

Fall 2021 COVID Protocols for Students

August 27, 2021



Over the past year, Rivier's collective efforts, the cooperation of students, faculty, and staff, and the dedication of healthcare professionals across the region have contributed to our safe campus environment. The University will offer a comprehensive college experience, featuring face-to-face instruction, full residence halls, intercollegiate athletics, and a complement of student events and activities for the 2021-2022 academic year.

This document details the COVID policies and procedures we have in place for the fall 2021 semester to continue to support the health and safety of our students and campus community. The content in this document applies to all Undergraduate (residents and commuters), Professional Studies, Graduate, and Doctoral students.

The University reserves the right to add, change, or revise the policies and protocols included in this document and communicated elsewhere as conditions warrant. Please monitor your Rivier e-mail and www.rivier.edu/returntocampus for updated information. All other University policies remain in effect.

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GENERAL SAFETY PRACTICES

Compliance and Enforcement of COVID-19 Policies

The members of the University community depend upon one another to build a safe and vibrant community. Rivier expects compliance with our policies and practices detailed in this document and communicated elsewhere. Community members are encouraged to contact Public Safety and Security at (603) 888-1666 with any concerns about non-compliance. Failure to comply with protocols and procedures may result in removal from campus.

Proof of Vaccination

In support of Rivier's commitment to offer a comprehensive college experience, the University required proof of full COVID-19 vaccination, or proof of medical or religious exemption, for all students, faculty, and staff who will attend classes, live on campus, work, or access campus during the 2021-22 academic year. Proof of vaccination was due by August 1; request for exemption was required by August 15.

Masks and Face Coverings

All students, faculty, staff, visitors, and vendors are required to wear a mask in all indoor spaces including classrooms. This requirement follows recently released CDC guidance that, in communities with substantial or high COVID transmission, all individuals regardless of vaccination status should wear a mask indoors. The city of Nashua is currently experiencing substantial level community transmission as reported by the CDC and Nashua Public Health.

Masks are *not* required outdoors or when someone is alone in an office or in their own room in University housing. As we start the fall semester with masking in place, we will continue to closely monitor evolving CDC and public health guidance and will make decisions that support the health and safety of our community.

Rivier reserves the right to decline entry to campus to any individual who does not comply with current vaccination and masking policies.

Personal Hygiene

Students are advised to follow personal hygiene and other practices to prevent the spread of the virus, including:

- Washing hands with soap for 20 seconds or more and if soap and water are not readily available, using a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol
- Avoiding touching of the face, eyes, or mouth
- Practicing good respiratory etiquette including coughing and sneezing into a tissue or your elbow rather than into your hands

Daily Health Self-Assessment and Symptom Monitoring

In accordance with applicable federal, state and local guidelines, all campus community members will submit a Daily Health Self-Assessment prior to arriving on campus or leaving their

residence hall. For resident students, this includes weekends and holidays. Students will utilize a web-based form: <https://intranet.rivier.edu/student-daily-screening-form/>

University employees also complete a similar health self-assessment before reporting to campus daily. Students should be prepared to show the results of their daily health assessment to gain access to classrooms, laboratories, etc.

The Daily Health Self-Assessment will include questions regarding symptoms related to COVID 19 (cough, fever, shortness of breath, loss of taste and smell, aches, chills, sore throat, nasal congestion, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea) and exposure (to someone who has tested positive, travel outside of New England). If a student answers “YES” to any of the self-assessment questions, they will be instructed not to come to campus and not to attend classes in person.

Students diagnosed with COVID-19, those experiencing symptoms, or those who have been in contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 are required to report this information to the following offices:

- Resident students: Contact the Office of Student Life and Housing Services at housing@rivier.edu
- All other students: Contact the Office of Student Affairs at studentcovid19@rivier.edu

Students who develop symptoms of COVID-19, even mild symptoms, should consult their primary care providers about testing, or seek testing through one of the public testing options, such as through a state-run testing center, local health department, or urgent care facility.

Students should familiarize themselves with symptoms of COVID-19 which may include:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Runny nose or new sinus congestion
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- New gastrointestinal symptoms
- New loss of taste or smell

Protocols for Positive Case

In the event a Rivier student tests positive for COVID-19 (or receives a presumed positive diagnosis) and the student has been on campus in the prior 10 days, the student must notify the University to determine appropriate next steps.

