



MERRIMACK COLLEGE

SPRING 2021 RETURN TO CAMPUS HANDBOOK

Processes, Protocols and Guidelines

Volume 3 • January 2021



Dear Merrimack College Community,

I write to share with you the updated Spring 2021 Return to Campus Handbook, which has been shaped by changes that occurred over winter break and the fall semester and all of the hard work the entire community engaged in to teach, learn and keep us all safe during this pandemic.

The policies and procedures that we adopted during the fall semester were instrumental in keeping the College open to support our students in their continued pursuit of knowledge and study. We are proud of our students, faculty and staff for their profound efforts and personal contributions to follow protocols that ensured the safety of our campus community. This was not an easy task, and our lives were drastically altered as we navigated through our new reality amid a time like no other. I would be remiss not to acknowledge that we have experienced challenges along the way, such as the cluster that was discovered in Monican Hall. However, what is most important to acknowledge is that through our aggressive testing and tracing protocols, we were able to quickly contain the cluster and continue the semester with minimal disruption. This experience showed us that our protocols are doing exactly what they were designed to do, as well as confirmed that our planning and efforts are working to safeguard our community.

As you read through the pages of this updated handbook, you will see some slight changes that we have made in order to better serve our students, faculty and staff, as well as to continue to safeguard our campus against the ongoing pandemic. First and foremost, our priority is the safety and wellbeing of our community, and to make Merrimack's campus the safest place it can be during the ongoing pandemic.

As you read through, please take note of the following important information:

Updated Spring Calendar - The calendar includes important dates such as move-in, billing, first days of classes and more.

Flu Vaccine Requirement - The Influenza Vaccination is no longer required for all college students under the age of 30 for the Spring 2021 semester. As of January 15, 2021, the Massachusetts Department of Health has stated: "Preliminary data show that this has been a mild flu season to date, presumably as people have received their seasonal flu vaccine and have been adhering to mask-wearing and social distancing due to COVID-19." Though no longer required by the Commonwealth, Merrimack strongly urges students to get a flu shot before coming to campus. Students no longer need to forward proof of getting a flu vaccine.

Departure Plans - Departure plans are necessary and required for any student living on campus. These plans must be followed in the event a student needs to isolate or quarantine, and will be strictly enforced.

Payment Plans - We know that COVID-19 has impacted many of our students and their families in more ways than one. We are committed to helping in any way possible. New payment plans offered this year are in place to help students and their families afford their education.

While it has been a long, often trying time for all of us, the success we have built together and the roll-out of a vaccine leads us to see better days ahead. Although Merrimack College has not remained untouched by COVID-19, what has not changed is our strength and conviction to weather this storm and come out better on the other side. Each of you is a valued member of this community, and we are looking forward to your engagement in yet another exciting - albeit different - semester at Merrimack College.

We look forward to a safe and successful Spring semester.

Sincerely,



Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.
President, Merrimack College

KEY SPRING INFORMATION

The following information highlights new and updated policies and procedures for the Spring 2021 semester. More information on these topics can be found in expanded sections in the handbook; however, the College would like to highlight the following:

FLU VACCINE REQUIREMENT

The Influenza Vaccination is no longer required for all college students under the age of 30 for the Spring 2021 semester. As of January 15, 2021, the Massachusetts Department of Health has stated: "Preliminary data show that this has been a mild flu season to date, presumably as people have received their seasonal flu vaccine and have been adhering to mask-wearing and social distancing due to COVID-19."

Though no longer required by the Commonwealth, Merrimack strongly urges students to get a flu shot before coming to campus. Students no longer need to forward proof of getting a flu vaccine.

DEPARTURE PLANS

Just as required during the Fall semester, all students living in campus designated housing are required to have a departure plan on file with the institution. These plans must be followed in the event of a student needing to isolate, quarantine or if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. Departure plans will be strictly enforced and minimal changes will be allowed once a student's departure plan is submitted. Students will be asked to implement these plans as soon as possible after talking with our medical staff. Any questions involving departure plans should be emailed to the Office of the Dean of Students at deanofstudents@merrimack.edu.

Students who live more than 200 miles away from campus are encouraged to make alternate arrangements with family/friends close by or to travel home; however, should that not be possible they can choose to quarantine or isolate with the College in a designated temporary housing space. Please contact the Office of the Dean of Students at deanofstudents@merrimack.edu with any questions. [See page 28.](#)

COMMENCEMENT

Commencement exercises are scheduled to take place over the weekend of May 21-23, 2021. Merrimack College will be celebrating the classes of both 2020 and 2021. As public events are limited as a result of COVID-19 guidance, students should continue to monitor their emails for further details that will be shared in the coming months.

ATHLETICS

Merrimack, in partnership with the other members of both the Northeast Conference (NEC) and Hockey East, is continuing to conduct winter basketball and ice hockey seasons. All activity will continue to be consistent with or exceed the policies and guidelines established by Merrimack College, the NEC, Hockey East, the NCAA and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including COVID-19 testing up to three (3) times per week for student-athletes while in their competitive seasons. Travel will continue to be limited to exclude overnight trips whenever possible and air travel will not be permitted. Sport-specific plans for the spring semester will be communicated to student-athletes directly by their respective coaches. [See page 60.](#)

PAYMENT PLANS

Merrimack College offers interest-free payment plans through Cashnet. The payment plan enables students to pay outstanding tuition and fee balances on a monthly basis. Students have the option of up to six payments per semester, depending on when they enroll. [See page 63.](#)



SPRING OPENING

The Spring 2021 semester will begin on **February 1** and will end on **May 12, 2021**. As was the case in the fall, the College has delayed the start of the Spring semester to be away for the winter holidays and to give the entire Merrimack community time to quarantine before returning back to the campus.

The move-in process will begin with residential staff move-in on **January 22, 2021**, with new and returning students' move-in beginning on **January 27, 2021**. The College will not be observing holidays or Spring Break in order to limit the number of individuals leaving the campus and returning.

The College will continue its aggressive testing protocol and will begin baseline testing upon each student's arrival to campus. Residential students will baseline test the day of their move-in (January 27-January 29), and commuters and graduate commuters will be tested on January 30 or 31, 2021. All members of our community will be tested twice a week throughout the course of the semester.

Given that all states, outside of Hawaii, are now listed as a "Red State" by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Governor's Office there will not be a separate move in day for "Red States." All students should make arrangements to arrive between January 27 and January 29. Any student traveling from outside of Massachusetts must follow the Massachusetts Travel Order and provide a negative COVID-19 test obtained 72 hours prior to arrival in the state. Students who need assistance with their planning should contact Residence Life at reslife@merrimack.edu.

Throughout the course of the semester, the College will continue to work closely with public health agencies such as the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDH) and the Centers for Disease Control in order to meet the public health needs of our community as the conditions of the pandemic continue to evolve. As a reminder, in accordance with the CDC, the MDPH and a number of education and public health agencies, the College is, and will remain, in the "vigilant" phase until the COVID-19 virus is eradicated or a vaccine becomes widely available.



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WINTER AND SPRING SCHEDULE

The College has adjusted the Winter and Spring calendar by delaying the start of classes and has eliminated breaks and holidays throughout the semester. The Winter 2020 and Spring 2021 calendar is as follows:

JANUARY

4	(Monday)	Winter Sessions begin (2-week and 4-week terms)
11	(Monday)	CAMPUS OPENS Housing assignments announced (new students)
15	(Friday)	Spring update announcement to the community
18	(Monday)	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Winter Session classes meet, College is open) Spring Session 1 (8-week) online classes begin
20	(Wednesday)	Spring semester bills due Winter Session 2-week term ends Town Hall regarding Spring semester
22	(Friday)	Last day for adding and dropping Spring Session 1 online courses Move-in for residential staff
24-26	(Sun.-Tues.)	Residential staff training
27-29	(Wed.-Fri.)	Student move-in and COVID-19 testing New student orientation
28	(Thursday)	International student orientation and graduate student orientation
29	(Friday)	Winter Session 4-week term ends
30-31	(Sat.-Sun.)	Graduate commuter and commuter student COVID-19 testing

FEBRUARY

1	(Monday)	Spring classes begin
9	(Tuesday)	Last day for adding and dropping courses Last day for converting to or from audit Last day for conversion of "N" grades for Fall 2020
15	(Monday)	President's Day (All classes meet, College is open) Last day to withdraw from classes/housing (with refund)
26	(Friday)	Last day to withdraw with a "W" for Spring Session 1 online courses

MARCH

12	(Friday)	Last day for Spring Session 1 online courses
15	(Monday)	Spring Session 2 (8-week) online classes begin
16	(Tuesday)	Final grades due for Spring Session 1 online courses
19	(Friday)	Last day for adding and dropping Spring Session 2 online courses
23	(Tuesday)	Midterm grades are due by midnight

APRIL

1	(Thursday)	Holy Thursday (All classes meet, College is open)
2	(Friday)	Good Friday (All classes meet, College is open)
4	(Sunday)	Easter Sunday
5	(Monday)	Easter Monday (All classes meet, College is open)
9	(Friday)	Last day to withdraw with a "W" Last day to convert to Pass/Fail
12-14	(Mon.-Wed.)	Junior and non-graduating senior advisement for Fall 2021
15	(Thursday)	Junior and non-graduating senior registration for Fall 2021
19-21	(Mon.-Wed.)	Sophomore advisement for Fall 2021
22	(Thursday)	Sophomore registration for Fall 2021
23	(Friday)	Last day to withdraw with a "W" for Spring Session 2 online courses
26-28	(Mon.-Wed.)	Freshman advisement for Fall 2021
29	(Thursday)	Freshman registration for Fall 2021

MAY

3	(Monday)	Last day of classes
4-5	(Tues./Wed.)	Reading days
6	(Thursday)	Final examinations begin
7	(Friday)	Last day for Spring Session 2 online courses
12	(Wednesday)	Final examinations end Residence halls close
13	(Thursday)	Final grades due for Spring Session 2 online courses
17	(Monday)	All senior grades are due by noon
18	(Tuesday)	All other grades are due by noon
21-23	(Fri.-Sun.)	Commencement weekend



HOURS OF OPERATION

Office	Hours
Campus Access	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Administrative Offices	Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Fitness Center	Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - Midnight Saturday and Sunday 10:00 a.m. - Midnight
McQuade Library	Sunday 10:00 am - Friday 10:00 p.m. Saturday 10:00 am - midnight The Library is closed Friday from 10:00 p.m. - Saturday 10:00 a.m. and Saturday from 10:00 p.m. - Sunday 10:00 a.m.
Post Office	Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sakowich Campus Center	24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Merrimack College follows guidelines from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Campus hours are subject to change when guidelines are modified by the Governor.



UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE COURSE DELIVERY MODALITIES

Students are able to register for Spring classes through the end of the add/drop period. As in any semester, undergraduate students are required to meet with their academic advisor prior to registration, and graduate students are encouraged to consult with their program director regarding planning for registration.

To help students during the registration process, the College has developed definitions for our three main types of course modalities. They are as follows:

- 1 ON-CAMPUS**
Instruction is delivered through face-to-face meetings held at regular meeting times in a dedicated physical space. The learner and the instructor are physically located in the same place at the same time. Students are expected to attend class in person.
- 2 HYBRID**
Hybrid learning combines real-time, face-to-face teaching whereby some traditional face-to-face contact hours are replaced with required synchronous or asynchronous remote instruction.
- 3 REMOTE**
Remote courses are courses where teaching and learning takes place online in real time. It includes a set class schedule and required login/class meeting times. At the undergraduate level, all remote courses will be synchronous, and approximately 25% of all undergraduate courses will be remote only. At the graduate level, the percentage of courses that will be remote depends on the program, and there are some remote courses that are asynchronous, which means that content is available online for students to access when it best suits their schedules, and assignments are completed according to deadlines.

In order to accommodate remote learners, some on-campus and hybrid classes will offer a multi-modal live experience, while others may offer class content asynchronously, with a recording of the lecture available for students. While remote-only students will be able to register for most on-campus courses and participate remotely as outlined above, we encourage remote-only students to register for remote courses whenever possible for an optimal live experience.



ADVISING AND REGISTRATION

FOR ADVISORS: INSTRUCTIONS FOR ADVISING FOR SPRING 2021

Students can still register for Spring courses through the add/drop period. When students are registering in MyMack for the Spring semester, all classes in MyMack will have the instruction modality (see previous page) identified as one of three options: remote, hybrid, or on-campus. Students and advisors are able to search courses by modality. When students begin registering in MyMack for the Spring semester, all classes in MyMack will have the instruction modality (see previous page) identified as one of three options: remote, hybrid, or on-campus. Students and advisors will be able to search courses by modality.

When advising students, please inform them that:

- When they log into MyMack they will immediately receive a prompt asking them to declare their status for Spring 2021 and will need to make one of the following choices to proceed with their spring class registration:

- 1 I intend to take spring classes as a residential student:** Students who choose this option will live on campus, will participate in the COVID-19 testing protocol, will be able to select all course modalities (hybrid, on-campus or remote), and will be able to utilize all campus resources.
- 2 I intend to take spring classes as a commuter student:** Students who choose this option will be able to come to campus, will participate in the COVID-19 testing protocol, will be able to select all course modalities (hybrid, on-campus or remote), and will be able to utilize all campus resources.
- 3 I intend to take spring classes remotely:** Students who choose this option will not be part of the COVID-19 testing protocol, will not be able to come to campus, will register for remote-only classes where possible, and if necessary, will register for classes that are designated hybrid or on-campus, but will take them remotely.
- 4 I intend to take a leave of absence during the Spring semester:** Students who choose this option will not be part of the COVID-19 testing protocol, will not be able to come to campus, and will not take any Merrimack courses.

Once students answer this question, their choice will be recorded in CX and they will be able to navigate around MyMack and register for classes. After students make their choice, they will not be asked again when they log back into MyMack to change their course selections.

- Fully remote students are encouraged to register for remote-only classes where possible.
- All students will be able to register for any class, regardless of modality, with the exception that fully remote students should not register for the handful of lab courses that must be taken on-campus. These sections will be identified in MyMack as on-campus only — no remote option.

Additionally:

- Please encourage students with registration holds to address them. All financial holds and health holds must be cleared before registering. Students should be directed to the **Bursar's Office** or **Hamel Health**.
- For those advising seniors, please remind them of the **Double Warrior** opportunities and of the Double Warrior scholarship. Seniors can take two graduate courses during their senior year and receive a 33% tuition scholarship if they apply for admission to a graduate program.

FOR STUDENTS: ADVISING AND REGISTRATION

Students should work with their advisor in preparing for their spring course schedule. Only after they have been cleared by their academic advisor can they register for classes. Once cleared by their advisor, students should log into MyMack and will immediately receive a prompt asking them to declare their status for Spring 2021. They will need to make one of the following choices to proceed with their spring class registration:

1. **I intend to take spring classes as a residential student:** Students who choose this option will live on campus, will participate in the COVID-19 testing protocol, will be able to select all course modalities (hybrid, on-campus or remote), and will be able to utilize all campus resources.
2. **I intend to take spring classes as a commuter student:** Students who choose this option will be able to come to campus, will participate in the COVID-19 testing protocol, will be able to select all course modalities (hybrid, on-campus or remote), and will be able to utilize all campus resources.
3. **I intend to take spring classes remotely:** Students who choose this option will not be part of the COVID-19 testing protocol, will not be able to come to campus, will register for remote only classes where possible, and if necessary, will register for classes that are designated hybrid or on-campus, but will take them remotely.
4. **I intend to take a leave of absence during the Spring semester:** Students who choose this option will not be part of the COVID-19 testing protocol, will not be able to come to campus, and will not take any Merrimack courses.

Students will not be able to register for a course before selecting their enrollment intention for the spring. Once students have designated their intention (residential, commuter, remote or leave of absence) they will be able to register for classes.

Please note: Resident and Commuter Students may take Remote only classes. Remote students may take 98% of on-ground and hybrid classes.

Any students who wish to change their intention should update their selection on MyMack. A form will be available should students want to change their intention. Students who have questions should contact the **Task Force**.

Graduate students will follow the same MyMack registration process and are encouraged to consult with their program director regarding planning for registration. Students are encouraged to register as soon as they are eligible.



