

In addition, returnto.duke.edu provides students who return to the Duke campus guidance **for health & safety, campus, community, and academic scenarios.**

Duke University
Graduate and Professional Student COVID-19 Policy Plan
(Effective Date: August 23, 2021)

Scope

The Duke University Graduate and Professional Student COVID-19 Policy Plan (“Duke GNP COVID-19 Plan” or “Plan”) applies to any graduate and professional student who attends in-person courses on campus or utilizes on campus resources, facilities, or services.

Introduction

Duke University is responding to and managing the changing nature of the global pandemic and what it means for the student experience. This Plan establishes guiding principles as well as student responsibilities and expectations that each student must follow while enrolled in the 2021-22 academic year.

The Guiding Principles of this **Duke GNP COVID-19 Plan, as it now exists or is later amended:**

- Are rooted in the twin goals to continue the institution’s vital missions of education and research while promoting safety for our students, our faculty and staff, our health care providers, and for the public at large.
- Are informed by recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), N.C. Department of Public Health, and the Duke Health Advising Team, as implemented by the University.
- Require compliance with all school related behavioral expectations as outlined in their [bulletin](#). Duke University has high expectations for students’ scholarship and conduct. Any student planning to access campus this fall indicates their willingness to subscribe to and be governed by the rules and regulations within their specific school, **including all additional COVID-19 related University expectations.**
- Require compliance with specific policies for Duke students to use and access University buildings for educational activities during the year.
- May be updated by Duke and/or supplemented by more specific policies adopted by individual schools or programs, which they will communicate to their students.

Our knowledge and understanding of the COVID-19 virus continues to evolve. Even with the risk mitigation steps taken by Duke, the risks associated with participating in on-campus activities are not fully foreseeable, and there remain inherent risks of community transmission. As conditions change this academic year, Duke’s policies, plans, and student expectations will be updated appropriately as more information becomes available. Updated policies, plans and expectations will be available [here](#).

Student Responsibilities & Expectations (may be altered based on changing conditions)

All students are required to comply with all applicable federal, state, or local health and safety laws, orders, ordinances, regulations, and health and safety rules and guidance adopted by the University as it relates to public health emergencies, including COVID-19.

COVID-19 Testing: All students will be tested for COVID-19 upon arrival at Duke and must then participate in weekly surveillance testing regardless of their vaccination status. Students who have been vaccinated may also be asked to participate in surveillance testing more than once per week based on changing conditions or their individual

circumstances. All students who have obtained an exemption from vaccination will be required to participate in surveillance testing at least twice per week. The testing schedule may be modified for each group based on public health data and Duke Health Advising Team recommendations.

Vaccination: All students are required to provide [proof of vaccination](#) to Student Health or follow [exemption rules](#) as a condition of enrollment for the Fall 2021 and/or Spring 2022 semester.

Daily Symptom Monitoring: Fully vaccinated faculty, staff, and students are not required to complete daily symptom monitoring. Anyone who has not been vaccinated, regardless of the circumstances, will be required to complete daily symptom monitoring.

Student Reporting: Any student who is feeling ill, regardless of vaccination status, or has been in close contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, such as roommates or family members, should contact Duke Student Health at 919-681-9355 (after hours, students should call follow the prompts to speak to a nurse, or choose Option 1 for COVID Hotline related concerns). For additional information, please refer to the [Student Health website](#).

Contact Tracing: If a student tests positive for COVID-19, Student Health or another university official may conduct contact tracing to quickly and sensitively identify individuals who could have come in contact with them during the time when they were infectious. This process, which involves testing, quarantine, and symptom monitoring of those contacts, is essential to helping reduce the potential spread of infection. Duke will make use of this information only to further public health goals. Students are required to cooperate fully and honestly with contact tracing and related processes. Students who do not cooperate fully will be referred to their academic school and/or department for potential conduct review.

Quarantine/Isolation: Student Health, in consultation with local health authorities as appropriate, will serve as the Duke authority to issue quarantine or isolation directives for students. Students must comply with Student Health's directives. Students living off-campus will be required to remain off campus in their off-campus property for the designated period of time.

Student Health will determine the scope and duration of the isolation/quarantine directive on a case-by-base basis, based on medical evidence available at the time. The student will NOT be able to attend classes in person during the quarantine or isolation period, nor utilize campus facilities or in-person resources. Duke will work with the student who tests positive to attempt to arrange accommodations where feasible and provide support services.

Acceptable Use Policy: Duke University will identify and monitor students in quarantine or isolation location for care, health, and safety purposes. Duke may use data about students to develop approaches for understanding where the virus may be spreading and who is at risk – as well as what steps students need to take to adhere to COVID-19 guidelines and this Plan. The provisions in [Duke's Acceptable Use Policy, Data Usage During COVID-19](#) apply.