- Resident students: Contact the Office of Student Life and Housing Services at housing@rivier.edu
- All other students: Contact the Office of Student Affairs at studentcovid19@rivier.edu

This notification allows the University to respond effectively and to protect the health and safety of the campus community while maintaining confidentiality of student health and medical information.

In all cases where a student tests positive they are to self-isolate for at least 10 days. Student isolation protocols include:

- Commuter students (as well as Professional Studies, Graduate, and Doctoral students) should isolate at home and are not permitted to come to campus.
- If a Resident student can go home, they will be isolated temporarily and sent home as soon as possible for the duration of their isolation.
- If a Resident student is unable to travel home, or if they have at-risk family members at home, or if they have other special circumstances, the University will provide off campus options.
- Rivier will notify appropriate authorities and/or campus contacts.
- Students should not return to campus until cleared to do so following recommended CDC guidance (*See next section "Return to Campus After Illness"*).

When Rivier is notified of a student testing positive for COVID-19, Rivier will take steps to clean and disinfect all physical spaces that have been.

If a student is confirmed to have contracted COVID-19, Rivier is obligated to notify Nashua Public Health or New Hampshire State Health officials and will advise other Rivier community members of their possible exposure, but the confidentiality of the infected individual will be maintained as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Individuals that the student has been in contact with will be instructed to self-monitor for symptoms.

In addition to confirmed (or presumptive positive cases), the University reserves the right to prohibit a student, employee, or another individual exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or who was exposed to COVID-19 from entering campus facilities in the interest of protecting the health and safety of our community.

Return to Campus After Illness

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who are isolated with symptoms may return to campus when they have met the following criteria. See the CDC guidelines for additional information. In all cases, the student must follow the guidance of the medical provider and/or local health department.

If the student had a confirmed case of COVID-19 or believes to have had COVID-19 and experienced symptoms, the student may return to campus:

- at least 10 days after symptoms first appeared, ***and***
- at least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication, ***and***
- symptoms have improved

If the student tested positive for COVID-19 but had no symptoms, the student may return to campus after:

- 10 days have passed since positive test, **and**
- the student continues to have no symptoms

Students returning to campus will be asked to provide documentation, which may include a statement from a healthcare provider, clearing the student to return to campus.

Documentation and questions should be directed to the following offices:

- Resident students: Contact the Office of Student Life and Housing Services at housing@rivier.edu
- All other students: Contact the Office of Student Affairs at studentcovid19@rivier.edu

What to do if Exposed to COVID-19

CDC guidance indicates that you should quarantine if you have been in close contact (within 6 feet of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone who has COVID-19 unless you have been fully vaccinated. People who are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have symptoms. However, fully vaccinated people should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they don't have symptoms and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.

ACADEMICS: TEACHING AND LEARNING

Classroom Facilities

Unvaccinated students and faculty with approved exemptions are required to wear masks or cloth face coverings in all public spaces including classrooms. Disinfecting cleaners will be available and students should clean their desk surface when entering the classroom.

Lab Experiences

In individual learning spaces such as labs, students must follow any safety protocols outlined by the instructor for the space. These may vary somewhat from other classroom spaces.

Nursing Clinicals

Students in all clinical nursing courses will conduct their clinical assignments in hospitals, long term care facilities, community health settings, clinics, schools, and a variety of primary care settings. Students will receive requirements and protocols specific to their clinical placements from their Nursing faculty or Nursing Clinical Coordinator. Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) will be provided to all students. Students in clinical placements will have skills labs and deliberative practice on campus, as well as simulation

experiences both on-campus and virtually. Additional information regarding clinical placement protocols and simulation experiences will be communicated by the Division of Nursing and Health Professions.

LIVING ON CAMPUS

As resident students are welcomed back to campus housing for the fall semester, additional housing information and guidelines will supplement existing policies. Resident Students will receive information from the Office of Student Affairs.