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- + Return to Campus Guidelines and Protocols**
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- + Hygiene and Face Coverings**
- + Campus Testing, Quarantine and Isolation**
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- + Symptom Decision Tree**
- + A Positive COVID-19 Test: What to Do**
- + Contact Tracing**
- + Flu Vaccine**
- + Mental Health**
- + Campus Shutdown Policies and Plan**
- + The Commonwealth's Higher Education Control Plan**

GENERAL SAFETY POLICIES FOR ALL CAMPUS MEMBERS

While Merrimack College remains committed to providing an outstanding learning and working environment, COVID-19 has forced us to reimagine how to deliver a high-quality education with more frequent remote engagement. It has challenged us to look at residential life, classrooms and dining in new and creative ways. It has created a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to break old habits and create new and relevant ways to teach and learn – and caused us to rethink how we deliver services such as counseling, student life and career development services.

ENTERING CAMPUS

FALL 2020 EXPERIENCE

In the fall, we successfully gated and guarded all campus entrances to safeguard the campus. Campus access was limited to students, faculty, staff, students' family members, vendors/contractors, Islander hockey participants and visitors to the Admission Welcome Center. Everyone who entered campus was required to sign an acknowledgment of risk form or complete a symptom check on the CoVerified app. The information in these documents and the app addresses critical health and safety information regarding COVID-19 best practices, including but not limited to social distancing, wearing face coverings, and personal hygiene and cleanliness.

SPRING 2021 POLICIES

For the spring, all campus gates and entryways will continue to be limited to students, faculty, staff, students' family members, vendors/contractors, Islander hockey participants and visitors to the Admission Welcome Center.

Anyone entering the campus must follow these guidelines:

- Check in with the Merrimack College staff at the Elm Street entrance, the Route 125 entrance or at the crosswalk on Route 114.
- Faculty, staff and students must show their Mack ID and “cleared” status on the CoVerified app.
- Approved visitors and vendors/contractors must show an ID, review the policies and procedures, complete the daily symptom checklist and screening questionnaire, and sign a waiver each time they enter campus.
- Everyone accessing campus must:
 - Show a Mack ID or other form of photo identification.
 - Wear a face covering.
 - Follow social distancing policies of six feet or more.
 - Self-identify any COVID-19 symptoms and answer the following questions before seeking entrance onto the campus:
 - Have you traveled outside of the country or to any state designated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as “restricted” in the past 14 days? (Please note states designated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as higher risk may change. Please visit www.mass.gov/matraveler for up-to-date information regarding the Massachusetts COVID-19 Travel Order).
 - Have you or anyone in your household experienced COVID-19 symptoms in the past 14 days?
 - Have you or any member of your household been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days?

For the spring, the College will be utilizing both paper and CoVerified to validate signing of the waiver of liability and assumption of risk, as well as the answers to the daily symptom check.

As part of the COVID-19 testing protocol, students, faculty and staff must download the CoVerified application ([see page 23](#)) to complete the daily symptom screening and validate compliance with Merrimack College's surveillance testing protocol. A "cleared" status on the CoVerified application is required to gain access onto campus.

Visitors and vendors/contractors must be approved to access campus and will validate compliance by completing the paper copy of the daily symptom screening and a waiver of liability and assumption of risk.

CAMPUS VISITORS

Generally, visitors and guests will be prohibited from campus just as they were in the fall, with exceptions including visiting parents and family, admission visitors, essential vendors and contractors, and Islander hockey participants. Upon arriving on campus, all visitors must review the COVID-19 Return to Campus Policies and Procedures and the COVID-19 Return to Campus Checklist, and sign a waiver of liability and assumption of risk each time they arrive on the campus. Visitor experiences on campus will be limited depending on the visit. There will be no exceptions, unless approved by the Office of the Executive Vice President.

Residential students who would like to register their parents or family members to come onto campus must fill out the [Guest Registration Form](#) 24 hours in advance of the visit. Please note that the student must fill out the form using their Merrimack email address. Completion of this form will assure access onto the campus to drop off/pick up students or any items. Parents and family members are not permitted in any of the campus buildings but may visit their students outside. If this form is not completed, parents/family members will only be allowed to pick up their students at Lot A near the Elm Street entrance.

SHARED RIDES, DELIVERIES AND PACKAGES

At this time, we do not recommend using ride shares during COVID-19, however, should a ride share be needed, all requests should be directed to Lot A through the Elm Street entrance.

All mail and package deliveries will be directed to the loading dock behind the Sakowich Campus Center and collected by the Post Office. Students may pick their packages up at the Post Office on the 2nd floor of the Sakowich Campus Center.



RETURN TO CAMPUS GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS

As with the Fall, for the Spring semester, Merrimack College's first priority will remain, as always, the safety and well-being of our students, faculty and staff throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Until a vaccine or treatment is made available to the general public, Merrimack College will continue to use evidence-informed methods and policies to protect the health and safety of its students, faculty and staff while on campus.

What makes Merrimack College as a community unique is that we all look out for one another. In the coming months, you will need to be cognizant that your actions impact others – especially if you do not feel well. It is essential that we protect each other and mitigate the spread of the disease. The following sections outline policies, health measures and changes to the campus' social experience in order to assist in this effort and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- As in the fall, all students, faculty and staff who return to Merrimack's campus this spring will be screened through the CoVerified app and tested for COVID-19 on an ongoing basis.
- Students, faculty and staff will be responsible for monitoring their own health daily, as well as for self-reporting, self-quarantining and self-isolating should they test positive for COVID-19.
- All students, faculty and staff will be required to wear face coverings, social distance, ensure proper hygiene and otherwise conform to the policies of the College with regard to mitigating the spread of COVID-19.
- It was very clear that in the Fall, students who left the campus for the weekend or for short trips were at higher risk of contracting COVID-19. The College strongly discourages residential students leaving the campus on the weekends or for short trips to avoid contracting the virus and bringing it back to campus.
- At this time the Commonwealth is recommending that all vaccinated individuals continue to follow COVID-19 protocols regarding face coverings, social distancing, continue surveillance testing and follow existing quarantine rules should they be identified as a close contact of a positive case. As a result, at this time the College will not alter its current policies for those members of the community who have been vaccinated.

ONGOING MONITORING

The College's COVID-19 Task Force will continue to monitor the ongoing developments related to COVID-19 prevention, communications, outreach and response planning, and will advise College leaders on policies and decisions aimed at ensuring the safety of Merrimack students, faculty and staff.

TRAVELING TO MASSACHUSETTS FROM OUT OF STATE

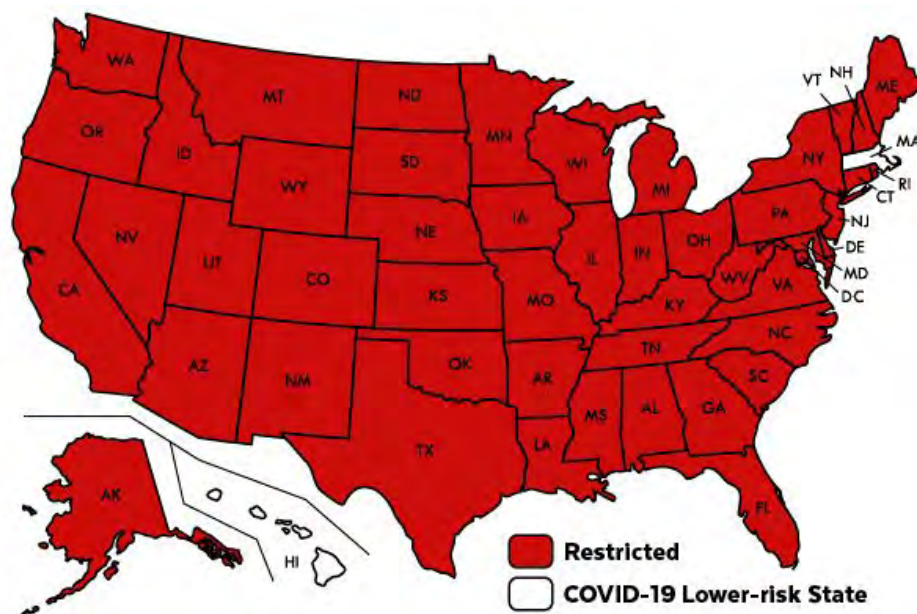
MASSACHUSETTS TRAVEL ORDER

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts travel order went into effect on August 1, 2020, and requires that all visitors traveling to Massachusetts from any state outside of Hawaii must complete the **Massachusetts Travel Form** and pursuant to State Order, must produce either a negative COVID-19 test administered up to 72-hours prior to arriving in Massachusetts or quarantine for at least 10 days upon arrival in Massachusetts. A traveler who is required to quarantine may be released from the obligation to continue quarantining upon obtaining proof of a negative test from a molecular test approved by the FDA for emergency use, administered after the person's arrival in Massachusetts.

Individuals who are COVID-19-recovered, meaning individuals who tested positive more than 10 days but less than 90 days ago and who do not have symptoms, do not need to obtain a negative PCR test prior to traveling to or quarantine upon arrival to Massachusetts. COVID-19 recovered individuals arriving in Massachusetts must have documentation of the positive PCR test result available if asked. This exception does not include COVID-19-recovered individuals who have symptoms of COVID-19, who must follow all testing and quarantine guidance outlined in the travel rules.

Faculty, staff or students who are commuting into Massachusetts to attend school or work meet an exemption from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Travel Order and do not need a negative COVID-19 test result or to quarantine.

At the time of publication Hawaii is the only state exempt from the Massachusetts policy and all other states are considered “restricted.” For the most recent list of states visit www.mass.gov/matraveler.



RESIDENTIAL STUDENTS FROM OUTSIDE MASSACHUSETTS

For students who are traveling from outside of Massachusetts (excluding Hawaii) a negative COVID-19 test result administered up to 72 hours in advance of arriving on campus and a completed [Massachusetts Travel Form](#) are required prior to moving into any residence hall. Please email a copy of the negative test to deanofstudents@merrimack.edu. Any student within 200 miles of campus who receives a positive test result after arriving on campus will be required to immediately enact their departure plan. Please contact the Dean of Students at deanofstudents@merrimack.edu with any questions.

If family members are accompanying their student on campus they must also complete the [Massachusetts Travel Form](#) or produce a negative COVID-19 test administered up to 72-hours prior to arriving in Massachusetts if they stayed overnight in Massachusetts, otherwise they meet the State exemption for transitory travel. Parents, guardians and family who stay overnight in Massachusetts and plan to accompany their student to campus who could not obtain a test administered up to 72-hours before arriving may obtain a test at the individuals own expense after arrival in Massachusetts but must quarantine until a negative test result is received. Please contact the Dean of Students at deanofstudents@merrimack.edu with any questions.

VISITORS COMING FROM OUTSIDE MASSACHUSETTS

Visitors who are visiting residential students from restricted states, and who are staying overnight in Massachusetts, must produce a negative COVID-19 test administered up to 72 hours prior to arriving on campus. If a visitor from outside the region enters Massachusetts only to visit the student briefly and then immediately leaves the campus and the state, they meet the exemption for transitory travel and the travel order regarding testing or quarantining would not apply.

Visitors must be registered and students must fill out the [Guest Registration Form](#) 24 hours in advance of the visit. Please note that the student must fill out the form using their Merrimack email address. Completion of this form will assure access onto the campus to drop off/pick up students or any items. Visitors are not permitted in any of the campus buildings but may visit their students outdoors. If this form is not completed, visitors will only be allowed to pick up their students at Lot A near the Elm Street entrance.



As a reminder, students who travel to Massachusetts from restricted states and have a place off campus to quarantine for 14 days are permitted to do so before coming to campus. Students will still be tested for their baseline upon their arrival onto the campus. In that case, students will move in as part of the scheduled move-in January 27-29 and must complete a Massachusetts travel form upon arrival, which can be found online at www.mass.gov/matraveler. If your travel is delayed due to a positive COVID-19 test, please contact Hamel Health, which will work with you and the Office of Residential Life to find a new date for your move-in.

COMMUTER AND GRADUATE STUDENTS TRAVELING FROM OUTSIDE MASSACHUSETTS

For those commuters and graduate students who are renting locally and will be traveling from a distance to your new residence, please be aware of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts travel order that went into effect on August 1, 2020. This order requires that all visitors traveling to Massachusetts from states excluding Hawaii (at the time of publication) must self-quarantine for 14 days or produce a negative COVID-19 test result that has been administered up to 72 hours prior to their arrival in Massachusetts.

Additionally, as mandated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, when arriving from outside of the state (except for Hawaii), students and family members must complete a Massachusetts travel form upon arrival, which can be found online at www.mass.gov/matraveler.

If your arrival to campus is delayed due to a positive COVID-19 test, please contact the Task Force, which will work with you and your faculty to determine when you will be on campus to begin classes.

STUDENTS FROM WITHIN MASSACHUSETTS

Although it is not required for students traveling to campus from inside Massachusetts, the College strongly encourages all students begin to quarantine 10 days before arriving to campus and take a COVID-19 test administered up to 72 hours prior to arriving to campus.

Students will still be tested for their baseline upon their arrival. As in the Fall semester, if a student arrives on campus and takes a baseline test that produces a positive result, they will be asked to enact their departure plan and sent home if they live within 200 miles of the campus. Therefore, it is very important for students to do everything they can to ensure a negative COVID-19 test upon arrival to avoid having to leave the campus for the duration of quarantine.

SYMPTOM MONITORING

Each day, before reporting to campus or leaving their residence hall, all members of the community should complete a daily self-screening on the CoVerified app to confirm that they do not exhibit any symptoms potentially related to COVID-19.

If you have any COVID-19 symptoms while away from the College, do not return to campus. Call your medical provider and notify the College to report symptoms. Students must call (978) 837-5441 to inform the College of their symptoms. Employees must contact **Human Resources** or call (978) 837-5157 to inform the College of their symptoms.

If you live on campus and have any symptoms, please do not leave your room and call (978) 837-5441.

Signs and symptoms of COVID-19 include the following:

- Fever of 100.4°F
- Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle aches
- Headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- New gastrointestinal symptoms
- Pain, swelling or rash on toes or fingers

Many of these symptoms are similar to the flu, but must be treated as possible COVID-19. See [page 29](#) for information about the flu vaccine.

EXPERIENCING SYMPTOMS WHILE ON CAMPUS

Any students who become symptomatic while on campus must immediately isolate and notify Hamel Health at (978) 837-5441. Commuter students will be directed to return home and arrange for COVID-19 testing and evaluation from their primary care provider.

For residential students, the College will provide guidance on how to access local COVID-19 testing facilities for urgent diagnostic testing. In the meantime, residential students should stay in their room and notify Hamel Health, which will potentially move the student to an isolation room and/or direct the student to enact their departure plan.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

In addition to wearing a face covering while on campus, everyone must follow social distancing best practices. The goal of social distancing is to reduce transmission of COVID-19 and not to completely eliminate all interactions. While on campus, everyone must attempt to stay a minimum of six feet from individuals to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when possible.

CAMPUS HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES

By this point, most people own and use various personal protective equipment (PPE). While we recommend you bring your own face coverings and other PPE, please be aware that the College has invested in cleaning and hygiene installations around the campus, including:

- 677+ hand sanitizer dispensers (wall mounted and stands)
- 313 sanitizing wipe dispensers
- 23 electrostatic sanitizing sprayers
- 25 touchless thermometers

Additionally, Merrimack has created other protection measures across campus including physical barriers and touchless entry solutions. Investments made include:

- 1,700+ plexiglass barriers in offices and classrooms (rolling barriers for faculty)
- 400 touchless plumbing sensors
- 250 occupancy light sensors
- 250 kickdown door stops
- 200 step-and-pull units for doors
- 1,300 movable room dividers

The College has identified multiple supply chains for acquisition of additional supplies.



HYGIENE AND FACE COVERINGS

HANDWASHING

Students, faculty and staff should wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after they have been in a public place, or after blowing their nose, coughing, sneezing or touching their face. If soap and water are not readily available, they should use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol. When using hand sanitizer, students, faculty and staff should cover their hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be placed around campus in strategic locations, but students are advised to bring a personal supply when returning to Merrimack College for the 2020-2021 academic year.

