

Spelman COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidance for Fall Semester 2022

Fall Semester Overview

As we approach fall 2022, we are in a better position to manage COVID-19. The Spelman community has embraced our culture of compliance with protocols, evident through relatively low on-campus COVID-19 positivity rates over the past two years. Our layered approach to mitigating the spread (mandatory vaccination, testing, enhanced ventilation, etc.), coupled with coordination with the AUCC has proven successful. We appreciate all your efforts to protect yourself and others.

It is our hope that we can begin to transition COVID-19 management from pandemic to endemic. This is a point at which the virus has predictable rates and health outcomes across local, national, and global populations. This determination will come from recognized public health agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). We are not there yet (endemic), but we continue to prepare for this momentous declaration. As has been the case throughout the pandemic, the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff are our top priority, and we will continue to update our protocols based on science and community health data. As we begin to transition from management of a pandemic to an endemic, you will note that some of our protocols have evolved (i.e., at home self-testing; on campus testing of symptomatic individuals only, etc.). This shift prompts the College to move its focus from compliance to personal responsibility.

What does this look like?

Our COVID-19 Operations Team will:

Do less policing and more promoting

- a. The team will spend less time policing whether students, faculty, and staff have submitted test results and focus increased efforts towards strategic analysis of available data to drive in-house testing frequency
- b. Provide robust COVID-19 informational campaigns
- c. Continue to develop and enhance COVID-19 and pandemic related policy and processes, and
- d. Enhance education regarding the pandemic and other health related concerns

Our students, faculty, and staff will:

- a. Commit to show up if selected to undergo bi-weekly COVID-19 testing
- b. Agree to self-monitor health and take proper action if symptomatic
- c. Test if symptomatic and stay away from the campus until you receive a negative test result
- d. Commit to adhering to masking policy (currently indoor masking required, outdoor optional)
- e. Hold each other accountable

As in previous years, we are confident that each of you is up for the challenge!

Below are the updated guidelines for the fall 2022 semester. In line with our new focus on personal responsibility, we ask that all students, faculty, and staff take [our community pledge](#) to be responsible, considerate, and accountable to self and others in adhering to these health and safety protocols. Please submit your pledge by August 15, 2022.

Pre-arrival COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements

Students, faculty, and staff are required to be up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccinations (i.e.: completed primary series and receive a booster when eligible) or have an approved medical or religious exemption. Vaccination exemptions are valid for one (1) year and must be renewed annually until further notice. Keep your vaccination or exemption records up-to-date using [Etrieve](#). To learn more about the mandatory vaccination policy, [please refer to the COVID Path Forward page](#).

Pre-arrival COVID-19 Testing Requirements

Know your status and react accordingly. In order to reduce the possibility of students, faculty, or staff arriving on campus for the fall semester while they are COVID-19 positive, faculty, staff, and students are required to submit a negative COVID-19 test result prior to arrival on campus. The test must be taken no earlier than five (5) days before repopulation and submitted no later than three (3) days prior to coming back to campus. This timing will vary based on repopulation dates. To provide clarity, please see the table below with specific due dates for your group.

	Residential Students	Commuter Students	Faculty	10-month Staff (Returning)	12-month Staff
Earliest Date Able to Test	5 days before your move in date	August 12	August 12	August 12	Not Applicable, 12-month staff self-tested at home during the summer and continued to come to campus
Test Submission Due Date	3 days before your move in date	August 14	August 14	August 14	

Acceptable pre-arrival tests include PCR, Rapid Antigen, or an at-home self-test. If you need a rapid self-test kit for pre-arrival testing, contact the COVID-19 Operations Manager, Yemi Brown, PharmD at ibiyemibrown@spelman.edu.

Please note that if you are a 12-month employee who has continued to come to campus during the summer, you will not need to take a re-entry test as you have been in the weekly self-test protocol during the summer.

Logistics

The College will utilize the CrowdPass digital platform this year for collection of re-entry test results and provision of digital clearance ahead of your arrival. To receive your digital clearance you must upload proof of a negative test result using CrowdPass. **Although the digital pass is not required to enter the campus, please be prepared to show your pass (upon request by College officials) at any point upon your arrival. Residential students must have digital pre-arrival clearance to move into the residence hall.**

HOW TO GET CROWDPASS PRE-ARRIVAL TESTING CLEARANCE

1. Using your email address, register to use CrowdPass via the link here: [CrowdPass Access](#)
2. Complete the health screening form and upload proof of negative test result three (3) days prior to your arrival. Do not submit a positive test result. When submitting the image of a negative at home self-test, your full name and test date must be written down legibly alongside your final results.
3. You will receive digital clearance within 24 hours to the email address you used to register your CrowdPass account.