Face Coverings: Both fully vaccinated and unvaccinated faculty, staff and students will be required to wear a mask in all Duke-owned and leased buildings effective August 1 until further notice. This policy is subject to change throughout the academic year. Masks will not be required when an individual is working alone in an office where they are the only occupant. Because masks are still required in all indoor settings – including health care facilities, buses and shuttles on campus, and childcare centers – everyone should have a mask ready and available when needed. Also, please respect anyone who chooses to continue wearing masks in outdoor areas as a means to prevent exposure to themselves or loved ones. Masks will be provided to all students as part of the initial testing program. Students who have a medical condition that may affect their ability to wear a cloth mask or face covering should consult with the Student Disability Access Office.

Physical Distancing: Physical distancing is not required on campus at this time, though distancing is still recommended for those who are not vaccinated.

Hand Washing: While on campus, students should wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after being in a public place, or after blowing their nose, coughing, sneezing, or touching their face. If soap and water are not readily available, students should wash their hands using a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol by covering all surfaces of the hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Duke has provided hand sanitizer stations throughout campus. Students should avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth, and wash hands again after touching their face.

Traveling Outside of Durham: Effective August 9, 2021, the Duke Travel Suspension due to COVID-19 will no longer apply to domestic travel. Faculty, staff, and students who are fully-vaccinated will once again be allowed to travel with Duke support to U.S. states, territories, and territorial waters. Also, domestic travelers will no longer need to enter their travel into the Duke Travel Registry. Please monitor the [travel policy](#) for updates.

Enter/Exit Control: Duke will continue to regulate and monitor entry to all Duke Campus buildings. The DukeCard is required for entry to many buildings, and no one may hold or prop open exterior doors for any other person. Building occupants and residents within residential facilities are expected to follow signage on traffic flow through building entrances, exits, elevator usage and similar common use areas.

Access to certain facilities will be dependent on following symptom monitoring, surveillance testing, and other COVID protocols. Violation of these guidelines may result in the immediate revocation of building and/or campus access privileges, as well as conduct action.

Student Events: In-person public events (meaning any event to which individuals who are not Duke students, faculty, or staff would be invited or expected to attend), and in-person programs for the Duke community, are subject to Student Affairs, Graduate and Professional School, and University policies and procedures. Please check with sponsoring departments and hosting offices for the latest guidance and regulations.

Duke Dining: Before and after eating, students should wash their hands thoroughly to reduce the potential transmission of the virus. Dining services, including where and how it will be offered to students, is subject to the discretion of the University and is subject to modification to address public health concerns. Due to health and safety guidance adopted by campus, Duke Dining may limit the occupancy of dining halls, limit the amount of time students may stay within dining facilities, or make other operational adjustments needed to address health and safety concerns.

Updates to Duke Dining operations and meal options including online ordering, pickup, and in-person dining can be found here: <https://studentaffairs.duke.edu/dining>

Academic Expectations: Unvaccinated students who received an exemption will not be allowed to attend courses on-campus and/or in-person unless they have submitted their Daily Symptom Monitoring process via SymMon and received their clearance for the day. Academic expectations for each course are outlined within the course syllabus.

The successful conduct of courses depends upon a basic spirit of mutual respect and cooperation among the participants. If a student disrupts a class in such a way that it seriously compromises the educational experience of the course for the students and/or prevents the instructor from accomplishing the goals of the course as outlined in the syllabus, the instructor may require the student to leave the class meeting. The student's academic dean will be notified of this action. The academic dean may determine that the matter should be referred to their office of student conduct or standards for consideration of formal charges in violation of university policies including "Classroom Disruption," "Disorderly Conduct," and/or "Failure to Comply."

The recording and/or sharing of digital lectures or other online content without the permission of the creator of the content is strictly prohibited. "Duke University expects all members of the University community to respect copyright law (Title 17 of the United States Code). The principles of copyright law that apply to electronic course content are the same as those that apply to printed course material, regardless of whether the electronic content is textual or audio-visual, or where it is stored (e-reserves, AFS, Sakai, or Box for example). If permission would be required for a print use, it will be required for an analogous electronic use."

Request for Accommodations: The Student Disability Access Office is charged with assisting qualified students with disabilities in exploring and implementing reasonable accommodations. Students with medical conditions who wish to pursue Temporary COVID-19 accommodations or explore additional accommodations outside of COVID-19 should reach out to the SDAO at <http://access.duke.edu> for more information.

Leave of Absence: Graduate and professional students should follow the leave of absence policies of their school (listed in the [school bulletin or other school policies](#)).

Accountability: In order to resume in-person education for the upcoming semester while mitigating public health risks, Duke will need a collective effort by all students, along with all faculty and staff. As such, Duke expects all students to share in our community's responsibility to hold one another accountable.

If you are concerned about non-compliance or behaviors of another member of the community (including students, faculty and staff) that jeopardize health and safety, but are not comfortable engaging that person directly, please contact the appropriate officials in your school. Each graduate or professional school will inform its students of these reporting channels. You can also contact Duke's anonymous hotline at (800) 826-8109 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week), or the [Duke Office of Audit, Risk, and Compliance](#).