ENHANCED CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

The College has made significant investments in upgraded cleaning protocols, electrostatic sanitizing sprayers, EPA-registered COVID-19-killing green cleaning solutions, additional cleaning staff and other enhanced cleaning strategies.

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT OF COVID-19 POLICIES

The members of the College community depend upon each other to ensure a safe and vibrant community. Contact the Dean of Students with any concerns about the implementation of the College's policies and/or practices. Merrimack will not tolerate non-compliance with our policies and practices as they relate to keeping the campus safe.

The College Community Standards reflect changes to our Code of Conduct that have held students accountable for things like refusing to wear a face covering, or not taking COVID-19 tests. To date, there have been over 300 individual cases addressed involving infractions of the COVID-19 policies, and sanctions have ranged from warnings through separation from the College. Faculty are asked to contact MCPD if students refuse to properly wear face coverings in class.



FACE COVERINGS

Effective this past summer, anyone (age two and up) on the Merrimack College campus or in public areas of College housing, whether indoors or outdoors, who is unable to maintain a distance of approximately six feet from every other person is required to cover their mouth and nose by wearing a face covering. Employees working alone in their offices and residential students who are alone or with their roommate in their college-owned housing do not need to wear face coverings.

Merrimack College reserves the right to decline entry to any individual who refuses to wear a face covering for nonmedical reasons.

Face coverings are not a substitute for social distancing or hand hygiene. However, cloth face coverings can help prevent presymptomatic and asymptomatic individuals from inadvertently spreading the virus to others.

Face coverings should:

- Cover the nose and mouth
- Fit snugly but comfortably against the face
- Be secured with ties or ear loops
- Include multiple layers of fabric
- Allow for breathing without restriction
- Be laundered and machine dried frequently

When handling face coverings:

- Wash your hands with soap and water or apply hand sanitizer before and after removing a cloth face covering
- Assume the outside of the cloth face covering is dirty; mark it in some way so that you do not inadvertently wear it outside-in
- Store your cloth face covering in a clean paper bag
- Only handle your cloth face covering by the ties or ear straps
- Do not pull your cloth face covering below your chin while wearing it - dangling or ill-fitted cloth face coverings could lead to cross-contamination
- Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth

CAMPUS TESTING, QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION

Students, faculty and staff on campus are expected to do their part to keep the campus community safe. By coming to campus, you are agreeing to the following expectations:

- Maintain at least six feet of distance between people.
- Avoid gatherings of more than 10 individuals (including office gatherings, in-person meetings and permissible visitors – not including classes).
- Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms daily and certify that you have not experienced any COVID-19 symptoms in the past 48 hours or been in contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 or experiencing symptoms in the past 14 days.
- Wear a face covering in all public spaces and spaces used by multiple people.
- Execute an acknowledgment of risk and consent form.
- Submit to regular COVID-19 testing.
- Avoid traveling off campus, including personal weekend travel. Residential students should avoid leaving campus to reduce infection and transmission of COVID-19.
- Stay home (or leave the workplace/classroom) and notify the appropriate individuals (supervisor/Human Resources, Hamel Health) if symptoms develop.
- For employees, have meetings virtually and avoid shared spaces, even when on campus; stagger shifts; and encourage remote work as much as possible.
- Wash your hands frequently and know the signs of COVID-19.
- It was very clear that in the Fall, students who left the campus for the weekend or for short trips were at higher risk of contracting COVID-19. The College strongly discourages residential students from leaving the campus on the weekends or for short trips to avoid contracting the virus and bringing it back to campus.

CAMPUSWIDE REGULAR SURVEILLANCE COVID-19 TESTING

Based on the current understanding of the virus and statewide planning, all students, faculty and staff will begin **twice a week testing beginning the week of February 1 through the week of May 3** as part of a coordinated asymptomatic surveillance testing approach. Those who do not agree to submit to testing will not be allowed on campus.

The College was an early adopter of the successful Broad Institute's 'Safe for School' program. This allows the College to conduct testing on campus while the processing of each sample is performed at the Clinical Research Sequencing Platform (CRSP), the clinical testing laboratory at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. This laboratory operates under a set of government regulations known as CLIA that allow us to run high-complexity molecular tests, such as the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test used to detect COVID-19. The test that is run by CRSP is a modified version of a test developed by the CDC. Over 70,000 tests have been performed on our campus to date.

Each week on Monday evenings, the College updates its COVID-19 **dashboard**, providing weekly test results.

Broad Testing Service (BTS)¹

Safe for School Program



Merrimack will not tolerate non-compliance with our policies and practices as they relate to keeping the campus safe. The Community Standards will reflect changes to our Code of Conduct that will hold students accountable for things like refusing to wear a face covering, or not taking COVID-19 tests. Faculty are asked to contact MCPD if students refuse to properly wear face coverings in class.

SURVEILLANCE TESTING: TWICE A WEEK

All members of the Merrimack College campus community are participating in the robust COVID-19 surveillance testing program. Evidence suggests that COVID-19 can spread through close contact with people who are infected with the virus causing COVID-19, but are without any symptoms of illness (asymptomatic). Therefore, frequent and routine testing of the campus population will help us to identify anyone who may be infected with the virus causing COVID-19 and not know it. This asymptomatic surveillance testing program, in addition to other mitigation strategies, helps Merrimack prevent a widespread campus outbreak through the early identification and isolation of anyone who may have COVID-19 unknowingly.

Merrimack is using the Broad CRSP SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR Diagnostic Assay. This is an in vitro qualitative test designed to detect the presence of the genomic material of the SARS-CoV-2 novel coronavirus, which is the pathogen responsible for COVID-19. Nasal mucous will be collected via an anterior nasal swab of each nostril (not a deep nasopharyngeal swab).

A positive test result indicates there is currently the SARS-CoV-2 virus in your system, which is the virus that causes COVID-19. A negative result indicates there is no SARS-CoV-2 virus detected in your system. It does not tell us any information about past infection or immunity.

SCHEDULING

Baseline: Prior to returning to campus, all students, faculty and staff will be scheduled for a baseline test, the week of January 25

- Residential students will complete their baseline test on the day of their move-in January 27-January 29.
- Commuter students will complete their baseline testing the weekend of January 30 and 31.
- Faculty and staff will complete their baseline test on the first day that they return to work or during the week of January 25.

Bi-Weekly Ongoing: Beginning the week of February 1, all on-campus students, faculty and staff will take part in twice a week COVID-19 testing until the week of May 3.

Faculty, staff, undergraduate and graduate commuter students should select days for testing when they are already planning to be on campus. Students, faculty and staff who are exclusively remote will not be a part of the surveillance testing protocol. For students who have an onsite fellowship and are taking their courses exclusively online, please speak with the program director regarding testing. Employees working on a rotating remote/on-campus schedule will need to be part of the regular twice a week testing protocol.

For questions about an exception to surveillance testing twice a week please contact the Task Force.

- All residential students will be scheduled for a baseline test by the College, which will occur on the day of their move-in during the week prior to the start of classes, the week of January 25. Following the baseline test, students will continue with twice a week surveillance testing based on their self-selected days, which will begin the week of February 1 and will continue until the week of May 3.
- Commuter students will complete their baseline testing the weekend of January 30 and 31, and will then follow their self-selected recurring twice a week COVID-19 surveillance test schedule, which will begin the week of February 1 and continue until the week of May 3.
- Graduate students will complete their baseline testing the weekend of January 30 and 31, or upon move-in for residential graduate students. Graduate students will then follow their self-selected recurring twice a week COVID-19 surveillance schedule, which will begin the week of February 1 and continue until the week of May 3.
- Faculty and staff will complete their baseline testing the week of January 25 on a self-selected day and time. Those who cannot complete their baseline test during that week will complete their baseline test the first week of classes. Weekly COVID-19 surveillance tests will begin the week following the baseline test and continue until the week of May 3.

STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF WHO PREVIOUSLY TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

In the last 90 days, any student, faculty or staff member who tested positive for COVID-19 outside of Merrimack College's Surveillance Testing Protocol should notify the College. Faculty and staff should contact Human Resources at humanresources.covid@merrimack.edu and students should contact Hamel Health at hamelhealth@merrimack.edu.

Those students, faculty or staff should still sign-up for bi-weekly testing appointments, however **do not report for testing until 90 days have passed since the positive test result**. If a positive test result was received at the College's testing center, or Hamel Health or the Task Force has been notified of the positive test result from an outside testing site, then the CoVerified App will show restricted when the 90 days are up, signaling it is time to return to the testing protocol.

COVID-19 VACCINATION

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has prioritized groups to be vaccinated through a phased delivery approach prioritizing first responders and COVID-19 outward facing medical personnel. Next in this phased approach to be vaccinated is the at-risk population, with the general population following. Merrimack College is working with the Commonwealth in an effort to become a COVID-19 vaccination center, and will follow the state's predetermined phased delivery of vaccinations. The College will update the campus community regarding vaccinations as more information becomes available.

Beginning the week of January 11, members of the Merrimack community who are eligible under the state's phased approach will be vaccinated. At this time this includes Testing Center personnel, medical staff and the MCPD. As the state moves beyond this first phase of vaccinations, the College will provide more information regarding subsequent phases and the potential a vaccination center could be on campus.

At this time the state is recommending that all vaccinated individuals continue to follow COVID-19 protocols regarding face coverings, social distancing, continue surveillance testing and follow existing quarantine rules should they be identified as a close contact of a positive case. As a result, at this time the College will not alter its current policies for those members of the community who have been vaccinated.

BROAD INSTITUTE/ON-SITE

Merrimack College is participating in a college surveillance testing program called the Safe for School Program, created by the Broad Institute. The Broad Institute is a Harvard and MIT laboratory that developed the SARS-CoV-2 testing program in order to help colleges and universities safely reopen their campuses this past fall. Merrimack College has also partnered with a clinical support company, On-Site Medical Services, which provides clinical personnel and processing support to the on-campus testing center.

CoVERIFIED APP

Merrimack College is using the CoVerified application to support the College mitigation and surveillance testing plan. This web-based and smartphone application is specific to the Merrimack College community and allows users to gain campus entrance clearance through daily screening, report symptoms, receive test results and access other COVID-19 education and mitigation strategies. For information or to download the app visit the College's [app suite](#).

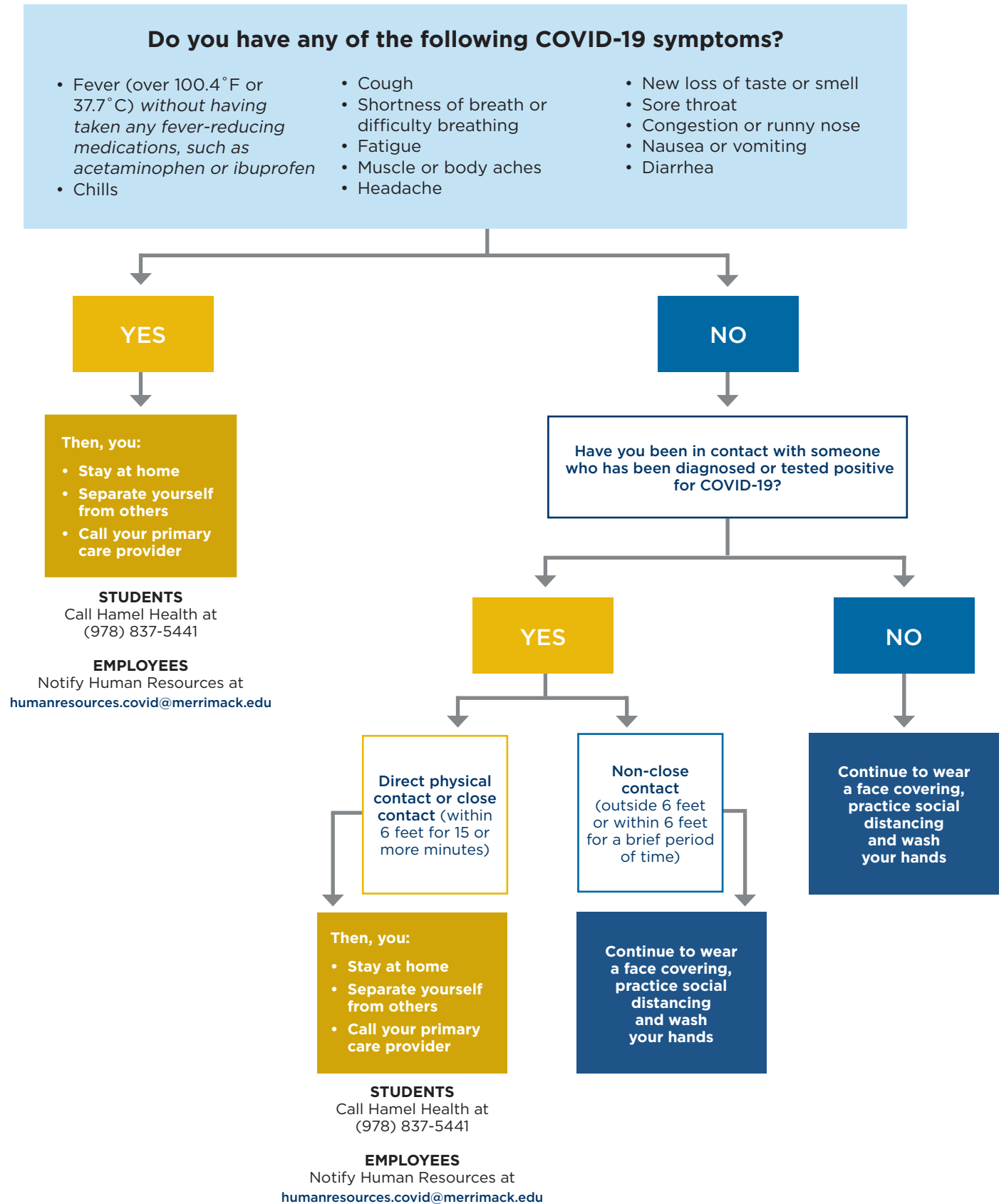


COVID-19 TEST RESULT DASHBOARD

Every week on Monday evenings, the College will provide weekly COVID-19 and unique cumulative testing results. The dashboard can be found [here](#). This summary is designed to provide an overview of COVID-19 cases and tests performed among the campus community – students, faculty, staff and affiliates who are studying, living or working on campus.

SYMPTOM DECISION TREE

All students, faculty and staff should use the following decision tree as part of their self-monitoring before leaving their rooms and/or homes to come to campus.



A POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST: WHAT TO DO

STUDENTS WHO TEST POSITIVE

- Notification of a positive test result from the Broad 'Safe for School' test administered by Merrimack will be made to College COVID-19 testing healthcare providers and the institution through the CoVerified app. Students who test positive will be directly contacted by the College healthcare personnel and will be subject to isolation protocols.
- If a student takes additional (not replacement) COVID-19 tests outside of the College's 'Safe for School' testing, and tests positive for COVID-19, the student should immediately call (978) 837-5441 (Hamel Health) to report the positive test.
- Students who appear to have symptoms while on campus outside of weekly testing should immediately call (978) 837-5441 (Hamel Health) for medical triage and/or evaluation and will be tested immediately. Symptomatic students should not go to the testing center without calling Hamel Health first. Symptomatic students are subject to isolation protocols.
- In all cases where a student tests positive or has COVID-19 symptoms, they are to self-isolate for at least 10 days. Student isolation protocols include:
 - If students live within 200 miles they will be isolated temporarily and will enact their departure plan and will leave campus for the duration of their quarantine.
 - If they live farther than 200 miles, or if they have at-risk relatives at home, or if they have other special circumstances, they will be isolated in one of the isolation beds the College has set aside.
 - In conjunction with the appropriate government health agency, Merrimack College will undertake contact tracing following the student's notification. Contact tracing will include a conversation with the student to determine potential exposures on campus.
 - Sick students should follow CDC-recommended steps – sick students should stay in isolation for at least 10 days and cannot return until they have no fever without the use of medication for at least 24 hours and other COVID-19-related symptoms have improved. Students should work in consultation with healthcare providers, the College, and state and local health departments.
- Once the College has been notified of a positive test, Merrimack will undertake contact tracing in conjunction with the appropriate government health agency. Contact tracing will include a conversation with the student to determine potential exposures on campus. Those exposed to the infected student will be required to quarantine for 7-14 days, depending upon individual circumstance, per the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the CDC and at the final discretion of the Office of COVID-19 Campus Surveillance.
- Any COVID-19-related obstacles will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Communicating issues and concerns and doing so honestly in an effort to look out for each other will be paramount. The entire COVID-19 situation requires shared responsibility, looking out for others and not penalizing anyone who gets sick. The College is committed to protecting our students and community. We will work tirelessly with each individual to figure out the most appropriate strategy to assist them and the community, but this also requires everyone to do their part and work with the institution.

