



COVID-19 UPDATE | SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

— FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS —

Are the College's reopening plans working?

Thanks to the efforts of our faculty, staff, and students, our plans are working. Members of the community must remain vigilant in wearing masks and following all other precautions that are critical to our plan's effectiveness.

The number of total positive cases on campus has increased, and we have quite a few students in quarantine. Can you explain the quarantine number?

We anticipated positive cases and that students would cycle in and out of isolation and quarantine. To prevent the spread of the coronavirus on campus, we are quickly isolating positive cases and quarantining individuals who were in close contact (within 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes without a mask) with a person who has COVID-19, individuals who self-reported symptoms and are awaiting test results, and individuals who were in close contact with a symptomatic individual who is awaiting test results. Given new CDC guidance on September 18, we will also test close contacts of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19.

How are students contracting the virus?

To date, the virus seems to be contracted primarily through social gatherings where individuals are not wearing masks or social distancing, and in some cases are sharing drinks or vapes, so all Hampden-Sydney community members must avoid these situations and this kind of behavior.

Is the College coordinating with local and regional health agencies and other local organizations?

Yes. Through periodic and ongoing calls, senior administrators are coordinating and communicating with the Piedmont Health District Health Director and his staff, leaders of Centra Southside Community Hospital, and local and county government agencies and schools, including Longwood University.

Do local and regional hospitals have sufficient capacity to deal with a surge in coronavirus hospitalizations?

Yes. Very few COVID-19 cases require hospitalization. Nevertheless, we closely monitor local and regional hospital capacity to be certain our hospitals can accommodate a surge in cases in the region.

What can I do to avoid contracting the coronavirus? How can I and other members of the campus community limit the spread of the coronavirus?

Wear a mask, maintain social distance, wash or sanitize your hands frequently, and stay at home (employees) or contact the Health Center (students) if you are not feeling well. Do not host or attend social gatherings of more than ten people. We encourage students to stay on campus and avoid visiting other colleges and universities. We also advocate eating well and getting plenty of rest, exercise, fresh air, and sunshine.

What is the College's visitor policy?

Until further notice, we have a "no visitor" policy in place, with exceptions that include prospective students/families hosted by the Admissions Office for scheduled visits and other visitors approved for College-sponsored business.

Will the College continue testing?

Yes. We plan to administer tests to random samples of students throughout the balance of the semester.

Flu season is coming. Should I get a flu shot?

Yes. The CDC has stressed the importance of protecting vulnerable populations and reducing burdens on the healthcare system through influenza vaccinations. It is important to note that there is no evidence that the flu vaccine can provide protection from COVID-19. The College will provide flu shots for employees and students at no cost as follows:

- **For Employees:** Wednesday and Thursday, September 23 and 24, 7:00-11:00 a.m. in Kirk Snyder Hall (provider is CVS Pharmacy). Please wear a mask, social distance during wait time, and bring your MedImpact Prescription Drug Card. Employees in need of a Pneumonia, Shingles, or Tetanus vaccine may email a request to Debbie Herndon (dherndon@hsc.edu) prior to the clinic date.
- **For Students:** Students are encouraged to make an appointment to visit the Health Center for a flu shot. The Health Center's phone number is (434) 223-6167.