If you test negative, you are welcome to proceed to campus. Anyone who tests positive must [isolate](#) at home and delay their arrival until they have recovered from COVID-19 and can provide a negative rapid antigen or PCR test via CrowdPass. **All COVID-19 positive test results must be reported to the College immediately. Students who test positive should contact Student Health Services at 404-270-5249. Faculty and staff who test positive should contact Yemi Brown, PharmD at ibiyemibrown@spelman.edu.**

Pre-arrival COVID-19 Self-Monitoring

Pre-arrival and continued self-monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms is a personal responsibility. Individuals with COVID-19 may experience symptoms that could appear two (2) to 14 days after exposure to the virus. If you experience any of the symptoms below you must delay your arrival and consult with your medical provider:

- New/unexplained fever or chills
- New/unexplained cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Unexplained fatigue
- Unexplained onset of muscle or body aches
- New/unexplained headache
- New/unexplained loss of taste or smell
- New/unexplained sore throat
- Persistent nasal congestion or runny nose. (If you have a history of seasonal allergies, it is advised to test at home once a week if persistent allergies develop to ensure that your symptoms are not COVID-19 related. The College will provide test kits to these individuals upon request).
- New/unexplained nausea or vomiting

- New/unexplained diarrhea

Masking

Currently, masking is required when indoors (except in residential rooms, personal offices when you are the only individual in the office, or when actively eating or drinking). Outdoor masking is optional, unless you are in a crowd. If masking is required outdoors, during an event, the College will provide you with notice typically via e-mail. During new student orientation masking indoors and outdoors is required due to the number of individuals on campus and uncertainty of vaccination status of all individuals (i.e., parents, guests of new students, etc.). N95/KN95 masks are recommended based on the transmissibility of the most prevalent variant. However, acceptable masks include surgical, N95/KN95, or cloth masks made with multi-layered fabric. Masking recommendations are subject to change and may be adjusted based on levels of community transmission. Any masking modifications will be communicated through campus alerts. Surgical masks will continue to be available at stations throughout the campus in buildings, and KN95 or N95 masks will continue to be available for pickup in the BDT Suites Testing Center while available.

COVID-19 Testing

The testing cadence for fall 2022 is a streamlined approach of Random COVID-19 Community Surveillance Testing (utilizing PCR and rapid antigen self-testing) every other week, at a frequency of twice a month. In addition, the testing cadence will also include once a week self-test monitoring for community members who are unvaccinated with a medical or religious exemption. The testing cadence may change according to community health needs as determined by the AUCC Epidemiologist.

The testing cadence for fall 2022 is as follows:

Random Community Testing (every other week, twice a month): randomly selected community members (students, faculty, and staff) who are selected to participate in this PCR and rapid antigen self-testing will receive an email notification with additional testing information. This randomized testing occurs in the BDT Suites Private Dining Room. Randomized testing will begin the week of August 22, 2022.

Unvaccinated with a medical or religious exemption: unvaccinated community members with an approved medical or religious exemption will be provided with a supply of rapid antigen self-tests or may order [free at-home COVID tests](#) for required once weekly self-test and self-monitoring and will utilize the [AUCC/Spelman Self-Reporting Form](#). A student, faculty or staff who is unvaccinated with a medical or religious exemption can pick up a distribution of rapid antigen self-test kits in the BDT Suites Private Dining Room from August 15th to August 19th, 2022. The site is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please note:

Rapid antigen self-tests provided by the College should be used to test yourself (not your household).

Free antigen tests for personal use can be obtained from the federal government. Residential households in the U.S are now eligible for another order of [free at-home COVID tests](#). Take advantage of this free delivery from the United States Postal Service.