REMOTE LEARNING WHILE SICK WITH COVID-19

Students who are physically out of class due to COVID-19 will have the ability to continue their learning remotely until they are well enough to resume class engagement. Students should communicate with all their professors as soon as they know they will be missing one or more classes.

Students who are taking courses that cannot be continued remotely will be provided with alternate options to ensure that all credit hours can be completed and that they meet the course learning outcomes.

EMPLOYEES (FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME) WHO TEST POSITIVE

- Notification of a positive test result from the Broad 'Safe for School' test administered by Merrimack will be made to employees and the institution through the CoVerified app.
- If an employee takes additional (not replacement) COVID-19 tests outside of the College's 'Safe for School' testing and tests positive for COVID-19, the employee should immediately alert the **Office of Human Resources** or call (978) 837-5157.
- In all cases where a person tests positive, they are to self-isolate at home for at least 10 days. No employee who tests positive will be allowed to return to campus before they have isolated for a minimum of 10 days, and until they have not had a fever in the last 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. The College will work with employees on when is the best time to return.
- Once the College has been notified of a positive test, Merrimack will undertake contact tracing in conjunction with the appropriate government health agency. Contact tracing will include a conversation with the employee to determine potential exposures on campus. Those exposed to infected employees will be required to also quarantine for 7-14 days, depending upon individual circumstance, per the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, CDC guidelines and at the final discretion of the Office of COVID-19 Campus Surveillance.
- Any employee who exhibits symptoms while at work should leave work, contact their supervisor and immediately contact their personal physician or call Human Resources at (978) 837-5157.
- Employees who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19, or are otherwise exposed to a person infected with COVID-19, should notify their supervisor and the Office of Human Resources, and follow CDC-recommended precautions to stay at home in quarantine for 7-14 days from when the family member recovers.
- Any COVID-19-related obstacles will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Communicating issues and concerns and doing so honestly in an effort to look out for each other will be paramount. The entire COVID-19 situation requires shared responsibility, looking out for others and not penalizing anyone who gets sick. The College is committed to protecting our faculty and staff. We will work tirelessly with each individual to figure out the most appropriate strategy to assist them and the community, but this also requires everyone to do their part and work with the institution. Those who believe they have circumstances limiting their ability to return to work should contact the **Human Resources** to discuss.

REMOTE WORK WHILE SICK WITH COVID-19

In most cases, faculty and staff who are quarantined or isolated from work due to COVID-19 will have the ability to continue their work remotely if their symptoms are manageable. Faculty and staff should discuss their work schedules with the Office of Human Resources if they are sick with the virus and follow the Merrimack College Leave for Exposure to Communicable Diseases policy. If remote work is not possible for an individual, other types of leave may be available. Please contact **Human Resources** to discuss options.



CONTACT TRACING

CONTACT TRACING

During the fall semester, Merrimack's contact tracing helped to identify close contacts quickly and take the necessary steps to quarantine individuals which helped to prevent large outbreaks on campus. The ordering clinician of a patient who has tested positive for COVID-19 is required to report that positive test to the state department responsible for public health (Massachusetts Department of Public Health or New Hampshire Bureau of Infectious Disease Control). The local board of health or health department in the community where an infected patient lives will also be contacted. The relevant state or local agency will coordinate contact tracing related to that patient.

For every positive COVID-19 test on Merrimack's campus, contact tracing is used to identify and contact members of the campus community (students, faculty, staff) who meet the CDC and Massachusetts Department of Public Health guidelines for being at risk for exposure – and tell them to self-quarantine and get tested. If you are considered a close contact per the definitions of the CDC and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the College's contact tracing team will contact you. If you are not contacted, then per contact tracing protocols you are not considered to have had close contact with an infected person. According to the CDC, close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of an infected individual for a total of 15 minutes or more, during any 24 hour period. In healthcare settings, this may be defined as exposures of greater than a few minutes or more.

The College, in partnership with the town of North Andover, is using a trained contact tracing team to work in concert with the state and local community to ensure faster identification of contacts at risk.

Those deemed by the contact tracing team to be at risk of exposure will be informed they have been in contact with a confirmed case and provided with the appropriate self-quarantine protocols. In situations where the employee is not sick but is in self-quarantine, they should work remotely.

If you are not contacted because you are not identified as a close contact of someone who tests positive for COVID-19, but you believe you are a close contact, it is your responsibility to get tested.

At this time the state is recommending that all vaccinated individuals continue to follow COVID-19 protocols regarding face coverings, social distancing, continue surveillance testing and follow existing quarantine rules should they be identified as a close contact of a positive case.

CAMPUS EXPECTATIONS FOR NOTIFICATION OF COVID-19 POSITIVE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

For every positive COVID-19 test, contact tracing is used to identify and contact members of the campus community (students, faculty, staff) who meet the CDC and Massachusetts Department of Public Health guidelines for being at risk of exposure; these individuals will be told to self-quarantine and get tested. The names of individuals who test positive for COVID-19 are confidential. There will be no announcements about individuals who test positive. Each week on Monday evenings, the College updates its COVID-19 [dashboard](#), providing weekly test results.



RESIDENTIAL STUDENT QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION (PER MA DPH AND CDC)

Quarantine is for students who have been identified as a contact of someone who is COVID-19 positive but are not exhibiting any symptoms and have not tested positive. Individuals who are in quarantine should stay in one place and separate from all others. Depending upon individual circumstances and at the discretion of the Office of COVID-19 Campus Surveillance, guided by CDC guidelines, those exposed to infection or test positive may be required to quarantine/isolate for 7-14 days. Students who are required to be in quarantine must enact their departure plan and leave the campus. If a student lives outside of the 200 mile radius of the College, and cannot make other arrangements with local friends or family members, they will be assigned campus housing during their quarantine period.

Isolation is for students who have either tested positive for COVID-19 or are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 (including fever, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell) and have been told by a provider that they have, or probably have, COVID-19, even in the absence of a test. Students who are required to be in isolation due to a positive COVID-19 test must enact their departure plan and leave the campus for their isolation period. If a student lives outside of the 200 mile radius of the College, they will be assigned campus housing during their isolation period.

DEPARTURE PLANS

All residential students are required to have a departure plan on file. These plans must be followed in the event a student needs to isolate or quarantine, or experiences symptoms of COVID-19. Departure plans will be strictly enforced and minimal changes will be allowed once a student's departure plan is submitted. Students will be asked to implement these plans as soon as possible after talking with our medical staff.

Any questions involving departure plans should be emailed to the Office of the Dean of Students at deanofstudents@merrimack.edu.

Students who live more than 200 miles away from campus or who have an at-risk family member at home are encouraged to make alternate arrangements with family/friends close by or to travel home; however, should that not be possible they can opt to quarantine or isolate with the College in a designated temporary housing space. Please contact the Office of the Dean of Students at deanofstudents@merrimack.edu with any questions.

Students and their families are encouraged to have candid conversations about the student's departure plans and plan for steps that may need to be taken should the student need to enact that departure plan.

COMMUTER STUDENT QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION AT HOME

In all cases where a person tests positive they are to self-isolate at home for at least 10 days. No commuter student who tests positive will be allowed to return to campus before they have been isolated for a minimum of 10 days, and that during those 10 days they had no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medication. The College will work with commuter students on when is the best time to return.

At no time will commuter students be permitted to come into on-campus housing in the event that they have to isolate or quarantine. Commuter students are encouraged to develop their own individual plans of care should this situation arise.

Please note that commuter students who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19, or are otherwise exposed to a person infected with COVID-19, should call (978) 837-5441, and follow MA DPH guidelines to stay at home in quarantine for 7-14 days from when the family member recovers.

EMPLOYEE QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION AT HOME

In all cases where an employee tests positive they are to self-isolate at home for at least 10 days. No one who tests positive will be allowed to return to campus before they have isolated for a minimum of 10 days, and that during those 10 days they had no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medication. The College will work with employees on when is the best time to return. Please note that employees who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19, or are otherwise exposed to a person infected with COVID-19, should notify their supervisor and **Human Resources**, and follow MA DPH guidelines to stay at home in quarantine for 7-14 days, depending upon circumstances, per MA DPH and CDC guidelines.

FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH COVID-19 UNDER ISOLATION

Persons with COVID-19 who have symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation and return to campus under the following conditions:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- All respiratory symptoms are improving (cough, shortness of breath).
- At least 24 hours have passed with resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.

Individuals with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who have not had any symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation and return to campus under the following conditions:

- At least 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test.

Note that because symptoms cannot be used to gauge where these individuals are in the course of their illness, it is possible that the duration of viral shedding could be longer or shorter than 10 days after their first positive test. The protocols in this section follow recommendations made by the CDC.

FLU VACCINE

The Influenza Vaccination is no longer required for all college students under the age of 30 for the Spring 2021 semester.

As of January 15, 2021, the Massachusetts Department of Health has stated:

"Preliminary data show that this has been a mild flu season to date, presumably as people have received their seasonal flu vaccine and have been adhering to mask-wearing and social distancing due to COVID-19."

Though no longer required by the Commonwealth, Merrimack strongly urges students to get a flu shot before coming to campus. Students no longer need to forward proof of getting a flu vaccine.

For more information, visit www.merrimack.edu/flu.



MENTAL HEALTH

During these uncertain times, attending to mental health is more important than ever. Merrimack is committed to supporting students' health and well-being. Students will be offered mental health and health services on campus and through teletherapy and telemedical appointments. The Counseling Center is open Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., and appointments can be scheduled by calling (978) 837-5444.

Additionally, Merrimack College has launched BeWell@MC, a program offering students 24/7 access to a mental health clinician, online resources, and information regarding mental health and wellness. To access the 24/7 line, students may call (978) 837-5444. To access online resources visit The Counseling Center's [website](#).

Merrimack is also offering private spaces on campus for students who feel they do not otherwise have a confidential and private space to access telehealth services. These rooms can be used both for appointments with The Counseling Center and also to continue teletherapy with their at-home therapists. To reserve one of these rooms, call The Counseling Center at (978) 837-5444.

Employees who need mental health support can access Merrimack's Employee Assistance Program through the Human Resources page on [MyMack](#) or by contacting [Human Resources](#).





CAMPUS SHUTDOWN POLICIES AND PLAN

CAMPUS OUTBREAK OF COVID-19

Merrimack College is prepared for COVID-19 outbreaks in our local community and for individual exposure to occur in campus buildings.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires the College to have a shutdown protocol in place before move-in. In the event of a major outbreak on campus, or by order of the government, the College reserves the right to evacuate the campus and send students home for a short or long period of remote learning to contain the outbreak. Following the containment, the College would then bring students back to campus. The College will do its best to give students and families 24 hours' notice in the event a shutdown must take place. Although not required by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the College also has plans for a partial shutdown of the campus if such a shutdown is warranted. The College will strive to provide as much notice as is possible if a partial shutdown is warranted. Further, the College reserves the right to shut down or quarantine parts of campus or specific buildings in response to an outbreak.

The College may experience an increase or cluster of COVID-19 infections due to the congregational nature of a residential college campus. In order to identify a potential campus outbreak of COVID-19, Merrimack will be working in close collaboration with local public health authorities to ensure any prevalence of COVID-19 on campus is identified through symptomatic reports or asymptomatic surveillance testing. In consultation with local and state public health authorities, the College will respond with a temporary or full campus shutdown, should such an event occur. All students, faculty and staff will be notified and evacuation procedures will be implemented.

If Merrimack must shut down campus, it will move to remote work and learning for a temporary period of time and then resume face-to-face classes when appropriate in this situation.

The College will not reduce tuition or fees costs, or reimburse room and board fees for such a shutdown.

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HIGHER ED INSTITUTION INFORMATION | please provide the following information

Institution name: **MERRIMACK COLLEGE**

Campus name(s)/description(s): _____

Plan applies to:

Single Campus

Multiple Campuses

Campus address(es): **315 TURNPIKE ST., NORTH ANDOVER, MA 01845**

Primary point(s) of contact for campus(es) (President or designee): _____

SOCIAL DISTANCING | check the applicable boxes (or indicate "N/A" if not applicable) to certify that you have:

- Adopted measures to provide that all persons, including faculty, staff and students, remain six feet apart to the greatest extent possible, both inside and outside campus buildings
- Established protocols to ensure that faculty, staff and students can practice adequate social distancing
- Posted signage for safe social distancing in all places where faculty, staff and students are likely to gather
- Required face coverings or masks for all faculty, staff and students (except where unsafe due to medical condition or disability) while inside and if social distancing of at least 6 feet cannot be reliably maintained while outdoors
- Implemented additional procedures. Please describe them here:

HYGIENE PROTOCOLS | check the applicable boxes (or indicate "N/A" if not applicable) to certify that you have:

- Provided hand washing capabilities throughout the campus
- Taken measures to encourage frequent hand washing or sanitizing by faculty, staff and students and provided adequate supplies to do so
- Provided for regular sanitization of high touch areas, such as desks, equipment, screens, doorknobs, and restrooms throughout the campus

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HYGIENE PROTOCOLS | check the applicable boxes (or indicate "N/A" if not applicable) to certify that you have:

Implemented additional procedures. Please describe them here:

GENERAL OPERATIONS | check the applicable boxes (or indicate "N/A" if not applicable) to certify that you have:

- Provided training for faculty, staff and students regarding the importance of social distancing, face covering, hand-washing, symptom monitoring, testing, isolation, quarantine, and all other detection and response protocols, and regularly share information through multiple channels to reinforce the message
- Encouraged faculty, staff and students who are feeling ill or displaying COVID19-like symptoms to stay home or in their residence hall
- Established a plan to accommodate the needs of students, staff and faculty who are at higher risk if they are exposed to COVID-19, or who care for household members who are at higher risk
- Ensured that no gatherings will occur on campus that exceed the limits in the latest Commonwealth advisory, except for the purposes of instruction, provided that six feet distancing can always be maintained
- Ensured that campus amenities and services will adhere to all sector-specific safety protocols, available on the Commonwealth's Reopening Plan website, applicable to the amenity or service. Examples include:
 - Office spaces: Must follow latest office space [guidance](#)
 - Dining Services and Facilities: To the extent feasible, must follow social distancing, hygiene protocols, and staffing guidance in the latest restaurant [guidance](#) and must work in cooperation with local public health officials to develop and execute site-specific protocols consistent with applicable CDC guidance for cleaning, disinfecting, and closing areas occupied by a person presumed or confirmed to have COVID-19.
 - Athletic Centers, gyms and fitness centers: Must follow the latest fitness center and health club [guidance](#)
 - Campus shops and bookstores: Must follow the latest retail [guidance](#)
 - Performance venues: Must follow the latest performance venue [guidance](#)
 - Events: Must follow the latest indoor and outdoor events [guidance](#)
- Implemented additional procedures. Please describe them here:

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CLEANING & DISINFECTING | check the applicable boxes (or indicate "N/A" if not applicable) to certify that you have:

- Established and maintained cleaning protocols specific to the campus
- Taken measures to ensure that when an individual on campus is diagnosed with COVID-19, cleaning and disinfecting is performed
- Prepared to disinfect all common and high touch surfaces at appropriate intervals
- Implemented additional procedures. Please describe them here:

COMMUNICATION & SUPPORT | check the applicable boxes (or indicate "N/A" if not applicable) to certify that you have:

- Established consistent communication to all students, staff, faculty, and the surrounding community regarding Phase III plans
- Installed signage and other visual indicators throughout all campus buildings and outdoor areas to improve awareness of and compliance with Phase III requirements
- Established a plan for when and how to adjust operations in response to an outbreak on campus or other public health concerns, including communicating the need to pause or discontinue in-person programming and activities to all students, staff and faculty
- Established clear communication and escalation points with the Local Board of Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and other state and local agencies as needed
- Developed protocols for delivery of emotional and mental health services, including both individual and group counseling
- Implemented additional procedures. Please describe them here:

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DETECTION & RESPONSE | check the applicable boxes (or indicate "N/A" if not applicable) to certify that you have:

In order to demonstrate acceptance of the Higher Education Testing Group's report and recommendations

- ("Developing an Integrated COVID-19 Testing Strategy: Considerations for Institutions of Higher Education in Massachusetts"), **by January 1, 2021**, an institution with students residing on campus should adopt and post online comprehensive protocols for arrival and surveillance testing that align with the report. Concerning surveillance testing, while experience has shown that there is no single protocol for testing frequency that works in every environment, the report indicates that populations most at risk shall be tested every 2 to 7 days, with the outer limit being 12 days under the most favorable circumstances. Testing protocols and plans should be established in coordination with local public health officials and should be regularly updated to ensure compliance with current CDC and DPH requirements and guidelines and to reflect evolving testing technologies and methods.
- Established a plan for ensuring that students, staff and faculty who arrive on campus from another country or a state not designated as a lower-risk state by the Department of Public Health provide documentation of a negative COVID test result on a sample taken no more than 72 hours prior to their arrival, and are informed of campus policies and the latest Commonwealth travel order regarding travel restrictions, testing, and self-quarantine requirements
- Designated residential facilities space for residential students to immediately quarantine if they arrive on campus from another country or a state not designated as a lower-risk state by DPH and do not have documentation of a negative COVID test result on a sample taken no more than 72 hours prior to their arrival
- Developed a plan to ensure that results and full demographic data (name, date of birth, full address, gender, race, ethnicity, primary language, occupation and disability status) on students, staff and faculty tested by the institution for COVID-19 are reported electronically to the MA Department of Public Health as required. (If testing is conducted by a healthcare facility or laboratory, results will be reported electronically to DPH by the facility or laboratory.)
- Developed a plan for coordinating with students, staff and faculty who are diagnosed with COVID-19, or have been in close contact with someone who has, to ensure that they have adequate space and support to isolate or quarantine
- Developed a plan to work with DPH-designated contact tracers following the identification of any case or close contact. (DPH-designated contact tracers conduct contact tracing in Massachusetts, and include local Boards of Health, both in the municipality where the campus is based and the municipality where the case or close contacts reside, if different than where the campus is may be involved, as well as the Community Tracing Collaborative. Local Board of Health officials will decide whether to conduct contact tracing or assign to the Community Tracing Collaborative.)

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DETECTION & RESPONSE | check the applicable boxes (or indicate "N/A" if not applicable) to certify that you have:

- Designated residential facilities space to immediately isolate students who reside on campus and test positive for COVID-19, and to separately quarantine students who have had close contact with them
- Established protocols to ensure that students in isolation or quarantine have appropriate support and services
- Established specific detection and response protocols for periods when school is not in session, including the following:**

All students living in campus housing who plan to leave campus during any period in which school is not in session should first receive a negative result from a COVID-19 test administered by the college within 72 hours of their planned departure. To the extent possible, residential colleges should also offer COVID-19 tests to students living off campus who plan to return home, within 72 hours of their planned departure.

All students should be informed of the risks associated with going home without first receiving a negative COVID-19 test result.

Residential students who test positive should immediately isolate in campus housing designated and supported for that purpose. Contact tracing for all students who test positive should begin immediately so that students who were in close contact can be provided appropriate quarantine housing and instructions.

Students who previously tested positive for COVID-19 and are isolating in campus housing should remain in place until completing the 10-day isolation period, as prescribed by DPH guidance.

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DETECTION & RESPONSE | check the applicable boxes (or indicate "N/A" if not applicable) to certify that you have:



Established specific detection and response protocols for periods when school is not in session, including the following (continued):

Students who are quarantined in campus housing due to close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 should remain in place until completing 10 days of quarantine, as prescribed by DPH guidance. Quarantined students may leave campus housing on day 8 if they have not had any symptoms and they receive a negative result from a diagnostic test (molecular or antigen) administered on or after day 5 of the quarantine period. Students who are released from quarantine prior to completing the full 14 days must continue to monitor themselves for symptoms for the remainder of the 14-day period. If an individual has experienced ANY symptoms during the quarantine period, even if they have had a negative COVID-19 test, or if the individual indicates they are unwilling or unable to conduct active monitoring of symptoms, they must remain in quarantine through the entire 14-day period.

Institutions should continue to provide essential services to students isolating or quarantining on their campuses during any period in which school is not in session.

Students returning to a residential campus after any period in which school is not in session should be tested for COVID-19 within 72 hours prior to their planned return. Colleges should administer COVID-19 tests immediately to any returning student who returns to campus and has not been tested within 72 hours.

Testing of returning students should apply to all students, whether they live on or off campus. Students who test positive should immediately isolate for at least 10 days, as prescribed by DPH guidance.

Students returning to campus from another country or a state not designated as a lower-risk state by the Department of Public Health must quarantine for 10 days or produce a negative COVID-19 test result that has been administered within 72-hours prior to their arrival in Massachusetts. Students returning without a negative test result must remain in quarantine for 10 days after arrival or until they obtain a negative test result.

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DETECTION & RESPONSE | check the applicable boxes (or indicate "N/A" if not applicable) to certify that you have:

Implemented additional procedures. Please describe them here:

ADDITIONAL DETAILS |

IN THIS SECTION

- + Teaching and Learning for Spring 2021 Semester**
- + Attending Class on Campus**
- + Advising, Success Coaching, Tutoring and Library Use**
- + Experiential Learning and Student Employment**
- + Travel and Transportation**
- + Facilities**

TEACHING AND LEARNING FOR SPRING 2021 SEMESTER

SPRING ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Semester length classes for both undergraduate and graduate students will begin on Monday, February 1. The last day of classes for undergraduates is Monday, May 3, and is immediately followed by two reading days. The final exam period for undergraduates starts Thursday, May 6, and ends Wednesday, May 12. For graduate students, the final day of class is Wednesday, May 12. As was the case in the Fall semester, classes will be held on traditional holidays (including President's Day, Patriot's Day, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Monday). In an effort to limit student travel, there will be no Spring Break.

Some programs operate on eight-week terms. For these programs, there are two eight-week terms in the spring. The first eight-week term session begins on Monday, January 18, and it will end on Friday, March 12. The second eight week-term session begins on Monday, March 15, and ends on Friday, May 7.

UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE REVISED COURSE DELIVERY MODALITIES

As in the fall, the College will be offering approximately 1,100 undergraduate and graduate course sections this spring. The majority of students will have some combination of on-campus and remote courses. As part of our de-densification efforts, as well as to accommodate students who may need to take classes remotely due to illness, self-isolation or quarantine, many on-campus courses will include hybrid and remote components. In order to provide clear expectations for students, the College has developed definitions for our three main types of course modalities. In MyMack, students will be able to search by class type (lecture, lab, etc.) and by the following course modalities.

On-Campus: Instruction is delivered through face-to-face meetings held at regular meeting times in a dedicated physical space; the learner and the instructor are physically located in the same place at the same time. Students are expected to attend class in person. In order to accommodate remote learners as well as students required to isolate or quarantine, some classes will offer the content asynchronously (which means that content is available online for students to access when it best suits their schedules, and assignments are completed according to deadlines) while others will have a multi-modal live experience. (Note: There are a handful of laboratory sections with no remote option. These sections will be identified in MyMack as on-campus only—no remote option.)

Hybrid: Hybrid learning combines real-time, face-to-face teaching whereby some traditional face-to-face contact hours are replaced with required synchronous or asynchronous remote instruction. In order to accommodate remote learners as well as students required to isolate or quarantine, some classes will offer the content asynchronously (which means that content is available online for students to access when it best suits their schedules, and assignments are completed according to deadlines) while others will have a multi-modal live experience.

Remote: Remote courses are courses where teaching and learning takes place online in real time. It includes a set class schedule and required login/class meeting times. Using tools like Zoom and Blackboard Collaborate, faculty have designed learning environments meant to engage remote learners. At the undergraduate level, all remote courses will be synchronous, and approximately 25% of all undergraduate courses will be remote only. At the graduate level, the percentage of courses that will be remote depends on the program, and there are some remote courses that are asynchronous, which means that content is available online for students to access when it best suits their schedules, and assignments are completed according to deadlines.

Remote-only students may register for most on-campus and hybrid courses. Still, it is encouraged that remote students register for remote courses whenever possible, because these courses are specifically designed with remote learners in mind.

Additionally, please note that both resident and commuter students may take remote only classes.

All students should consult with their undergraduate academic advisor or graduate program director with any questions regarding course modality.

In the course syllabus, each professor will outline meetings and course expectations at the start of the term. If students are required to have a period of isolation or quarantine, they will engage in remote learning for the duration of that period.

ADVISING AND REGISTRATION FOR SPRING

Students are able to register for spring classes through the end of the add/drop period. As in any semester, undergraduate students are required to meet with their academic advisor prior to registration, and graduate students are encouraged to consult with their program director regarding planning for registration.

Students will have the option to adjust their schedules up through the add/drop period following the start of the Spring semester (see the calendar page 7 for exact dates), and also have the ability to join wait lists for most closed classes. Students on wait lists will have priority if a seat opens up, and in situations where a wait list becomes long, the College will make efforts to add additional sections if possible.

LAB CLASSES AND PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT EXPECTATIONS

Each department that offers laboratory-based classes will present clear rules for how those classes will be run in a socially distant and safe manner. Some labs will be remote and some will be in-person, and many in-person labs will include remote components.

Each student will purchase their own personal protective equipment (PPE) – lab coat, goggles and face covering – as they would have in prior semesters. If gloves are part of the required PPE, these will be provided. If a face covering breaks in a lab, one will be made available, but it remains the students' responsibility to ensure that they have face coverings and wear them. The Bookstore has PPE equipment for sale for students.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Except where otherwise stated in this document, or if modified in the future, the College will be following all normal academic policies and procedures for the Spring semester. Academic policies and procedures can be found in the College catalog.



ATTENDING CLASS ON CAMPUS

The College made changes to its facilities to allow safe social distancing by de-densifying classrooms and other spaces across campus. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to remain vigilant and follow recommended social distancing practices, which are posted around campus.

REDUCED CLASSROOM DENSITY

The number of seats in each classroom has been reduced by 50 percent. All desks are facing the front and should not be moved, so as to maintain the appropriate distance between students. This means that in some sections, not all students enrolled will fit in the room at the same time. In these cases, the faculty will arrange for some students to access the course through a remote alternative. Faculty members will provide details for their courses.

PROTECTIONS FOR FACULTY

Faculty will stand at an appropriate social distance from students and will utilize a rolling plexiglass board for added protection. Even when teaching behind the rolling plexiglass, faculty must still wear a face covering.

CLASSROOM PROTOCOLS

It is recommended that students sit in the same seats for each class meeting. Seats and desks should not be moved. Items such as pens and iPads should not be shared. Students must wear a face covering while in class. Those who refuse will be asked to leave class by the instructor. Refusal to comply with these regulations will lead to a disciplinary hearing, with penalties up to and including expulsion for multiple violations. In addition, faculty who feel concerned may call Merrimack College Police Department at x5911, who will come to remove the student.

SELF-DISINFECTING SPACE

Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes are provided outside every classroom and lab and inside each classroom. Students are asked to sanitize their hands and wipe down their desks before they sit down. Faculty are asked to do the same with any surface they touch.

ENTERING AND EXITING CLASSROOMS

Students entering a classroom are asked to remain outside the room and socially distant until the previous class has exited. To appropriately social distance, students should wait in larger areas such as lobbies or outside buildings until it is time to enter the classroom.

AFTER-HOURS USE OF CLASSROOMS AND ACADEMIC SPACES

Many campus spaces will be open in the evenings for student use. In these spaces, students must practice social distancing and must not move any furniture. Students are asked to wipe down their spaces before and after each use. If a space is full, students are asked to use an alternative space.



ADVISING, SUCCESS COACHING, TUTORING AND LIBRARY USE

All academic services will continue in the spring and are accessible to all undergraduate and graduate students, with many of them provided remotely. For any questions or concerns, please contact the Academic Success Center at asc@merrimack.edu or (978) 837-5278.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Academic advisors are an important point of contact regarding the academic side of returning to campus. All academic advising relationships will continue as usual. Most, if not all, of these conversations will take place over Zoom or some other virtual platform.

SUCCESS COACHING

Success Coaches will continue to be available to students for one-on-one conversations. Most of these will take place over Zoom or another virtual platform. Success coaches are available all semester. Contact (978) 837-5278 or asc@merrimack.edu. More information about coaching can be found on the [Academic Success Center's webpage](#).

TUTORING AND STUDY PARTNER PROGRAMS

Tutors and study partners will be available in the spring. Many sessions will take place over Zoom. Math tutoring will be delivered over Blackboard Collaborate. There may also be some on-campus tutoring with appropriate health and safety protocols in place in the [Writing, Tutoring and Math Centers](#). Students can contact tutors or study partners at these centers by emailing tutoring@merrimack.edu.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

The [Accessibility Services Office](#) is available to help students with specific questions or concerns. Most one-on-one meetings will take place over Zoom. Students can contact the Accessibility Services Office at (978) 837-5722 or accessibilityservices@merrimack.edu.

McQUADE LIBRARY

The services of the library will be fully operational. The library will be open as a place for students to study, though there has been a change in the layout of chairs and tables to allow for social distancing. Plexiglass dividers have been placed on tables for additional protection. Furniture should not be moved.

For the Spring semester, the library will be open only to the Merrimack campus community.

More information can be found on the [library webpage](#). Librarians can be reached at mcquade@merrimack.edu, at (978) 837-5177 or through text message at (978) 228-2275.



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

- Academic programs with accreditation requirements for experiential learning, field experience and/or internships will work with the relevant accrediting body to create safe and substantive alternatives.
- Academic programs that have College requirements for internships, field experience and/or experiential learning have been adjusted so students do not need to leave campus to fulfill them.
- Course-based experiential learning requirements and extracurricular programs with experiential components have been adjusted so that students do not need to leave campus.
- Programs that have an off-campus experiential learning component required by an accrediting body or as part of their curriculum should work with their deans to devise a plan. Individual professors who have an off-campus experiential learning component as part of a course must reach out to the **Director of the Stevens Service Learning Center** to start the approval process.

OFF-CAMPUS JOBS AND ON-CAMPUS JOBS

Due to the economic impacts of COVID-19, there are fewer job opportunities in the area, and due to the health risks, there are fewer places where students can go and safely return to campus.

As a result:

- Off-campus employment is discouraged for residential students.
- The College has expanded its on-campus employment opportunities to help students with the greatest financial need.
- On-campus jobs can be found on the **Handshake** webpage. Additional jobs will be added throughout the Spring semester as opportunities become available.

For more information about working on campus, contact Student Employment at studentemployment@merrimack.edu.

O'BRIEN CENTER FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The O'Brien Center is hearing from employers every day. Employer responses vary by industry, location, job function and more. Some events and positions have been canceled but most are just being modified to address current challenges. There are still many opportunities available for students to learn about and pursue. O'Brien Center programming, meetings and outreach are available remotely. Students should take advantage and not miss out on opportunities to keep focused on their career goals. Contact the O'Brien Center to understand how to navigate this market.

Students can reach out directly to the **O'Brien Center for Career Development** and can also review available positions on the College's **Handshake website**.



TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION

The College currently has a travel ban in place, and this ban will remain in place for the Spring semester or until further notice. The College will continue to evaluate the risk factors associated with travel, along with the status of the CDC travel advisory and the Massachusetts COVID-19 Travel Order, in determining if this ban will be lifted. In a limited number of circumstances, travel related to research, recruiting, student activities and clubs, and athletics may be approved. Approval for travel will be made at the sole discretion of the Executive Vice President. It is expected that restrictions on travel will persist until the threat posed to travelers and the community has decreased or been adequately mitigated. The College does not regulate the personal travel of staff and faculty but will inform them about government requirements regarding travel where applicable.

