



**SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES ON-CAMPUS STUDENT
Spring semester 2021 return “checklist”**

Posted 12/15/20

PRIOR TO PHYSICALLY RETURNING TO MESSIAH’S WINDING HILL LOCATION OR GRANTHAM CAMPUS IN JANUARY 2021:

- Self-quarantine and other mitigation practices:** In the 10 days preceding your physical arrival on campus for spring semester, all on-campus graduate students are asked to quarantine as much as possible. All students should avoid large gatherings*, avoid unnecessary travel, limit contacts and be vigilant in mask wearing, washing hands frequently, and practicing consistent social/physical distancing. *This is especially important given the elevated case levels of COVID-19 this holiday season in Pennsylvania and the U.S.*

*Defined by the state of Pennsylvania as more than 10 people indoors and more than 50 people outdoors.

Please do not return to campus if you are feeling ill or symptomatic. Instead, you should contact the Engle Center at covidtriagenurse@messiah.edu to discuss your options with our medical staff.

- Requirements for air, bus or train travel:** If your travel to Messiah requires air, bus or train travel you must take extra measures to remain safe and healthy while traveling (retaining distance from others, washing hands frequently, not touching face, consider wearing a double or filtered mask at all times).
- Required PCR testing prior to campus arrival:** Prior to physically returning to campus, all on-campus graduate students **must be tested for COVID-19 and provide the University with documentation of a NEGATIVE PCR COVID-19 test** (antigen tests and antibody tests will not be accepted). *The Engle Center will be confirming that results have been provided, and students will not be permitted to arrive on campus without a verified test submission.*

ESSENTIAL TIMING NOTE: *The test should be taken within one week of your arrival on campus and results must be provided to the University at least one day in advance of your arrival on campus.*

IMPORTANT TESTING INFO

In recognition of the increasing difficulty of securing asymptomatic testing in the U.S., Messiah will be making an at-home and at-cost testing option available to students. The University is in process of finalizing the details related to this option, and anticipates providing more information to students—along with other testing options—

the week of Dec. 21. All options and procedures for spring return COVID-19 testing will be posted after that time on www.messiah.edu/together.

Self-quarantine/testing timeline for graduate students returning January 2021:

Program/Cohort	10-day self-quarantine begins	Start date of window in which you can take your PCR test	Negative PCR test submission deadline	First day of in-person instruction at Winding Hill or Grantham campus
Dietetic Interns	Dec. 26	Dec. 28	Jan. 3	Jan. 4
DPT Class of 2023	Dec. 26	Dec. 28	Jan. 3	Jan. 4
DPT Class of 2022	Jan. 1	Jan. 4	Jan. 10	Jan. 11
MOT Class of 2021 and 2022	Jan. 2	Jan. 5	Jan. 11	Jan. 12
Higher Ed	Jan. 15	Jan. 18	Jan. 24	Jan. 25

WHEN YOU RETURN TO CAMPUS

- **Population testing upon return to campus:** Within a few days of arriving on campus, on-campus graduate students should expect to undergo additional COVID-19 population testing. Although students are required to provide a negative PCR test prior to campus arrival, it is still possible for students to become positive for COVID-19 between the time of the at-home test and arrival on campus. Given the communal learning setting of our University, it is important for Messiah to quickly establish a safe and protective campus environment. Early population testing allows the University to contain any potential outbreak, and provides our best chance of success for staying open for face-to-face instruction for the semester.
- **Daily health screening:** When you return from winter recess, you will resume submitting your daily Falcon Health COVID-19 health check-in, starting on your first physical day on campus.
- **Continued mitigation measures:** Students should anticipate ongoing mitigation protocols to remain open safely during the spring semester, including:
 1. Participation in ongoing population and/or sampling testing throughout the spring.
 2. Students should not attend classes if feeling unwell or even slightly symptomatic. The University will assist students who are unable to attend in-person instructional hours due to illness.
 3. Masks are required of all students and employees at all times while attending in-person instructional hours.
 4. All students and employees are expected to practice social distancing, allowing for at least six feet between one another.

5. All students and employees are reminded to wash their hands and use hand sanitizer frequently.
6. Graduate students should not participate in large gatherings (indoor and outdoor) and avoid high risk activities including traveling via public transportation and eating in restaurants/bars.