



## COVID-19 RESPONSE & THE COLLEGE'S REOPENING — FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS —

### General Questions about Reopening the College

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#### **What makes Hampden-Sydney confident that it can reopen for face-to-face instruction on August 24?**

The [College's reopening plan](#), certified by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, addresses 26 points required of colleges and universities for reopening. In responding to these points, we are following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, Forward Virginia, and Virginia Department of Health. As we receive new guidance and circumstances change, we will continue to update our plans. The success of our reopening plan depends on our community embracing commonsense precautions that have proven highly effective in minimizing the spread of the coronavirus. These include wearing a mask inside buildings and outdoors when six feet of distancing cannot be maintained, social distancing, hand washing, and staying home if feeling sick.

#### **Many schools have announced that they will be offering only virtual classes. Other schools have announced that they will give students the option of taking classes in-person or online. Why is Hampden-Sydney only offering face-to-face instruction?**

Many schools are not able to resume in-person instruction because of their size. Large lecture-style classes offered by nearly all larger and even some smaller universities cannot accommodate social distancing guidelines. Fulfilling our mission is best accomplished by having our students here, learning, studying, and living on campus. Though last spring's shift to remote instruction required significant adaptation on the part of faculty and staff members, for which we are all grateful, the educational experience offered to our students was not optimal. However, given that we are accommodating students and faculty and staff members who are at high risk or who are primary caregivers for others who are at high risk, some courses will be taught remotely. See below for more information on requesting accommodation.

#### **What guidance do you have for students who are returning to campus?**

We have provided students and their parents with much guidance about the return to campus, including detailed expectations around mask wearing and key COVID-19 related supplies to bring to campus. Our [COVID-19 website](#) includes a link to these and all COVID-19 communications. The College will continue to provide guidance to students and parents in the coming days.

**Wearing masks is a key to limiting the spread of the coronavirus. What kind of mask should I wear, and when am I expected to wear a mask?**

Wearing a mask protects those around you, including those at [higher risk of severe illness](#) from COVID-19. Masks must be worn so that both the nose and mouth are covered and remain covered. Multi-layer cloth masks have been found to be significantly more effective than neck gaiters and bandanas and are therefore required on campus. The CDC does not recommend using surgical masks or N-95 respirators, masks that have an exhalation valve or vent, or face shields as a substitute for masks.

Masks are required when entering and exiting buildings, in indoor public areas and classrooms, and in offices when meeting or working with others. Masks must also be worn outside if six feet of distance cannot be maintained. Students (or anyone) who do not wear a mask to class or inside any campus building should be asked by anyone (other students, faculty and staff members) to leave and only return with a mask.

**Do students and employees need to provide their own masks? What about hand sanitizer, and cleaning supplies?**

All students and employees are expected to have their own masks, though there will be some disposable masks available as previously requested by offices across campus (note that these are not intended to serve as a daily supply for employees or students). The College will provide cleaning supplies. Hand sanitizing stations are located inside the entrances to campus buildings and will be installed elsewhere in buildings as supplies permit.

Students have been asked to bring a supply of masks, hand sanitizer, and cleaning supplies to campus with them. The College is also providing a kit for each student, which contains a drawstring bag with hand sanitizer, a “no touch” door opening tool, a cloth Hampden-Sydney College mask, and a reusable digital thermometer.

**What are the cleaning procedures in between classes?**

Cleaning and disinfecting supplies will be available in each classroom, and students and faculty members should clean their own desks and chairs at the end of their class period.

**What are the cleaning protocols for office spaces and common areas?**

Custodial crews have a plan for cleaning office spaces weekly and common spaces daily. High-touch areas will be cleaned multiple times each day.

## Accommodations for Those Who Have Chronic Health Conditions or Who Live with or Are the Primary Caregiver for Someone with a Chronic Health Condition

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### **I have a chronic health condition that places me at greater risk from the coronavirus, or I live with/or I am the primary caregiver for someone who has a chronic health condition. What are my options?**

Students who are at higher risk from COVID-19 due to underlying health conditions are encouraged to seek accommodation. Please contact Melissa Wood, Title IX and 504 Coordinator in the Student Health Center, at (434) 223-6061 or [mwood@hsc.edu](mailto:mwood@hsc.edu). Melissa is the only individual on campus who can grant accommodations for our students.

For faculty and staff members, the College offers flexible sick leave options and reasonable accommodations to support employees who are at higher risk from effects of COVID-19, or who live with family members who are at higher risk. Faculty members seeking accommodation should contact Dean of Faculty Mike McDermott, and all other employees should contact their supervisor and/or Director of Human Resources Sue Carter, to discuss options. Employees who are not able to telework or work on campus may be eligible for paid sick leave under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (or any similar benefit that the College may offer if FFCRA eligibility or benefits end) or an unpaid leave of absence.