COLLEGE VEHICLE USE

Employees are not permitted to ride in College vehicles unless necessary. All conference and event-related travel must be approved. In the event that an employee must ride in a vehicle with another employee, both employees must wear face coverings. Specific rules regarding occupancy and cleaning of College vehicles have been developed and are available at the MCPD and will also be posted in the vehicles.

STUDENTS LEAVING CAMPUS

From our experience during the fall we know that travel away from campus by residential students substantially increases the risk of contracting COVID-19. Once the Spring semester begins, Merrimack College strongly advises students to refrain from extended personal travel until such time as they return home or move elsewhere after the semester has concluded. Extended personal travel is defined as leaving the area of the campus community overnight or engaging in any activity off campus that would increase the risk of COVID-19 exposure.

Students should refrain from travel over weekends, on holidays or otherwise from the time they arrive at the start of the Spring semester until the time they depart at the end of the semester. Merrimack will be providing expanded services and events during weekends.



TRAVELING TO MASSACHUSETTS FROM OUT OF STATE

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts travel order went into effect on August 1, 2020, and requires that all visitors traveling to Massachusetts from any state outside of Hawaii must complete the **Massachusetts Travel Form** and pursuant to State Order, must produce either a negative COVID-19 test administered up to 72-hours prior to arriving in Massachusetts or quarantine for at least 10 days upon arrival in Massachusetts. A traveler who is required to quarantine may be released from the obligation to continue quarantining upon obtaining proof of a negative test from a molecular test approved by the FDA for emergency use, administered after the person's arrival in Massachusetts.

TRAVEL QUARANTINE

Employees and students who travel by airplane, overnight or to identified COVID-19-restricted states will quarantine for 10 days before coming back to campus, regardless of the reason for traveling. This policy ensures compliance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts travel order, applicable to travel from specified destinations. The College will not support or pay for any travel for any student or employee unless pre-approved. This includes team athletic travel, student and mission trips, admissions and athlete recruiting trips. All travel exceptions must be approved by the President or Executive Vice President; additional rules for pre-approval will be updated as state policies are amended. Faculty, staff or students who are commuting into Massachusetts to attend school or work meet an exemption from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Travel Order and do not need a negative COVID-19 test result or to quarantine.

STUDY ABROAD

Study abroad programs, both semester-long and short-term, are canceled for the 2020-2021 academic year. Students are encouraged to consult with the **Office of Global Education** regarding future possibilities.

RIDE SHARING

At this time, we do not recommend using ride shares during COVID-19; however, should a ride share be needed, all requests should be directed to Lot A through the Elm Street entrance.



FACILITIES

BUILDING CAPACITY

To comply with social distancing guidelines, the capacity of buildings has been adjusted in various ways, such as reduced seating in classrooms, dining locations, lounge spaces and meeting rooms. In addition, the capacity of residence hall buildings has been reduced, and triple and quad dorm rooms have been converted into double-occupancy rooms.

BUILDING FLOW

Measures to improve pedestrian flow within buildings include wall signage and floor decals to encourage six feet of distancing. In addition, directional signage has been installed in dining locations where queuing and waiting occurs.

BATHROOMS

To promote at least six feet of distance between individuals, use of restrooms should be limited based on the size of the space. Hands should be washed afterward following public health guidance.

ELEVATORS

Elevators should be limited to one rider at a time when possible, and all riders should wear a face covering and avoid touching the elevator buttons, if possible. Upon departing the elevator, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol.

OFFICES

Multiple-occupancy office spaces, such as cubicles or shared offices, have been evaluated for either plexiglass installations, barrier modifications, furniture reconfiguration or reduced occupancy.

BARRIERS INSTALLED TO REDUCE TRANSMISSION

Plexiglass barriers have been, and will continue to be, installed in a variety of public-facing counters and offices across campus. Movable barriers have been installed in all residence hall bedrooms for residents to use between socially distant beds.

CLEANING IN BUILDINGS

Cleaning protocols within buildings have been modified to be more frequent and stringent. Use of additional electrostatic sanitizing sprayers and EPA-registered COVID-19-killing green cleaning solutions will continue on campus.

HVAC

In modern HVAC systems on campus, the College installed higher MERV value air filters, and are conducting more frequent preventative maintenance and adjusting air handling units to allow an increased amount of fresh air into buildings. Use of operable windows in buildings will continue, to allow fresh air to circulate.

ROGERS CENTER EVENTS

The Rogers Center will continue to be closed to all outside visitors, and all public events are canceled. Students and faculty will use the facility for classes and student events.



IN THIS SECTION

- + Living on Campus**
- + Commuter Students**
- + Graduate Students**
- + International Students**
- + Students with Medical Concerns**
- + Post Office Packages and Mailing**
- + Dining**
- + Student Organizations and Meetings**
- + Athletics, Recreation and Fitness Center**
- + Pandemic Safety Policy for Student Behavior**

LIVING ON CAMPUS

FALL 2020

In the Fall of 2020, over 2,100 students elected to live on campus and take part in a residential experience. Although it was different than previous years, residents had a positive experience while maintaining all COVID-19 guidelines for safe living. Merrimack de-densified spaces by eliminating all triple and quad rooms, installed movable barriers in all rooms and reconfigured common spaces. Residential students could not travel between assigned buildings, but through outdoor programming in tents across campus, programs facilitated by the Office of Student Involvement and fire tables placed in outside areas, Merrimack students were able to come together and experience the signature community that makes Merrimack their home away from home.

SPRING 2021

HOUSING ASSIGNMENTS / RESIDENTIAL GROUPS

Residential students will remain in their fall assignments for the Spring of 2021. Housing policies for the Spring semester will mirror the same policies from the fall. If students would like to make a room change, consolidate with friends or request someone new in their space, they should contact Residence Life at reslife@merrimack.edu.



Students who are currently commuting, experiencing classes remotely or on a leave of absence and want to return to on-campus housing should email the Office of Residence Life at reslife@merrimack.edu. All students currently not in housing will be sent further information on how to register to live on campus. Spaces are available in all residence areas and Merrimack welcomes any student who would like to be a residential member of our community. Students who wish to live on campus must complete a Housing Interest Form on MyMack. To complete the form please do the following:

- Login to MyMack
- Click on Student Info at the top of the screen
- Click on Residence Life on the left side of the screen
- Click on Forms and then click on Housing Interest Form

Residence Life professional and paraprofessional staff will continue to live on campus and promote a healthy and safe community environment. Merrimack will continue to encourage social distancing, and face coverings will continue to be required in any spaces of the residence halls outside of personal rooms. Visitors (including students who live in other residence halls) will not be allowed in residence halls. Residential students are permitted only in their assigned buildings.

Each student has been assigned to a residential cohort/pod based on room proximity within the residence halls. Residential cohorts will remain the same from the Fall semester and can be found in MyMack. Room changes will be made only in extreme circumstances in order to help maintain the health and safety of students.

HOUSING AND DE-DENSIFICATION

Residential spaces have been de-densified for safety, including elimination of all triple and quad residence assignments. In all bedrooms, movable barriers have been placed for safety.

SPRING 2021 HOUSING ASSIGNMENTS

Housing assignments and roommate information are posted on MyMack. As in the fall, each student has been assigned a residential cohort based on room proximity within the residence halls. To view assignments, roommate and residential cohort/pod information, log onto MyMack. For any questions, email reslife@merrimack.edu.

All students were required to sign the 2020-2021 Housing Agreement when they entered into housing. This full-year agreement encompasses all residential life policies as well as the COVID-19 policies of the College. This agreement remains in effect through the Spring of 2021.

WHAT TO BRING

All students are encouraged to pack lightly this spring and focus on bringing only essential and important items to campus. Bringing fewer possessions will also make for a smoother and faster move-in. All students are also encouraged to have a bag of essential items organized in the event that they need to be relocated or if students need to leave campus on short notice.

MOVE-IN DETAILS

The move-in process will begin on January 27, 2021, and end on January 29, 2021. Students will be asked to sign up for their move-in time in advance through MyMack. New students are encouraged to select a move-in time on January 27 to participate in orientation later that afternoon. Communication regarding the move-in sign-up process will be sent in the beginning of January.

Prior to your arrival onto the campus, we encourage all students and their families to have candid conversations about student's departure plans, and plan for what your steps may be should you need to enact that departure plan.





The following are important details about the move-in process:

- Students should arrive on campus during the day and the time they signed up for in MyMack, specifically at the start of their move-in time block.
- Enter campus through the Rock Ridge Road Gate (Elm Street) and be prepared to show a Mack Card and CoVerified app for compliance with the symptom checker.
- Students will be permitted 2 people to assist with their two hour move in and they must fill out the **Waiver of Liability and Assumption of Risk** and **COVID-19 Daily Screening** form at the gate.
- Once on campus, students will proceed directly to the COVID-19 Testing Center in the MPR of the Sakowich Campus Center, where students will then get their baseline test.
- Students who have spoken to the Office of COVID-19 Campus Surveillance after having previously testing positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have been cleared through CoVerified can proceed directly to the Residence Life check-in table located in the Warrior's Den
- After completing their COVID-19 test, students will proceed to the Residence Life check-in table located in the Warrior's Den.
- Students will then head to Cascia Hall to obtain their 36-hour grab-and-go meals to take back to their space.
- All residential students must quarantine in their assigned room until they receive their negative test result and an all clear email is sent from the College.
- All students are encouraged to pack lightly and focus on bringing only essential and important items to campus.
- All students are also encouraged to have a COVID-19 bag of essential items organized in the event that they need to be relocated or need to leave campus on short notice.

GUESTS AND VISITORS IN RESIDENCE HALLS

To limit the spread of COVID-19, it is necessary to limit contact between people, particularly in residence halls. With that in mind, the following protocols were put in place in the fall and will continue to be strictly enforced during the Spring 2021 semester:

- No outside guests will be permitted on the campus with exception of family members.
- No overnight guests are permitted in residence halls until further notice.
- Guests are limited to only immediate family members/guardians and must remain outdoors.
- Guests are not permitted inside any buildings.
- Guest registration must be completed for family members /guardians to come to campus 24 hours in advance through our current online Guest Registration form. No on-site registration will be allowed.
- Residence hall units will maintain current living capacities.
- Resident hall guest policies are the following:
 - Residential units will continue to be able to host guests. Those guests can only come from the same building. No guests are allowed if they come from outside the residence hall.
 - Residential students are allowed no more than one guest per resident.
 - In the event there are more than 5 residents in a unit, then the maximum number of guests and residents must be no greater than 10.
 - Those students who live in townhouses that have more than 10 residents will not be able to have guests.
 - All guests to a residential unit should be approved by all the students living in the unit.
 - Guests and their hosts must wear face coverings at all times in the residential unit during the visit.

As the College experienced in the fall, the Commonwealth may at its discretion adjust rules based on the cases of COVID-19 across the state. Merrimack will comply with such changes and will notify the community as they are amended.

It was very clear that in the Fall, students who left the campus for the weekend or for short trips were at higher risk of contracting COVID-19. The College strongly discourages residential students from leaving the campus on the weekends or for short trips to avoid contracting the virus and bringing it back to campus.

FURNITURE IN RESIDENCE HALLS

Furniture in residence halls has been configured to comply with social distancing best practices and therefore cannot be moved or removed. Layouts have been designed with safety and cleanliness in mind.

RESIDENTIAL HALL CLEANING

Students, as usual, are responsible for cleaning their own bedrooms, apartments and other non-common spaces. Students should clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces (tables, hard-backed chairs, doorknobs, light switches, phones, tablets, touch screens, remote controls, keyboards, handles, desks, toilets, sinks) daily in their bedrooms and other non-common spaces. The CDC provides recommendations for cleaning different types of surfaces, including porous surfaces, nonporous surfaces and electronics. On a more frequent basis, facilities staff will clean residential common spaces, including common bathrooms.

RESIDENTIAL PARKING

To avoid the prevalence of leaving campus and risking transmission of the virus, and to ensure adequate parking for commuter students, the College has limited the number of overnight spaces available for residential students. As was the case in the fall, there will be no off-campus parking accommodations, and the number of overnight spaces will continue to be extremely limited. Students who need to have a car for health-related reasons can petition for a parking space. All others will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis with no guarantee of approval.

RESIDENCE HALL PARTIES / REGISTERED EVENTS

No registered events will be permitted inside residence halls until further notice. This policy will be strictly enforced to assure the health and safety of our community. Events will be allowed in spaces on campus such as McQuade Café and Pizzeria and Majors & Minors Eatery. Additional outdoor venues have been added across campus for programs, events and meetings.



COMMUTER STUDENTS

COMMUTER STUDENT COMMUTER AGREEMENT

All commuter students are required to read and sign the 2020-2021 Commuter Agreement, which can be found on MyMack. Students who do not sign this agreement prior to arriving on campus may not be granted access to campus.

ARRIVING ON CAMPUS

Any student that tests positive must follow guidelines and isolate for 10 days. See [page 25](#) for details.

SPRING 2021 RETURN TO CAMPUS

All undergraduate and graduate commuter students will return to campus to be baseline tested on the weekend of January 30 and 31, 2021. Students can walk in to the testing center between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on these days.

The following are important details about arriving onto the campus:

- Enter the campus through the gate at Elm Street. Please show your ID and CoVerified app for compliance with the symptom checker.
- Once on campus, proceed directly to the Testing Center in the MPR of the Sakowich Campus Center.
- Students will then get their baseline test.
- Once the test is complete, students should leave the campus and quarantine until receiving a negative test result.
- All students are also encouraged to have a family conversation regarding their individual care plan should they need to quarantine or isolate for COVID-19 precautions.

SOCIAL EVENTS AND MEETINGS

In addition to attending classes on campus, commuter students are always invited to attend social events and club and organization meetings, and to participate in co-curricular activities that are sponsored by the Office of Student Involvement and take place in areas other than the residence halls. Commuter students will not be permitted inside the residence areas on campus. The Commuter Lounge on the second floor of the Sakowich Campus Center will remain open and available to students. This space is considered a common space on campus and will be cleaned in accordance with the College's protocols.

MASSACHUSETTS TRAVEL ORDER EXEMPTION

Students commuting from outside of Massachusetts for class daily are exempt from the Massachusetts travel order.

PARKING

All commuter students are required to have a 2020-2021 Commuter Student Parking Pass. Commuter students can request a 2020-2021 Commuter Parking Pass on [MyMack](#).



GRADUATE STUDENTS

GRADUATE STUDENT COMMUTER AGREEMENT

All graduate commuter students are required to read and sign the 2020-2021 Graduate Commuter Agreement, which can be found on [MyMack](#). Students who do not sign this agreement prior to arriving on campus may not be granted access to campus.

ARRIVING ON CAMPUS

Undergraduate and graduate commuter students must follow the same guidelines as everyone else when entering campus. [See page 14](#) for details. Commuter students must also follow the College baseline and weekly testing procedures. Any student who tests positive for COVID-19 must follow guidelines and self-isolate for 14 days. [See page 25](#) for details.

PARKING

All graduate commuter students are required to have a 2020-2021 Commuter Student Parking Pass. Graduate students can request a 2020-2021 graduate Parking Pass on MyMack.

SPRING 2021 GRADUATE STUDENT CALENDAR

For graduate programs that have a Spring 1 term, courses begin on January 18, 2021. For programs that are built around a full Spring semester, courses begin on February 1, 2021, and will end on May 12, 2021. The Spring 2 term will run from March 15 to May 7, 2021. All graduate students will receive their start dates directly from their program directors. The Spring 2021 semester ends on May 12, 2021.

GRADUATE COMMUTER LOUNGE

The Graduate Commuter Lounge in Cushing 300 will remain open and available to students. This space is considered a common space on campus and will be cleaned in accordance with the College's protocols.

GRADUATE CAMPUS FELLOWSHIPS

As both students and fellows working on campus, graduate students with campus fellowship placements must follow all campus policies and health measures while on campus. Fellowship work that can be performed remotely will be coordinated on an individual basis. In the event a fellowship placement requires a graduate student whose academic program's courses are all remote to be on campus regularly, the student is required to pay the COVID-19 mitigation fee and follow testing protocols. [See page 63](#).

