevators, rest rooms, break rooms, and other common spaces will experience increased foot traffic as the campuses are repopulated. Common sense and courtesy are tools that will allow safe use of common spaces.

The general guidelines for keeping yourself and others safe in any environment:

- Avoid touching your face.
- Avoid loitering in common areas and placing personal items on restroom surfaces.
- Wash hands for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap.
- Dry hands thoroughly.

EVENTS

Events are an important part of student life and are permitted with appropriate approvals. Event organizers are responsible for obtaining appropriate approvals, enforcing safety requirements, and registering the event in the university’s event system. Click here for additional information.

TRANSPORTATION

Rutgers buses and shuttles will be running in accordance with schedules published here. Effective use of face coverings is required while on Rutgers buses and shuttles. Drivers will be wearing face coverings, and vehicles will be cleaned daily. Food will not be permitted on buses and shuttles.
FACE COVERINGS

The improving public health statistics allow use of face coverings to become optional in many areas. Effective Monday April 4, use of face coverings in offices, conference rooms, research labs, housing, and public spaces in buildings will be optional. However, effective use of appropriate face coverings will still be required in certain areas, including:

- All teaching spaces (classrooms, lecture halls, seminar rooms, etc.)
- Teaching labs and computer labs
- Buses and shuttles
- Libraries
- Clinical facilities
- Student-staff and student-faculty meeting rooms

Face coverings are not required outdoors.

There will be times when university personnel (custodians, mechanics, and other support staff) need to enter private offices, residence hall rooms, and other spaces where individuals are not masked. In these instances, face coverings must be put on while the support staff is in the space; the room occupant may also leave the room to allow for distancing if need be.

If you believe someone or some group is in violation of the established university safety guidelines, please fill out a COVID Observation Report. The form is not monitored in real-time and has been developed to report non-emergency concerns and should be considered the primary reporting mechanism for COVID related violations.

The responsibility to enforce COVID requirements falls locally to faculty, deans, resident assistants, program managers, department heads, and event coordinators. In public spaces like the libraries and student centers, the staff on duty will be responsible for enforcing these requirements. Faculty are expected to communicate all safety protocols to the students in their courses. Faculty should ask students not complying with these protocols to leave their classrooms. Students are expected to comply with face covering requirements at all times while on campus. University Public Safety should only be contacted if an individual is threatening or harassing and their presence is necessary to diffuse an escalating situation. See REPORTING CONCERNS section for more information.

REPORTING CONCERNS

The health and safety of our community is a shared responsibility. We expect that our community will adhere to the requirements outlined in this guide, we recognize that some matters may need further review. If you believe someone or some group is in violation of the established university safety guidelines, please fill out a COVID Observation Report. The form is not monitored in real-time and has been developed to report only non-emergency concerns.

VACCINATIONS

Vaccination is the cornerstone of our foundation of a safe repopulation, and the benefits of vaccine boosters are significant. Vaccinations and boosters are available on campus to all members of the Rutgers community at no cost to the student or employee. All employees and students are required to be fully vaccinated and obtain...
a booster when eligible, and proof of vaccination and booster must be uploaded to the appropriate vaccine portal. Click here for details.

TESTING AND NOTIFICATIONS

Rutgers has mandated vaccines and boosters for employees and students, but there are a small number who are not vaccinated for religious or medical reasons. Students and employees who are granted a medical or religious exemption from vaccination must undergo regular testing (at least once a week). The COVID Testing Centers and vending machines on our campuses distribute tests to employees and students who are required to test. For more information and guidance on testing, please refer to https://coronavirus.rutgers.edu/on-campus-testing/.

Individuals who are up to date with vaccination are not eligible for university testing, and will be responsible for all costs associated with unauthorized testing and subject to disciplinary action.

For on-campus testing, employees and students may retrieve test results on the REHS website. Occupational Health or Student Health will contact the employee or student in the event of a positive test result, and will provide guidance on isolation, follow-up, and return to work or class. They will also determine if there were any close contacts at Rutgers who need to be notified or tested, in accordance with the guidelines for contact tracing from the CDC and NJ DOH. Contact tracers from Rutgers and/or local health departments may contact employees or students and their close contacts. Employees and students should make every effort to assist in these public health measures. The volume of infections may sometimes result in delayed contact. In these cases where contact is delayed, please isolate at home, do not report to work, and contact your campus Occupational Health or Student Health office.

