

Spring 2022 COVID Protocols for Students

February 28, 2022



During the pandemic, 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.

This document details the COVID policies and procedures we have in place for the Spring 2022 semester to continue to support the health and safety of our students and campus community. The content in this document applies to all Undergraduate (on-campus 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/covid19 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 COVID-19 Vaccination and Booster

New students or those returning to Rivier University who have not yet submitted proof of vaccination are required to do so no later than January 10, 2022. Requests for exemption from vaccination are due no later than January 10, 2022. Instructions for uploading vaccination verification or a form for requesting an exemption are available at www.rivier.edu/covid19.

The University requires all students, faculty and staff to receive a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine when eligible and submit proof of completion by February 15, 2022. Individuals not yet eligible to receive a booster must submit proof of completion within 30 days of the date in which they become eligible. Anyone is eligible 6 months after receiving a second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or 2 months after receiving the single dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

- Students should utilize the [Medicat health portal](#) to upload documentation of their booster vaccination. The Medicat Health Portal instructions are available online for [New Students](#) and [Returning Students](#).

Fall 2021 students who received an approved vaccine exemption are not required to resubmit.

Note: An approved exemption from COVID-19 vaccination is only applicable to the Rivier University campus. It is not applicable to any off-campus experiential learning opportunity, including but not limited to clinical assignments, internships, student teaching locations, or practicums. Students must follow the requirements of each organization.

COVID-19 Pre-Arrival/Arrival Testing Requirement for Resident Students

All resident students are required to take a COVID-19 test at home prior to arrival and on campus upon their scheduled move-in. Details on this requirement including testing dates and submitting proof of negative test results have been emailed to all students. If you are symptomatic or test positive, do not travel to campus, seek the guidance of your primary care provider, and email studentcovid19@rivier.edu.

Masks and Face Coverings

The CDC has begun using a [combination of factors](#) to determine COVID-19 risk areas in the United States and has provided updated guidance for each risk level. Currently, [Hillsborough County, New Hampshire](#) is in the “medium” COVID-19 community transmission category. Based on this updated classification, Rivier will no longer require masks effective Saturday, March 5. As noted in the CDC guidance, masks remain an effective tool to reduce risk of COVID-19. Masks will still be required on days 6-10 for those who are returning to campus from quarantine or isolation (*see Protocols for*

Symptoms, Exposure, or Positive COVID-19 Test Results below). In addition, members of our community may choose to continue to wear face coverings for a variety of reasons such as personal or family medical concerns or because they live with an unvaccinated household member. We will continue to respect the personal choice of each member 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 on-campus resident students, this includes weekends and holidays. Students will utilize a web-based form: <https://intranet.rivier.edu/student-daily-screening-form/>

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 as follows:

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 and follow the guidance and requirements outlined in the next section (*Protocols for Symptoms, Exposure, or Positive COVID-19 Test Results for Commuting and On-Campus Resident Students*).

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 Symptoms, Exposure, or Positive COVID-19 Test Results for Commuting and On-Campus Resident Students

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 offices listed below and follow the guidance and requirements outlined as follows:

On-Campus Resident Student Guidance

If you are a resident student who is exposed to a COVID-positive person, tests positive for COVID-19, or has any questions regarding COVID-19, please email housing@rivier.edu immediately and notify your Resident Director. You must isolate in your room until you receive further instruction on required isolation and quarantine guidance and timelines.

Commuting Student Guidance

Commuting students should contact the Office of Student Affairs at studentcovid19@rivier.edu and follow the steps outlined below. Please note: Day 0 is the date of the positive test for asymptomatic individuals.

1. If you are a Commuter Student (vaccinated or unvaccinated) and have developed COVID-19 symptoms and/or you answered yes to any of the questions on the Daily Health Screen:

- a. Do not come to campus and contact your primary care provider for COVID-19 testing.
- b. If you have a negative antigen (rapid) COVID-19 test, you may return to campus after sending proof of a negative test to studentcovid19@rivier.edu.
- c. If your test is positive, see #2 below.

2. If you are a Commuter student who tested positive for COVID-19 (whether vaccinated or not vaccinated):

- a. Seek guidance from your primary care provider and isolate for 5 days. You may return to campus when the following conditions are met:
 - o You are on day 6 after the date of the positive COVID-19 test **AND**
 - o You must be fever free without using fever-reducing medications for at least 24 hours and other symptoms are improving.
 - o If you develop symptoms during your time in isolation, seek guidance from your primary care for a new isolation/return to campus plan.
 - o For 10 days, you must wear a [well-fitting face mask](#) when around others, avoid people who are immunocompromised or at high-risk for severe disease, and avoid travel, if possible.