GRADUATE OFF-CAMPUS FELLOWSHIPS

Off-campus fellowships are being evaluated site by site to determine plans. The College is also in contact with school districts to understand each town's spring plans. Graduate students with off-campus fellowship placements will be contacted regarding their fellowship placements and specific protocols by their program directors.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Merrimack recognizes that COVID-19 creates barriers for international students, including suspension of travel to the United States, suspension of visa services, limited international flight availability and more. International students will be required to produce a negative COVID-19 test result that has been administered during the previous 72 hours before boarding a flight to the United States of America and should provide the same results to deanofstudents@merrimack.edu before arrival onto the campus. The Director of Global Education and International Student Support will work with each student to coordinate plans to travel back to campus and will communicate all protocols.

Please bear in mind that policies with the Department of Homeland Security are subject to change and students should review these instructions and adhere to them. Any questions on this should be referred to the Director of Global Education and International Student Support at iss@merrimack.edu. Currently, the Department of Homeland Security's Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) has extended the spring temporary exception for online classes in the spring and summer semesters in response to schools moving online because of COVID-19. However, this policy applies (currently) to all ACTIVE (non-INITIAL) Status F-1 students only. Should the current guidance continue through Spring 2021, then all INITIAL status students should anticipate having to fulfill a minimum in-person requirement. The College continues to monitor Department of Homeland Security guidance and will update students accordingly.

STUDENTS WITH MEDICAL CONCERNS

Students with medical concerns are advised to communicate with their doctors about the risks associated with being on campus, including twice a week COVID-19 testing. Students who need to advance their education remotely are afforded that opportunity. Please contact the Office of the Dean of Students Office at (978) 837-5175 to discuss any individual medical concerns or questions related to the decision to return in the spring.

STUDENTS WITH DOCUMENTED DISABILITY

All student accommodation requests should be referred to the **Accessibility Services Office** and each student circumstance will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

POST OFFICE PACKAGES AND MAILING

The College has purchased an automated unattended self-service package locker system where students can pick up packages 24/7. This new system will be fully operational in the spring. The first lockers will be located on the second floor of the Sak near the post office and the college anticipates adding more around campus in the future.

DINING

Providing students with a variety of food options while on campus has been a priority for the College. Whether it is comfort food from the Comfort Station in Sparky's Place, sushi made fresh daily at the Warrior's Den, grabbing a freshly toasted sandwich from the Wood Fire Oven, a quick coffee at Dunkin' Donuts before class or ordering groceries via GrocersPod, the College is working to make sure that a collection of offerings are available to students to satisfy any craving while at their home away from home.

Merrimack students swipe for over 3,500 meals a day at 9 locations around campus. Please be sure to visit Merrimack's **Dining page** for more information regarding our locations on campus.

MEAL PLANS

To reduce the need to travel off campus and to maintain a safe and varied campus dining experience for students, the College has created universal meal plans for all residential students. While the price is the same, the meal plan offers more options for students between swipe meals and Mack Bucks. Additionally, Mack Bucks can be used to order groceries through GrocersPod. Meal plan options can be found on MyMack. In an effort to maximize students eating on campus and minimize students leaving campus, Merrimack has increased the number of food venues and dining options.

The College offers three meal plan options for residents and one for commuters:

- 19 meals/\$50 Mack Bucks
- 13 meals/\$450 Mack Bucks
- 7 meals/\$1,000 Mack Bucks (for students in units with kitchens only)
- 5 meal plan (commuters only)



DINING LOCATIONS

Within indoor existing dining locations, seat counts have been reduced, queuing areas modified and takeout food encouraged to allow for social distancing and proper social density. Food stations at Sparky's have been renovated to reduce self-service and provide more efficient serving. The Warrior's Den provides mobile ordering through Bite U, as well as kiosk and in-person ordering options. In addition, the Sanctuary Coffeehouse, Dunkin' Donuts and Mindful MAC will provide mobile ordering and pickup.

Sparky's now boasts 10 newly configured stations to serve our students fresh, vibrant and creative dishes. There is always something new for students to try as well as favorite comfort foods that students have come to rely on. When swiping into Sparky's, students have access to all stations (each station can be visited as many times a student likes) in Sparky's.

Here are just a few examples of choices students have when they swipe into Sparky's:

COMFORT STATION

Sometimes we all need food that soothes the soul! At the Comfort Station, students can find meals with more of a hearty feel. From flank steak to freshly baked chicken pot pie, students will always find a true Warrior meal here.

CRAFT IT DELI

Daily rustic deli sandwich options. Try an avocado chipotle chicken sandwich or a roasted vegetable wrap.

Other locations on campus:

MCQUADE CAFÉ AND PIZZERIA

A great location to grab a slice is now open in McQuade Library. The McQuade Café and Pizzeria offers a variety of pizza slice options (gluten-free, too!) as well as salads and grab-and-go offerings to keep students fueled while studying away or as a late-night weekend option. The Café is open Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-7 p.m., and the Pizzeria is open 11 a.m.-12 a.m. seven days a week!

FOOD TRUCK

There is nothing better than a Food Truck taco or fully-loaded chili cheese nachos! Each day, the Food Truck provides choices that are quick, easy and sure to please.

WOOD FIRED OVEN (WEATHER PERMITTING)

From Cuban sandwiches to the meltiest meatball sub (and always a vegetarian option!), the Wood Fired Oven outside of the Sak has some of the best freshly toasted sandwiches students can find.

THE WARRIOR'S DEN

A favorite student hangout, The Warrior's Den is home to the Max Mexican, subconnection, SaladToss and Smoothies. We also offer freshly brewed Starbucks coffee, homemade desserts and pastries, and a wide variety of snacks and beverages.

MONGOLIAN GRILL

From a bagel sandwich bar to a delicious and filling steak, the Mongolian Grill is always testing new limits.

SIMPLE SERVINGS

An allergy-friendly station for those with food sensitivities. Visit this station to find freshly roasted vegetables, rotisserie chicken and perfectly baked sweet potatoes. Keep it simple and healthy!

MINDFUL MAC

Do not forget every good workout deserves to be fueled with our delicious stir-fry made your way to keep you going. Use a meal swipe and get your stir-fry, beverage and a piece of fruit. Open 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on weekdays.

DUNKIN' DONUTS AND SANCTUARY COFFEEHOUSE

Merrimack runs on Dunkin'...or maybe just caffeine! We get it, that 8 a.m. class would be tough to get through without that iced coffee or tea. Dunkin' Donuts is now open 6:30 a.m.-3 p.m. seven days a week and the Sanctuary 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Stop by for a quick breakfast at Dunkin' or at lunch enjoy grab-n-go sandwiches, salads or snacks at Sanctuary.

MAJORS & MINORS

Majors & Minors is a new dining location outside of the Rogers Center. This new location will offer toasty sandwiches, comfort foods and vegetarian options.

AUGIE'S PLACE RESTAURANT*

As in the fall, Augie's Place Restaurant will be opening for reservations. Students will be able to reserve a table during one of two seating times and will offer a small plate menu as well as beer, wine and cocktails.

*For Merrimack College students 21 years of age or older. Merrimack College and government-issued identification required for entry.

GROCERY DELIVERY

To reduce the need to leave campus for groceries, Merrimack has partnered with GrocersPod to create a Merrimack specific experience where students can order groceries (and other essentials) from a nearby supermarket and have them delivered to the campus. Students are able to pay for groceries using Mack Bucks and dining dollars. Delivery is free and deliveries are made to 23 Rock Ridge Road several times during the day. For information about GrocersPod or to order groceries online [visit the website](#).

OFF-CAMPUS FOOD DELIVERY POLICY

Due to campus access concerns, delivery food for students, faculty and staff from off-campus vendors will be limited. Food delivery drivers will not be able to drive directly to campus buildings, but will be directed to the Elm Street entrance where there is a designated pickup/drop-off location in Lot A.

FOOD SERVICE WORKER SAFETY TRAINING

All food service workers receive extensive training from Sodexo, the College's food service provider. This program provides in-depth education on food safety processes and procedures, including training on personal hygiene; proper use of PPE; cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing of surfaces; accepting deliveries; food storage; and food production.

DINING FOR STUDENTS IN SELF-QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION

Students in self-quarantine or isolation who cannot go home will have their meals delivered.

FOOD ALLERGIES AND DIETARY NEEDS

Students with dietary concerns or simply looking to learn more about our healthy options are invited to reach out to Registered Dietitian Laura Klotz, RD, LDN. Laura is available for individual consultations on topics such as food allergies, My Zone, celiac disease or other special dietary needs, navigating the dining locations to find healthier menu options, vegan and vegetarian nutrition and more. For dietary questions contact Laura at Laura.Klotz@Sodexo.com.

MY ZONE

A gluten-, peanut- and tree nut-free pantry where food items needed by customers with celiac disease or food allergies can be housed with precautions against cross-contact. Examples of products available in My Zone include gluten-free pasta, gluten-free bread, wraps and desserts.

SIMPLE SERVING STATION

All foods offered at the Simple Serving Station are prepared exclusively with ingredients that do not contain: milk, eggs, wheat, soy, shellfish, peanuts, tree nuts and gluten-containing ingredients. The lunch and dinner menus change daily.





STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND MEETINGS

The Office of Student Involvement understands the importance of engaging with others in the campus community. In conjunction with student organizations, the College has successfully hosted over 125 in-person and virtual events that attracted more than 3,000 students in attendance. Some of the most successful events in the fall were bingo and trivia nights, spoken word, food trucks, movie nights, DIY activities, and a variety of leadership training on topics of race, gender and sexuality. The College will continue to be creative and flexible in planning meetings, events and programs while following College guidelines and recommendations.

STUDENT AND OFFICE OF STUDENT INVOLVEMENT SPONSORED MEETINGS, EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING

All in-person student organization events, programs and meetings will need to be approved by the Office of Student Involvement at least two weeks prior to the event. All events will require a signup ahead of time and must have a virtual component for students. This signup will help monitor event capacity. If a large number of people are anticipated, multiple locations and “delivery” service for students should be considered. For example, for an instructed paint night, a signup would be required, with an option for supplies to be delivered to students’ residence halls. As the months will be colder at the beginning of the Spring semester indoor venues will be designated to allow for the continuation of a robust programming calendar.

In-person meetings, events and programs can be held for a limited number of people based on the gathering guidelines of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Students must adhere to social distancing guidelines and wear face coverings throughout the duration of the meeting. Whenever possible, virtual components such as Zoom, Google Hangouts and conference calls should be implemented for all meetings, events and programs to allow all students the opportunity to participate.

All groups will be required to take attendance at meetings through the Warrior Network and submit it to the Office of Student Involvement in the event that contact tracing becomes necessary. All meeting spaces will have a standard setup that includes social distancing of tables and chairs. Students will be asked to wipe down surfaces before and after use. The Office of Student Involvement will hold a monthly meeting with all student organizations to review updates and changes to any policies regarding meetings.

When warm weather permits, outdoor events will be encouraged. All attendees are required to check in with the Office of Student Involvement staff or event coordinator. According to College and state guidelines, face coverings are required at all events. Hand sanitizing stations will be available for participants to access at every event. Tables and chairs are required to be spaced six feet apart. The Office of Student Involvement will hold a monthly meeting with all student organizations to review any updates and changes to current policies regarding events and programs.

Merrimack College follows the Commonwealth of Massachusetts guidelines for inside and outside spaces to be used for in person meetings, events, or programs. At the time of publication, no student organizations, meetings or social events with over 10 people inside and 25 people outside will be allowed on campus. The College follows all Massachusetts guidelines and will adapt policies if guidelines are modified.

SOCIAL EVENTS AND GATHERINGS

Gatherings in indoor and outdoor spaces will be limited in size, in accordance with public health guidelines, both on and off campus. Hosting and attending large parties or registered events has been and will continue to be prohibited for Spring 2021 because such events are incompatible with social distancing that is necessary to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Student organizations should refer to the information in the previous section regarding student organization related events and gatherings, and work with the Office of Student Involvement to host events within the guidelines. Given our shared interest in controlling the spread of the disease, hosting or attending large parties or other events without approval will be a violation of this policy and result in disciplinary action.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Socially distanced daily Mass will be held Monday through Friday at 12:30 p.m. in Austin Chapel for those already on campus and those who have been cleared to be on campus.

Live Mass will continue to be broadcast over Zoom for those unable to attend in person. On Sunday, two Masses will be held for students, at 12:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Those on campus and cleared to be on campus may attend in person but these Masses will also be broadcast over Zoom.

As there will be classes held on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Monday, we will celebrate the liturgies for the Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 1, in Austin Hall Chapel and via Zoom, the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Friday, April 2, at 3:00 p.m. in Austin Hall Chapel and via Zoom, and Easter Sunday Masses at 12:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. in Austin Hall Chapel and via Zoom.



ATHLETICS, RECREATION AND FITNESS CENTER

CLUB SPORTS, INTRAMURALS AND RECREATION

Club sport competition will remain suspended for the start of the Spring semester and will be reassessed as the semester advances. Clubs will be permitted to participate in noncontact group activity with prior approval from the Department of Athletics. Off-campus club sport activity may be permitted pending review of facilities used, transportation and participation plans.

Intramural activity will continue during the Spring semester on a limited basis, with a continued effort to offer activities that will best promote appropriate distancing and support the health and safety of all participants. The athletic fields and outdoor track will be available for recreational use at times when they are not scheduled for varsity use. Recreational skating hours will also be offered with capacity limits. Additionally, two new outdoor basketball courts have been added just in front of Hamel Health Center.

FITNESS CENTER

The Fitness Center will remain open this spring for use by students, faculty and staff in accordance with State guidelines for gym/fitness center operations. In order to best promote the health and safety of all facility patrons, the protocols enacted for the fall semester, including social distancing, respacing of fitness equipment, and expanded cleaning and disinfecting of equipment and surfaces, will continue through the spring semester. Capacity limits will continue to be enforced through the use of the online reservation system. In-person group exercise classes may resume on a limited basis and with limited capacity. Additionally, remote group exercise classes will continue to be offered at no cost to members of the Merrimack community.

DIVISION I ATHLETICS

Merrimack, in partnership with the other members of both the Northeast Conference (NEC) and Hockey East, is continuing to conduct winter basketball and ice hockey seasons. All activity will continue to be consistent with or exceed the policies and guidelines established by Merrimack College, the NEC, Hockey East, the NCAA and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including COVID-19 testing up to three (3) times per week for student-athletes while in their competitive seasons. Travel will continue to be limited to exclude overnight trips whenever possible and air travel will not be permitted.

As announced at the time of the postponement of fall sports (men's and women's cross country, field hockey, football, men's and women's soccer and women's volleyball), the NEC Council of Presidents has committed to exploring opportunities to reschedule the competition season to this spring, in alignment with the rescheduled NCAA championships. Any student-athlete intending to compete in the Spring semester will need to be registered and enrolled as either a residential or a commuter student. Remote students will not be permitted to participate in athletic activity.

It is anticipated that spring sport schedules, as well as the schedules for fall sports competing this spring, will be modified to include a reduction in non-conference competition and a focus on regional opponents in an effort to limit extended travel. Overnight trips will be limited to the extent possible and air travel will not be permitted.

Student-athletes will return to campus at the end of January as part of the College's move-in plan. There will not be an early move-in period for student-athletes. Athletic activity will resume after move-in is completed and all required COVID-19 testing has been conducted.

It is unlikely that spectators will be permitted at athletic events on campus for the remainder of the academic year.

All home games will be livestreamed on merrimackathletics.com and on NECFrontRow.com.

PANDEMIC SAFETY POLICY FOR STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Merrimack will not tolerate non-compliance with our policies and practices as they relate to keeping the campus safe. The Community Standards reflect changes to our Code of Conduct that will hold students accountable for things like refusing to wear a face covering, or not taking COVID-19 tests. To date, there have been over 300 individual cases addressed involving infractions of the COVID-19 policies, and sanctions have ranged from warnings through a separation from the College.



IN THIS SECTION

- + Tuition and Fees 2020-2021**
- + Refund Policy**
- + CARES Act**
- + Risks and Options**
- + Questions and Concerns**
- + Exhibits**

TUITION AND FEES 2020-2021

Merrimack College tuition and fees for the academic year can be found [here](#).

FINANCIAL AID

During the 2020-2021 academic year Merrimack College has invested an additional \$7 million to assist students and their families who are struggling financially as a result of COVID-19. This further assistance has come through additional financial aid and student emergency funds for tuition assistance. In total Merrimack College has contributed approximately \$88 million in institutional aid to help students and their families invest in their education.

