

## Fall 2023 COVID Protocols for Students

August 18, 2023



This document details the COVID policies and procedures that Rivier University has in place for the Fall 2023 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](http://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 the 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.

### **COVID-19 Vaccination not Required**

The University will not require proof of COVID-19 vaccination for students, faculty, or staff for the 2023-2024 academic year. Students participating in athletics and off-campus experiential learning opportunities such as nursing clinicals, internships, or student teaching will be subject to the requirements of the external association or organization.

### **Masks and Face Coverings Optional**

When the COVID-19 community level for Hillsborough County is at “low” or “medium,” masks are optional. We will continue to monitor the community level for our county and will adjust this policy accordingly.

### **Personal Hygiene**

Students are advised to follow personal hygiene and other practices 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

### **Symptom Monitoring**

Students who develop symptoms of COVID-19, even mild symptoms, should consult their primary care providers about testing, or seek testing through a local pharmacy, a public testing option such as a state-run testing center, local health department, or urgent care facility. Resident students should contact the Office of Student Life and Housing Services to seek testing.

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 – Isolation

If a Rivier student tests positive for COVID-19, the student must follow [CDC guidelines for isolation](#) and work with individual faculty members to discuss the absence from class. Resident students should notify the Office of Student Life and Housing Services at [housing@rivier.edu](mailto:housing@rivier.edu).

When you have COVID-19, isolation is counted in days as follows:

### If you had no symptoms:

- **Day 0 is the day you were tested** (not the day you received your positive test result)
- **Day 1 is the first full day** following the day you were tested
- If you develop symptoms within 10 days of when you were tested, the clock restarts at day 0 on the day of symptom onset

### If you had symptoms:

- **Day 0 of isolation is the day of symptom onset**, regardless of when you tested positive
- **Day 1 is the first full day** after the day your symptoms started

## Isolate for first 5 days

In all cases where a student tests positive, they are to self-isolate for the first 5 days. [See additional CDC guidelines for isolation.](#)

## Ending Isolation

The student may end isolation after Day 5 only if they are fever free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication and symptoms have improved. They must wear a high-quality mask (N95, KN95) around others at all times for Days 6-10. If you still have a fever or symptoms have not improved, continue to isolate until they improve.

After you have ended isolation, if your COVID-19 symptoms recur or worsen, restart your isolation at day 0. Talk to a healthcare provider if you have questions about your symptoms or when to end isolation.

Student isolation protocols include:

- Commuter students, including 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.

*In addition to confirmed cases, the University reserves the right to prohibit a student, employee, or another individual exhibiting symptoms of 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

Regardless of vaccination status, a student exposed to someone with COVID-19 must follow [CDC exposure guidance](#):

- **Immediately begin wearing a high-quality mask** (N95, KN95) anytime you are around others inside at home or inside in public for 10 days following the day of exposure.
  - Day 0 is the day of your last exposure to someone with COVID-19.
  - **Day 1 is the first full day** after your last exposure. Each time you are exposed to someone with COVID-19, the counting of days begins again with Day 1 being the first full day after your last exposure.
- **Watch for symptoms of COVID-19 and if symptoms develop, isolate immediately and seek testing.** Stay home and away from others while awaiting the test result. If a positive test result is received, follow isolation protocols detailed above.
- **Get tested at least 5 full days after your last exposure even if you do not have symptoms.** If positive, isolate immediately and follow protocols detailed above. If negative, continue taking precautions through Day 10. You can still develop symptoms for up to 10 days after your last exposure.

## ACADEMICS: TEACHING AND LEARNING

### 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.

## STUDENT LIFE

### Resident Student Expectations

- Report symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive case to the Office of Student Life and Housing Services at [housing@rivier.edu](mailto:housing@rivier.edu).
- Follow guidelines from the State of New Hampshire, Nashua Public Health, and updated Rivier University policies.
- Clean and disinfect your living area frequently.
- Seek advice and testing 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.

### **Dining Services**

Resident students in need of take-out meals should contact the Office of Student Life and Housing Services for assistance.

## **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.