- b. E-mail studentcovid19@rivier.edu to alert Rivier University of your status, notify your academic advisor (asktheadvisor@rivier.edu), and contact your individual faculty for remote learning options.

- 3. If you are a Commuter student who has a household member who tests positive for COVID-19 or came in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 and you are NOT VACCINATED OR YOU ARE VACCINATED BUT HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE BOOSTER WHEN ELIGIBLE:**
 - a. Quarantine for 5 days and follow guidance from your primary care provider. You must test for COVID-19 no sooner than 5 days from your last contact with a COVID-positive person. If your COVID test is positive, refer to #2 for guidance. For 10 days regardless of vaccination status, you must wear a [well-fitting face mask](#) when around others, avoid people who are immunocompromised or at high-risk for severe disease, and avoid travel, if possible.
 - b. Email studentcovid19@rivier.edu to alert Rivier University of your exposure.

- 4. If you are a commuter student who has a household member who tests positive for COVID-19 and you ARE VACCINATED FOR COVID-19 INCLUDING THE BOOSTER IF ELIGIBLE:**
 - a. People who are fully vaccinated including the booster when eligible do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have [symptoms](#). If you develop symptoms, please refer to #1 above.
 - b. A fully vaccinated person who has a household member who is COVID-positive should get tested no sooner than 5 days after their exposure even if they don't have symptoms and wear a [well-fitting face mask](#) indoors in public for 10 days especially in indoor settings following exposure or until their test result is negative. If you develop symptoms, please refer to #1 above.
 - c. If your COVID test is positive, refer to #2 for guidance.

Isolation and Quarantine Guidance

The following is guidance for effective isolation if you have COVID-19 and for quarantine if you have been exposed.

Isolation is used to separate people infected with COVID-19 from those who are not infected. People who are in isolation should stay home until it's safe for them to be around others. At home, anyone sick or infected should separate from others, stay in a specific "sick room" or area, and use a separate bathroom (if available).

You **quarantine** when you might have been exposed to the virus. Quarantine if you have been in [close contact](#) with someone who has COVID-19, unless you have been [fully vaccinated](#).

The following are recommendations for effective isolation and quarantine:

Monitor your symptoms. If you have an [emergency warning sign](#) (including trouble breathing), seek emergency medical care immediately.

- Stay in a separate room from other household members, if possible.
- Use a separate bathroom, if possible.
- Avoid contact with other members of the household and pets.
- Don't share personal household items, like cups, towels, and utensils.
- [Wear a mask](#) when around other people if able.

Learn more about [what to do if you are sick](#) and [how to notify your contacts](#).

If you have no symptoms, you can be with others after 5 days have passed since you had a positive test for COVID-19. For 10 days, you must wear a [well-fitting face mask](#) when around others, avoid people who are immunocompromised or at high-risk for severe disease, and avoid travel, if possible.

If you develop symptoms after testing positive you can be around others:

- After 5 days since symptoms first appeared, and
- After 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication, and
- After other symptoms have improved.
- You must wear a [well-fitting face mask](#) around others at all times for 10 days.

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.

What to do if Exposed to COVID-19

See previous section: *Protocols for Symptoms, Exposure, or Positive COVID-19 Test Results for Commuting and On-Campus Resident Students*

ACADEMICS: TEACHING AND LEARNING

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 return to campus housing for the spring semester, additional housing information and guidelines will supplement existing policies. Resident Students will receive information from the Housing Office.

Move-in Process

Resident students will register with Housing Office to schedule a move-in date/time. All resident students will be COVID-19 tested upon arrival. Information on the move-in and testing processes will be communicated to Resident Students by the Office of Student Life. To move-in, the following must be complete:

- New Spring 2022 residents must have 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 SP22 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 Spring 2022 semester, 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 Spring 2022
- Outside guests (non-Rivier students, faculty, staff) are not permitted for Spring 2022

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 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 requires proof of vaccination or proof of medical or religious exemption for all employees.
- All Sodexo staff members 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 continue a full schedule of NCAA Division III competition in Spring 2022. Fully vaccinated GNAC student-athletes, coaches, and staff are permitted to participate during the 2022 spring 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.