Institutional aid is any type of aid provided by Merrimack College funding to help students finance their education. The allocation of financial assistance in the form of various student awards is determined as part of the overall review of the individual student's total cost of attendance (tuition, fees, room and board) as well as the expected family contribution.

If a student decides to make a change in their residency status (i.e. living on campus, living off campus, living at home with family) this change may impact financial aid, which includes merit-based scholarships, institutional grants or federal/state funding. Students are encouraged to reach out to the **Office of Financial Aid** to understand how residency changes may impact their financial aid awards. Merrimack College reserves the right to make any changes to financial aid awards should student eligibility or cost of attendance change at any point during the 2020-2021 academic year.

PAYMENT PLANS

Acceptable payment arrangements include an up-to-date payment plan or a certified loan through an outside **alternative loan option**. Payment plans can be set up with our partner, Cashnet powered by TranscACT, by logging into the **Student Account Center (SAC)**. Please contact the Bursar's Office with any questions regarding acceptable payment arrangements at bursar@merrimack.edu or (978) 837-5105.

FINANCIAL CONCERNS

- If students' financial situations have changed as a result of COVID-19, they are encouraged to contact the **Office of Financial Aid** in writing with an explanation of their situation.
- Additionally, the College has implemented a student emergency fund that students are encouraged to apply for should their financial situations change during the 2020-2021 academic year. [See page 65](#).

To alleviate the extraordinary expenses of COVID-19, the College has reduced expenses, eliminated positions and reallocated more than \$20 million in the FY 2021 budget to mitigate against the spread of this disease and safely open the campus to ensure students can successfully continue their education. The College has also taken considerable operational steps to configure the campus to meet the challenges created by COVID-19. In addition to new expenses and reconfigured spaces, the extraordinary costs of safety measures, such as twice a week testing and testing supplies, even with the budget cuts, are difficult to absorb. Therefore, the costs of testing need to be shared with students and a new temporary COVID-19 fee has been assessed to cover testing costs.

MANDATORY COVID-19 MITIGATION FEE

All undergraduate and graduate students taking in-person classes or participating in an on-campus fellowship or athletics will need to participate in the College's COVID-19 testing program. All students who come to campus are required to have two COVID-19 tests per week. The College is not increasing the testing fee for the additional test – further subsidizing the costs associated with testing – each student will be required to pay a mitigation fee each semester. At the time of publication, the federal government is still considering some funding to colleges for testing. Should Merrimack receive funding for testing, it will share a portion of these funds with students by crediting student accounts. Having a separate and transparent mitigation fee will make any credits easier to identify should funding become available.

The COVID-19 fee is created to offset the cost of all aspects of testing for which the community as a whole benefits, including those who are temporarily not testing because they have tested positive. As a result all students, including those who have tested positive or vaccinated, are charged the COVID-19 testing fee.

At this time the Commonwealth is recommending that all vaccinated individuals continue to follow COVID-19 protocols regarding face coverings, social distancing, continue surveillance testing and follow existing quarantine rules should they be identified as a close contact of a positive case. As a result, at this time the College will not alter its current policies for those members of the community who have been vaccinated.

FULL-TIME TUITION AND COMPREHENSIVE FEE

The full-time tuition and comprehensive fees are set for students, whether they are taking courses as part of the on-campus experience or engaging in fully remote learning. Please note that the full-time tuition, comprehensive fee and mandatory COVID-19 mitigation fee will not be reduced should the College shut down at any point or for any period of time during the academic year. With the cost associated with running the College, and the continued delivery of academic course credits and degrees, being both higher and fixed as a result of COVID-19, Merrimack College will not be reducing these costs. The Fall 2020 semester had 14 residential weeks, and the Spring 2021 semester will have 15 residential weeks (both have 15 academic weeks).

ROOM AND BOARD

Merrimack has simplified housing options for the 2020–2021 academic year. Dormitory-style housing is offered in Ash, Monican, and Deegans East and West. Apartment and suite-style options include St. Thomas and St. Ann, O’Brien, the Townhouses, North and South Residential Villages options and Royal Crest. All options have a maximum of two beds per bedroom. Single-bed bedrooms have a premium price assigned that is unique per bedroom. All students living in Merrimack housing (on campus or at Royal Crest) must purchase a meal plan. Starting in the academic year 2020–2021, all meal plans are priced the same, though students can determine the amount of meals versus Mack Bucks. Students living in units with kitchens must purchase a full meal plan, though the College now offers GrocersPod, which can be purchased with Mack Bucks. With the costs associated with running the College being both higher and fixed as a result of COVID-19, Merrimack College will not be reducing these costs in the event of a shutdown.

STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE

Per state law, all students must have health insurance. The College provides the opportunity for students to purchase insurance if they so desire, or if they have no other alternative.



REFUND POLICY

Merrimack College's refund schedule for the 2020-2021 Academic Year is as follows:

Spring semester refunds of tuition, room or board are made according to the following schedule:

- **Within the first 15 days of the term: full refund - February 15, 2021**
- **After the 15th day of the term: no refund**

Please note that there are no refunds for tuition or any fees (comprehensive fee, COVID-19 mitigation fee) nor a refund on room and board in the event that Merrimack College determines, at its sole discretion, that it must shut down and transition to remote learning; or if a student must quarantine, isolate or enact their departure plan. For more information on refunds, please visit [our website](#). Further, students acknowledge that in the event of any changes the College deems necessary, tuition and fees and room and board are set for the year and will not be adjusted or refunded.

AGREEMENT

By registering for classes, students acknowledge and agree that Merrimack College reserves the right to modify all aspects of its programming (educational, both in-person and remote; extracurricular; and any other programs currently available, or created over the course of the 2020-2021 academic year) at its sole discretion, and in response to orders of civil authority or as a result of COVID-19 or other causes outside of its control. Further, students acknowledge that in the event of any changes the College deems necessary, tuition and fees and room and board costs are set for the year will not be adjusted or refunded.

ADDRESSING FINANCIAL HARDSHIPS

We recognize that some of our students and their families may be facing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19. Merrimack College is committed to working with students and families to provide additional financial assistance. Merrimack College established a Student Emergency Fund for students seeking assistance during this trying time. Please visit the [Student Emergency Fund website](#) for more information. To date, more than \$1.9 million has been granted to students in need.

CARES ACT

Merrimack College was awarded \$2.6 million in federal funds through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The amount of funds is determined by a combination of those students eligible for Pell Grants and the remainder of the student population (the U.S. Department of Education allocated 75 percent of the funds available in the act based on the full-time equivalent enrollment of Pell Grant recipients and the remaining 25 percent based on the full-time equivalent enrollment of students who did not receive a Pell Grant). The funds are split into two equal parts. One part, \$1.3 million, is dedicated to institutional use to offset additional operational costs associated with the pandemic. The College has elected to utilize these funds to offset expenses otherwise paid by students. While helpful, the CARES Act funds are significantly less than the costs associated with the institution's response to the pandemic.

The second \$1.3 million is funding for students to help defer costs directly related to COVID-19 expenses. The College has used these funds to establish a student emergency fund to assist students with COVID-19-related expenses. More information can be found on [our website](#).

Congress recently passed, and the President has signed, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021. This act provides additional assistance to the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund to provide funds to both students and institutions. At publication of this Handbook, the allocation to Merrimack College and its students is being determined. In the meantime, Merrimack encourages those students who have costs directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic to continue to apply to the [College's Student Emergency Fund](#).

RISKS AND OPTIONS

In the first version of this handbook, and in subsequent messages, the following was communicated to the Merrimack community.

Merrimack College has done much to mitigate the risk of the spread of COVID-19 among its community members. Further, as this document states, efforts by all members of our community – especially students – to follow the guidance provided in this document and that of the CDC and Massachusetts Department of Public Health are critical to any mitigation effort at Merrimack. Despite our collective best efforts, it is not possible to fully eliminate the risk of a COVID-19 infection while on the campus and among our community population. Therefore, there is a risk that some members of the community may become infected with COVID-19, and additionally may further spread the disease due to their interaction with other members of the Merrimack community and beyond.

Because such risks exist, and because each student must take into account their own personal health, Merrimack will continue to provide all students with multiple modalities to continue their education for the academic year 2020–2021.

All students should take note of the mitigation plans as addressed in this document, as well as those otherwise provided by the College, and make the best decision possible for themselves. To allow the College to best plan for the Spring semester, all students are required, regardless of their prior indication of intention to attend in the spring (deposited incoming students, registered returning students), to inform us through the registration process of their intention to advance their education at Merrimack in one of the following ways:

- 1 I intend to take spring classes as a residential student:** Students who choose this option will live on campus, will participate in the COVID-19 testing protocol, will be able to select all course modalities (hybrid, on-campus or remote), and will be able to utilize all campus resources.
- 2 I intend to take spring classes as a commuter student:** Students who choose this option will be able to come to campus, will participate in the COVID-19 testing protocol, will be able to select all course modalities (hybrid, on-campus or remote), and will be able to utilize all campus resources.
- 3 I intend to take spring classes remotely:** Students who choose this option will not be part of the COVID-19 testing protocol, will not be able to come to campus, will register for remote-only classes where possible, and if necessary, will register for classes that are designated hybrid or on-campus, but will take them remotely.
- 4 I intend to take a leave of absence during the Spring semester:** Students who choose this option will not be part of the COVID-19 testing protocol, will not be able to come to campus, and will not take any Merrimack courses.

Merrimack recognizes that for some students this will be a difficult decision. All students should consider their options; consult with their family members and if appropriate, their physician; and reach out to the **Task Force** with any questions.

QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

This spring, patience, understanding and teamwork will once again make a big difference. We depend on each other to ensure a safe and vibrant community. If you have concerns about the implementation of the College's COVID-19 policies or practices, please contact the **Task Force**.

CONTACT LIST

COVID-19 Hotline
(978) 837-5599

Task Force
taskforce@merrimack.edu

Academic Success Center
(978) 837-5278 | asc@merrimack.edu

Dean of Students
(978) 837-5175 | deanofstudents@merrimack.edu

Merrimack College Police Department
(978) 837-5555

Residence Life
(978) 837-5507 | reslife@merrimack.edu

Information Technology Services
(978) 837-3500 | askit@merrimack.edu

Hamel Health Center
(978) 837-5441

The Counseling Center
(978) 837-5444

Human Resources
(978) 837-5157 | humanresources.covid@merrimack.edu

Office of Accessibility
(978) 837-5722 | accessibilityservices@merrimack.edu

Registrar's Office
(978) 837-5344 | registrar@merrimack.edu

Office of the Bursar
(978) 837-5310 | bursar@merrimack.edu

Financial Aid
(978) 837-5186 | financialaid@merrimack.edu

McQuade Library
(978) 837-5177 | mcquade@merrimack.edu

O'Brien Center for Career Development
(978) 837-5480 | obriencenter@merrimack.edu

Campus Ministry
(978) 837-5450 | campusmin@merrimack.edu

International Student Support
(978) 837-5225 | iss@merrimack.edu

For answers to other frequently asked questions please visit the **Reopening Merrimack website**, which is updated frequently.

If you have any questions at all about the College's Return to Campus plans, please reach out to the Task Force or call (978) 837-5599.





MERRIMACK COLLEGE

V4 - JANUARY 2021

COVID-19

Daily Screening

RESPOND WITH YES OR NO...

ARE YOU CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING SYMPTOMS AND/OR SIGNS OF ILLNESS ASSOCIATED WITH COVID-19?

[YES or NO]

Fever of 100.4°F	_____	Loss of taste or smell	_____
Chills	_____	Sore throat	_____
Cough	_____	Congestion or runny nose	_____
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	_____	Nausea or vomiting	_____
Fatigue	_____	New gastrointestinal symptoms	_____
Muscle or body aches	_____	Pain, swelling or rash on toes or fingers	_____
Headache	_____		

HAVE YOU TRAVELED OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY OR TO ANY STATE OUTSIDE OF HAWAII IN THE PAST 14 DAYS?*

HAVE YOU OR ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD EXPERIENCED COVID-19 SYMPTOMS IN THE PAST 14 DAYS?

HAVE YOU OR ANY MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH COVID-19 IN THE PAST 14 DAYS?

IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO ANY OF THE ABOVE, YOU ARE NOT PERMITTED ONTO CAMPUS AT THIS TIME.

If you are an employee and wish to discuss this further, please contact Human Resources at humanresources.covid@merrimack.edu.

** The Commonwealth of Massachusetts travel order went into effect on August 1, 2020, and requires that all visitors traveling to Massachusetts (as of publication of this form) from a state that is not designated a "lower-risk" must complete the [Massachusetts Travel Form](#) and pursuant to State Order, must produce either a negative COVID-19 test administered up to 72-hours prior to arriving in Massachusetts or quarantine for at least 10 days upon arrival in Massachusetts. A traveler who is required to quarantine may be released from the obligation to continue quarantining upon obtaining proof of a negative test from a molecular test approved by the FDA for emergency use, administered after the person's arrival in Massachusetts. The list of "lower-risk" states includes Hawaii.*

**COVID-19 Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and
Indemnity Agreement for VISITORS AND VENDORS**

1. The novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”) is a disease that includes several symptoms according to the Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”), such as fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, nausea, and can lead to death. COVID-19 is contagious and this means that contact with others, even those who are asymptomatic, or contact with surfaces that have been exposed to the virus, can lead to infection.
2. Aware of the foregoing, I am voluntarily agreeing to enter the property of Merrimack College (the “College”).
3. I am familiar with the CDC guidelines regarding COVID-19. I acknowledge and understand that the circumstances regarding COVID-19 are changing from day to day and that, accordingly, the CDC guidelines are regularly modified and updated. I accept full responsibility for familiarizing myself with the most recent updates and complying with same at all times while on the College’s property.
4. The College is dedicated to providing a safe community to its faculty, staff, students, and visitors. However, I understand that it is impossible for the College to prevent all risk of infection. I acknowledge that the College has done its best to implement recommended CDC, Department of Public Health, federal, state and local guidelines and put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19; however, the College cannot guarantee that I will not become infected with COVID-19.
5. I understand that the College has put in place new policies and protocols in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. I have read and agree to abide by the College’s policies and protocols for COVID-19 at all times while on the College’s property.
6. By signing this agreement, I acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19, the fact that it can be difficult to identify in another, and the inherent risk of exposure to those who may be infected with COVID-19. I voluntarily assume full responsibility for the risk that I may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by my presence on the property or in service of the College and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and/or death.
7. I understand and acknowledge that given the unknown nature of COVID-19, it is not possible to fully list each and every individual risk of contracting COVID-19. I understand that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 at the College may result from the actions, omission, or negligence of myself and others, including but not limited to, College trustees, employees, agents, contractors, volunteers, and students. I acknowledge that the College is an open campus, which limits the College’s ability to control students and visitors on campus. I recognize that the College cannot limit all potential sources of COVID-19 infection. I acknowledge that I have asked for and/or been given any information that I may need to determine the risks associated with returning to the premises of the College and to make an informed decision of those risks.
8. I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, even if arising from the negligence of the releasees or others. For myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, I hereby release and hold harmless the College, and its past, present, and future officers, directors, trustees, employees, attorneys, and agents, with respect to any and all illness, disability, death or damage to person or property associated with exposure to COVID-19, whether arising from the negligence of releasees or otherwise, to the fullest extent permitted by law. An employee’s right to seek workers’ compensation benefits will not be affected by this Agreement. I further agree that if any such claim is made, I will indemnify and defend the College with respect to any such claim, with the exception of an employee’s right to seek workers’ compensation benefits.
9. I have read and fully understand the foregoing Agreement and I am aware that by signing this Agreement I may be waiving certain legal rights, including the right to sue. This Agreement shall be binding upon me and my heirs, legal representatives, and assigns, and shall inure to the benefit of the College and its successors and assigns.
10. My signature below indicates that I am at least eighteen (18) years of age and intend to be legally bound by the terms of this Agreement.

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date signed: _____

Name of Parent/Legal Guardian (if visitor is a minor): _____

Parent / Legal Guardian signature: _____ Date signed: _____

Day Phone: Area Code and Number: _____ - _____ - _____