## COVID-19: General Questions

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### **If I don't feel well, what should I do?**

Students who don't feel well should contact the Student Health Center at (434) 223-6167 immediately. After hours, any student who doesn't feel well should contact his RA.

Faculty and staff members who do not feel well should stay at home, or, if they are on campus, should go home immediately. They should notify their supervisor or Human Resources as soon as possible and consult with their healthcare provider. The CDC maintains a list of [symptoms associated with the coronavirus](#).

### **What can we expect in terms of contact tracing if a student, faculty, or staff member tests positive for the virus?**

Local contact tracing services are provided through the Prince Edward County Health Department, with which the College will coordinate. When an individual tests positive, other individuals who have been in close contact with that person will be contacted by the contact tracer and asked to quarantine.

Additionally, when Student Health Center staff members refer a student for testing, they will contact others on campus with whom the student reports having had close contact (e.g., a

roommate) and ask them to quarantine pending the test results. When Human Resources refers or is made aware that an employee has been referred for testing, HR staff members will contact colleagues to ask them to monitor themselves for symptoms pending the test results and to assess whether they should also be quarantined and/or tested.

All members of the Hampden-Sydney campus community are encouraged to [download the free app, COVIDWISE](#), provided by the Virginia Department of Health. COVIDWISE is an exposure notification app that provides contact tracing while protecting individual privacy.

### **What does close contact mean?**

As defined by the Virginia Department of Health, close contact means being within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes or having exposure to the person's respiratory secretions (for example, coughed or sneezed on; shared a drinking glass or utensils; kissing) while they were contagious.

### **Will the College share information about individuals who are COVID-19 positive and how many people are in quarantine?**

Yes, the College is required to report positive cases to those working in the same building or office environment; however, it has been the College's practice to notify the entire campus of positive cases and we will continue to do so. We are also developing a reporting mechanism for a number of metrics, including cases on campus and in the county, and the number of individuals in quarantine and isolation on campus.

### **If a student is quarantined, how will he take classes? How will he eat?**

Anytime our students are too sick to attend class, they work closely with faculty members to get or stay caught-up on coursework. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be delivered to students who are quarantined or isolated on campus.

### **How will the College make the decision, if necessary, to shift to remote instruction?**

The [College's reopening plan](#) describes the factors that will be continually monitored and evaluated and that could determine whether the College will send students home for remote learning, like we did last spring. The president, members of the College's leadership team, and Student Health Center medical staff are in regular contact with local health officials and the director of the Virginia Department of Health Piedmont Health District, and will make decisions in consultation with these officials. Together, we will be monitoring the College's staffing and resources and local and regional resources, including our quarantine space usage, how quickly we can return individuals back into their regular campus setting, and the town and region's healthcare capacity. The College is also subject to federal, state, or local government or health department mandates based on broader societal conditions.

## Student Travel to and from the Campus / Visitors to Campus

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### **Will students be required to stay on campus? Can students travel home or to other places?**

Students will not be required to stay on campus; however, we ask that students minimize their contact off campus during their first week back. We encourage students to remain on campus and to minimize off-campus contacts.

### **Will students be allowed to have visitors?**

Students will not be allowed to have visitors during the first week back on campus and are discouraged from hosting visitors to campus at least until after the second week of the semester. Thereafter, students will be allowed to have one visitor at a time on campus. Students are expected to notify their visitors about our campus requirements for mask wearing, social distancing, and to ensure that they not visit our campus if they are feeling ill.

## Dining Plans and Options

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### **Will the seating or layout of the Pannill Commons change? Are faculty and staff members allowed to eat in the dining hall?**

Seating in the Pannill Commons has been reduced. Additional seating will be available upstairs in the Chairman's Room and Board Room, outside on Chalgrove Point, and on the Brown Student Center terrace. There will be one-way traffic entering and exiting the Pannill Commons, and signage is in place to direct patrons. Signs will also remind patrons to wear a mask and stay six feet apart while waiting in line. Faculty and staff members may access the dining hall and these seating options as well.

### **Will dining hours change or will we be assigned a dining time in order to ensure physical distancing?**

There will not be assigned dining hours and [the dining schedule](#) has not changed. Adjustments to seating arrangements and additional dining spaces are expected to accommodate capacity, social distancing requirements, and revised class schedules.

### **If I'm uncomfortable eating in the Pannill Commons, what are my options?**

Food and drinks at Pannill Commons and Tiger Inn will be served in to-go containers and meals may be taken to other campus dining locations, described above, or to another location on campus.

## COVID-19: Testing

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**Many schools have announced mandatory testing programs for all students, faculty, and staff. Will Hampden-Sydney?**

The College is contracting with Kallaco Health & Technology to test all students upon or soon after their return to campus. Testing will also be available to faculty and staff members. More detailed information about testing and specific test dates and times will follow within the next several days.

**Will I have to pay to be tested?**

The cost of this initial testing will be covered by the College.