If an employee or student was tested at an off-campus test site and tests positive, the employee or student should isolate at home and not report to work or school. If the employee or student testing positive was present on campus immediately prior to testing, they should notify their campus Occupational Health or Student Health office, who will then follow the process above to determine if any colleagues or students need to be contacted or tested. If you are a residential student and you test positive, you must notify Student Health immediately.

Any employee or student testing positive should not take another Rutgers saliva test for ninety (90) days.
QUARANTINE & ISOLATION

Fully vaccinated individuals who are up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccination (primary series and booster once eligible) per the CDC (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html) are not required to quarantine after exposure and may continue their regular duties as long as they remain asymptomatic. Those who are not up-to-date must quarantine after exposure, even if asymptomatic. See the CDC link for the most updated guidance on isolation and quarantine (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html). Note that the CDC defines exposure as 15 minutes or more within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19.

Employees or students who test positive for COVID-19 outside of the Rutgers testing program (via PCR or antigen test), regardless of whether they have symptoms, should:

- Isolate for 5 days, and may return to campus wearing a mask for 5 additional days if asymptomatic or significantly improving;
- Inform their personal physician of their positive test results;
- Follow up with their physician/urgent care and obtain return to work clearance if they are not significantly improved by day 5;
- If an employee, inform their campus Occupational Health office of positive test results if they are working on campus and they have close contacts at work;
- If a student, upload the positive test result by logging into the Rutgers Testing portal at https://rtr.ipo.rutgers.edu/questionnaire/
Navigating Our Classrooms and Student Spaces

WHILE ON CAMPUS

Comprehensive resources regarding health and safety during the pandemic are available here. Employees and students should familiarize themselves with the resources available.

MY CAMPUS PASS

We share a collective responsibility to protect one another and ourselves from COVID-19. The shared responsibility for the health and safety of the Rutgers community during the pandemic begins each day with every employee and student planning to be on campus making a quick self-assessment – monitoring for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 before reporting to work, leaving the residence hall, or coming to campus. If an employee does not feel well or is sick, then the standard practice of notifying a supervisor and charging the appropriate time-off is mandatory.

The university has developed a screening app, My Campus Pass, available through the myRutgers portal or via the My Dashboard screen. This tool is intended to inform you, the user, and need not be exhibited to gain entry into any Rutgers building. Use of the self-screening tool is not required, but the tool remains available for members of the Rutgers community for self-assessment and vaccination records. More information can be found here.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

This is a difficult time that presents extraordinary stressors and burdens for members of the Rutgers community. Please remember that support and guidance are available to students, faculty, and staff regardless of location. Resources for both mental health and medical health are available on campus and, for employees, via the MyWellness section of the Rutgers University mobile app.

Students in need of support or assistance with mental health concerns or wellness needs may contact:

- In New Brunswick: health.rutgers.edu or health.rutgers.edu/counseling/
- In Newark: studentaffairs.newark.rutgers.edu/health-wellness/ or studentaffairs.newark.rutgers.edu/health-wellness/counseling-center
- In Camden: wellnesscenter.camden.rutgers.edu/psychological-counseling-services/

Employees in need of mental health support or assistance may contact Rutgers 4U, a confidential support line offering motivational and therapeutic support to faculty, staff, and families at (855) 652-6819. Other resources for employees are listed in the My Wellness section of the Rutgers University mobile app.
Since the onset of the public health emergency, activities at the university have been informed and guided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), requirements of the state (Governor’s Executive Orders, Department of Health Guidelines, Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE) standards), and requirements documented in the Guide to Returning to Rutgers.

As the public health situation in our region continues to improve, Rutgers will continue to comply with state requirements and public health guidelines. State requirements are imposed through Executive Orders from the governor, Administrative Orders from state agencies, and guidance from OSHE. These requirements change frequently, and as such the information in this guide is subject to continual updating.

The Guiding Principles of Repopulation of Our Campuses:

1. We must recognize that the mission of teaching, research, clinical care, and service exists because of students. As the students return, so must the faculty and staff of Rutgers. As students, faculty, and staff return, we all must work together to ensure a safe, healthy campus community.

2. To ensure the commitment to the health and safety of our community remains paramount.
   - Public health guidelines will continue to be adhered to.
   - State requirements will be followed.
   - Science will lead us.

3. To recognize that safe repopulation of our university locations remains a shared responsibility.
   - We all have to play a part in keeping our spaces safe.
   - There will be equity in how our units manage the return to campus.