Isolation and Quarantine Guidance

Isolation pertains to individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 or have experienced symptoms consistent with COVID-19 regardless of vaccination status. The length of isolation is determined by the first date of symptoms or date of the positive test. Individuals who test positive must:

- Isolate for five (5) days.
- If fever free and symptoms have improved, take a rapid antigen self-test on day six (6).
- If test results are negative, submit proof of negative result and end isolation.
- If test results are positive, complete five (5) additional days of isolation (total of 10 days), submit proof of negative result, and end isolation.
- Wear a KN95 mask when around others for 10 days
- When you have been identified as COVID positive, contact tracing will proceed by the COVID Operations team to determine with whom you have come into close physical contact. Please see the contract tracing section below for additional details.

Quarantine pertains to individuals who have come in [close physical contact](#) with an individual who tests positive for COVID-19. Quarantine guidance is based on vaccination status.

If you are exposed to COVID-19 and are up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccination:

- You do not have to quarantine.
- You must wear a KN95 mask for five (5) days.
- If no symptoms develop, take a rapid antigen self-test on day one (1) and day five (5)
- If the test result is positive, or you experience symptoms consistent with COVID-19, you must follow isolation protocol.
- Wear a well-fitting mask when around others for 10 days from the date of exposure.

If you are exposed to COVID-19 and are unvaccinated or not up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccination:

- You must quarantine for five (5) days.
- You must wear a KN95 mask for five (5) days.
- If no symptoms develop, take a rapid antigen self-test on day one (1) and day five (5)
- If test result is positive, or you experience symptoms consistent with COVID-19, you must follow isolation protocol.
- Submit proof of negative result and end quarantine.
- Wear a well-fitting mask when around others for 10 days from the date of exposure.

Isolation/Quarantine for Residential Students

Isolation guidance for Residential Students: All students who test positive or experience symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must contact Student Health Services. Upon medical evaluation by Student Health Services, residential students who test positive will:

- Temporarily move to and isolate in the designated isolation housing in MacVicar Hall.
- Students whose permanent residence is within a 100-mile radius of the College will be required to isolate at home.
- If there are no available isolation rooms, and the student is not in a single room and their permanent residence is greater than a 100 mile radius from the College, the COVID positive student may be required to isolate off-campus.
- A residential student who tests positive must follow the isolation protocol and not return to classes or campus activities until cleared by Student Health Services.

Isolation guidance for Commuter Students: Commuter students who test positive or experience symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must contact Student Health Services. Upon consultation with Student Health Services, a commuter student who tests positive must follow the isolation protocol and not return to campus until cleared by Student Health Services.

Quarantine guidance for Residential Students: Residential students may only quarantine in place when COVID-19 negative and are required to take a rapid antigen test on day one (1) of confirmed exposure and day five (5) (after exposure).

While in isolation or quarantine, the student must not leave their room except in cases of essential need (meal retrieval or emergencies). At such times of essential need, a student must wear a KN95 mask, limit their contact with others, and promptly return to their room. The campus clinical team will check-in regularly via phone and email. It is the personal responsibility of the student to check their phone and email for updates and respond as needed. Students will receive clearance to return to campus activities upon the completion of the isolation or quarantine protocol.

Quarantine guidance for Commuter Students not up-to-date on vaccination: Commuter students who have a known COVID-19 exposure and are unvaccinated or not up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccinations must quarantine away from campus for five (5) days. They will be required to take a rapid antigen test on day one (1) and day five (5) and submit proof of negative result.

Academic Support

The College is committed to providing support to all students, particularly those absent from in-person classes while in isolation or quarantine. Students should be aware of the following:

- COVID-19 related absences fall under the College's excused absence policy.
- Upon entry into isolation or quarantine protocol, an academic liaison will notify the respective instructors of the student's absence from in-person classes.
- It is the student's responsibility to contact their professors or academic advisor for extra assistance.

- Before exiting isolation or quarantine, students will receive notification from the clinical team when they are cleared to return to in-person classes and resume regular activities.

Faculty and Staff Support

Faculty or staff who test positive for COVID-19, experience symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or who become exposed must adhere to the isolation or quarantine guidance.

- Stay home, isolate, or quarantine based on the isolation and quarantine protocol and consult with your medical care provider as needed.
- Notify your department chair (faculty) or supervisor (staff) of your absence.
- Self-report your positive test to Yemi Brown, COVID-19 Operations Manager, using the [AUCC/Spelman Self-Reporting Form](#) or send notification to ibiyemibrown@spelman.edu
- Return to campus after completing the isolation or quarantine protocol and receiving the required negative rapid antigen self-testing.
- Based on the pandemic policy, you will be paid your regular wages for the period you are in isolation or quarantine protocol. Self-reporting and documentation to the COVID-19 Operations Manager is required.