Move-in Process

Information on the move-in process has been communicated to Resident Students by the Office of Student Life. To move-in, the following must be complete:

- Uploaded proof of COVID vaccine or an approved medical/religious exemption to the [MEDICAT student portal](#)
- Completed medical records in the [MEDICAT student portal](#)
- Clear FA21 balance. Check [MYRIV/MYLEDGER](#) for information
- Scheduled move in time for Brassard Hall (link was sent via email)

Daily Health Self-Assessment

It is expected that resident students conduct the [Daily Health Self-Assessment](#) prior to leaving their room each day, including weekends and holidays. (*See 'General Safety Practices: Daily Health Self-Assessment' for more information.*)

Guests and Visitors to Residence Halls

During the Fall 2021, members of the Rivier community may be invited as guests in the halls. This includes other residents, commuters, faculty, or staff from Rivier. Guests must sign-in at the front desk and be escorted throughout the building. Each resident may register up to two members of the Rivier Community at any one time.

- Overnight guests are not permitted for Fall 2021
- Outside guests (non-Rivier students, faculty, staff) are not permitted for Fall 2021

The guest policy will be reviewed and revised based on guidance from Nashua Public Health and the COVID response team during the first month of the semester. Updates and changes to the policy will be communicated to students via email and the Rivier website.

Resident Student Expectations

- Report symptoms of COVID-19 or a diagnosis to the Office of Student Life and Housing Services at housing@rivier.edu.

- Follow guidelines from the State of New Hampshire, Nashua Public Health, and updated Rivier University policies.
- Unless fully vaccinated, wear face mask and physically distance when around other people indoors, and outdoors if unable to consistently maintain 6 feet of physical distance from others.
- Clean and disinfect your living area frequently.
- Complete the Daily Health Self-Assessment and seek advice of your healthcare provider, Rivier Health Services, or local clinics) if you are showing any signs or symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
- Return home as soon as possible if you are sick, have any COVID-19 or influenza like symptoms or test positive for COVID-19 or Flu.

STUDENT LIFE

Dining Services

Sodexo Campus Services will implement a variety of health and safety precautions for the University's Dining Services:

- Sodexo's increased cleaning and sanitation protocols will continue.
- All Sodexo employees will participate in required health and safety training specific to COVID-19. Sodexo employees will participate in a health screening and those with symptoms or exposed to COVID-19 will not be permitted to work.
- In accordance with university policy, Sodexo will require proof of vaccination or proof of medical or religious exemption for all employees.
- All Sodexo staff members will adhere to Rivier's designated masking policy as well as social distancing needs as dictated by CDC and Local Ordinance best practices.
- The designated Sodexo "Clean Team" will be present during all meal periods cleaning tables, chairs, and high-touch areas.
- The Dining Services staff will limit self-service options and provide sanitizer near to any self-service stations.
- Cashier stations will offer touchless card swipe and payment.
- Students can download the [Bite app](#) to view menus and ordering options.

Raider Athletics

The Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) member institutions will resume a full schedule of NCAA Division III competition in Fall 2021. Fully vaccinated GNAC student-athletes, coaches, and staff are permitted to participate during the 2021 fall sports season without any restrictions. Non-vaccinated student-athletes and personnel with approved medical or religious exemptions will be required to undergo twice weekly testing and must

mask during all athletically related activities. The GNAC Presidents' Council will continue to monitor updates at the local and state levels and adjust policies as appropriate.

Recreation and Fitness

The Muldoon Fitness Center will open for the fall semester with the health and well-being of students and staff as the top priority. Students will be required to conduct self-health checks each time they use the facilities in advance of their workout times in the fitness room and the gym. All protocols (masks, physical distancing, cleaning, etc.) will be continually evaluated to meet health and safety requirements and student needs.

FINANCIAL POLICIES

Tuition

Full-time tuition will not be reduced should the University transition to remote learning at any point or for any period of time during the academic year. The University will continue the delivery of academic courses and degrees, supporting students on their path to degree completion.

Financial Hardship

We recognize that some of our students and their families may be facing financial hardship due to COVID-19. If a student's financial situation has changed because of COVID-19, the student is encouraged to contact the Office of Student Financial Services at sfs@rivier.edu with an explanation of their situation.

Student Emergency Grant Fund

The University has established a Student Emergency Grant Fund for students seeking financial assistance for certain qualified expenses up to \$500. Additional information and the application process will be communicated by the Office of Student Financial Services.