Contact Tracing

Contact tracing is the process of locating close contacts of those infected with the COVID-19 virus and informing the contact they may have been exposed to the virus. Upon identification of an infected community member, the contact tracing team will attempt to contact the individual to help slow the spread of COVID-19. During a contact tracing interview, the individual will be asked questions about their medical history, symptoms, places visited, and individuals with which they've been in close contact. It is the responsibility of the individual to be available for the interview and to answer questions truthfully. Preventing the spread of COVID-19 ensures the campus community is safe and activities are not interrupted.

Discussions with contact tracers are confidential. This means personal and medical information will be kept private. Contact tracers will only notify individuals identified as close contact so that they may take the necessary precautions. The name of the positive individual is never shared with those listed as close contacts.

Monkeypox Health Precautions

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is currently tracking an outbreak of the Monkeypox virus that has spread across several countries, including the United States.

Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by infection of the Monkeypox virus. It spreads through intimate physical contact with an infected person. Illness typically produces rashes on the face, mouth, hands, feet, chest, or genitals. Other symptoms include fever, headache, muscle aches, swollen lymph nodes, chills, and exhaustion. Infection with the Monkeypox virus is rarely fatal. Individuals experiencing symptoms of the Monkeypox virus should seek immediate medical care from their health care provider. It is essential that we follow prevention practices we've learned

from COVID-19 to protect ourselves. Wash hands frequently using soap and water or use hand sanitizer and wear masks.

Health & Safety Resources

The campus COVID-19 Health & Safety Center is available to students, faculty and staff to access protective KN95 masks, disinfecting hand sanitizers, COVID-19 random testing, and distribution of rapid self-tests as needed.

Location: Beverly Daniel Tatum (BDT) Private Dining Room. Hours of Operation: Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Students: Student Health Services: 404-270-5249, AUCC Student Health & Wellness Center: 404-756-1241

Employees: COVID-19 Operations: 404-270-5407

Spelman Public Safety: 404-525-6401

Medical or Life Threatening Emergencies: Dial 911

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Students, Faculty & Staff

Question: If I need a KN95 mask or personal disinfecting hand sanitizer, where can I get them?

Answer: KN95 masks and personal disinfecting hand sanitizers will be available in the COVID-19 Health & Safety Center located in the BDT Private Dining Room, open Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Question: What is the visitor access protocol for fall 2022?

Answer: When COVID-19 community transmission is high, visitors will be required to take a rapid at home self-test and complete a [Visitor COVID-19 Attestation Form](#) prior to campus entry. Visitors will not be required to submit results but attest that they will adhere to the pre-arrival testing requirement and masking advisory. Students, faculty, and staff of AUCC institutions are not considered visitors and may access the campus with proper identification. Any changes to visitor access protocols will be based on community transmission rates and communicated through campus alerts.

Question: Is social distancing (or space restrictions) required on campus?

Answer: Practicing social distancing as a personal health choice is highly encouraged whenever possible. However, COVID-19 space restrictions are no longer required on campus.

Question: How do I decrease my risk of getting COVID-19 if I am negative and those around me may be positive?

Answer: Always wear a mask, wash your hands frequently or use disinfecting hand sanitizer, wipe down high-touch areas around you as often as possible, and increase the ventilation in your space. To protect yourself, you should also stay up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccination.

Question: I received notification that I was randomly selected to take a PCR test. What should I do?

Answer: Report to the BDT Private Dining Room on the date of your testing appointment as communicated to you via email notification. Upon arrival, follow the instructions for [PCR COVID testing self-collection](#).

Question: I was advised to use an at home rapid antigen self-test to test myself. What should I do?

Answer: Rapid antigen self-testing is a safe and easy way to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Use it to test for COVID-19 if you have been exposed or if you are experiencing symptoms. You should use a rapid self-test in the comfort of your home or residential room and follow the package instructions. Review the [CDC How to Use a Self-test Guide](#).

Question: Am I required to self-report the results of my rapid at-home self-test?

Answer: Students, faculty, and staff are required to self-report COVID-19 testing using the [AUCC/Spelman Self-Reporting Form](#) if you are selected to participate in the random testing; or as part of your once weekly self-testing for unvaccinated community members; or to self-report a positive test that is administered away from campus.