INTRODUCTION: definition of campus vaccination categories

On Dec. 27, 2021, the CDC updated its testing, quarantine and isolation protocols, based on two new categories as defined below. Messiah University has adopted these same categories for its COVID-19 protocols for the spring 2022 semester.

**Category 1:** individuals who are unvaccinated or those whose vaccination was more than 6 months ago (Pfizer and Moderna) or more than 2 months ago for Johnson & Johnson

**Category 2:** individuals who have had a booster shot or those who are within 6 months of completing Pfizer or Moderna or within 2 months of a Johnson & Johnson vaccination (also referred to by the CDC as having vaccination that is “up to date”)

*Note: the CDC is no longer recognizing previous infection with COVID-19 as a category in its protocols.*

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Before using the below links to find the information you need, it is important to note which of the above vaccination categories you are in (since some protocols vary by category).

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When to use Falcon Health Check-In

Updating my vaccination/booster status
COVID-19 FALCON HEALTH CHECK-IN

- The **FALCON HEALTH CHECK IN** on FalconLink is Messiah’s central tool that ALL students and employees, regardless of vaccination status, are REQUIRED to use to report a positive COVID-19 test result.
  - **Students** must additionally use **FALCON HEALTH CHECK IN** to report any symptoms of COVID-19.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

- COVID-19 symptoms can resemble allergies or a cold initially. Ignoring your symptoms or assuming it’s nothing can cause others to become sick.
- Omicron symptoms are presenting with predominant initial symptoms of **scratchy throat**, sneezing, congestion and cough.
- In addition to COVID-19, winter is also flu season in general and it is always good practice to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses. **If you are sick, report and stay home. If you must leave your residence temporarily, always wear a KN95 mask.**

Reporting Symptoms—STUDENTS:

- **Do not leave your residence hall room or apartment or come to campus.** Students are responsible for informing their faculty and making up any missed work.
- **IMMEDIATELY REPORT ANY COVID-19 SYMPTOMS VIA FALCON HEALTH CHECK IN** and await instructions from the Engle Center.
- Outside of the Engle Center’s business hours (8 a.m.- 5 p.m.), students with symptoms of COVID-19 who need to test, should pick up a rapid antigen test from the Dispatch Office on the first floor of Eisenhower Campus Center at the Grantham campus. Tests are free, one per student, with a Messiah student ID. Note: these tests are for **symptomatic testing only**; they are not effective for detecting COVID-19 in asymptomatic students.
  - **If you do need to leave your residence temporarily while symptomatic, to pick up a test at Dispatch, for example, always wear a KN95 mask.**

Reporting Symptoms—EMPLOYEES: **Category 1 and 2 employees:**

- **Do not report to work.**
- **PLEASE do not** contact the Engle Center. Instead, inform your supervisor that you are symptomatic and work with your supervisor to return to work as guided by the protocol below.
- On your 2\textsuperscript{nd} day of symptoms get tested (antigen or PCR). You may secure an on-campus test through Human Resources per below, or you may secure a test at Rite Aid, CVS, etc., or use a home test.
  - **If you would like to take advantage of free self-testing on campus, please call Human Resources at 717-796-5300 to set up a time to receive a test between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. They will bring a test kit to your vehicle, and you will complete the test right there. You will receive specific parking instructions when you call to set up an appointment.**
As an additional resource for testing, the federal government has launched its website to sign up for free Covid-19 tests, allowing people to order a maximum of four tests shipped directly to their household.

- **If 2nd day test is negative**, you may report to work if you feel well enough but are required to social distance and wear a KN95 in all indoor spaces at all times. Continue to monitor symptoms closely.
  - **If 2nd day test is positive**, follow the protocols for reporting a positive test result below.
- If symptoms persist, repeat test on 5th day of symptoms. *Note: your testing options are the same as the Day 2 test options described above.*
  - **If 5th day test is negative**, you must continue to wear a KN95 indoors at all times and practice social distancing until all symptoms have resolved.
  - **If 5th day test is positive**, follow the protocols for reporting a positive test result below.
- Employees should contact their own off-campus medical practitioner at any point in this process if medical care or guidance is needed. *The Engle Center is not currently resourced to provide medical care/consultation for employees.*

**COVID-POSITIVE: Isolation and Return Protocols**

**Category 1 and Category 2 students and employees:**

- Students and employees who test positive for COVID-19 **must isolate off campus for 5 days from their positive test date.** They may return 6 days from their initial positive test date if symptom- and fever-free for 24 hours and off all medications that may be masking symptoms.
- You must promptly report an off-campus positive COVID-19 test result via **FALCON HEALTH CHECK IN.**
  - **If you test at home and receive a positive result:** write your NAME and DATE on test and take a picture of the test with your phone and upload the photo to the **HEALTH PORTAL.**
  - **If you are tested at an off-campus testing site and receive a positive result:** request a copy of your result. Be sure the result includes your name and date. Upload a copy to the **HEALTH PORTAL.**
- **Students** who test positive are expected to isolate at home, off campus, and away from family members to keep them safe.
  - **Students:** A notification from the Student Success Office will be sent to faculty, supervisors and residence life team indicating their earliest day of return. *Students are responsible for communicating with faculty about making up any missed work.*
- **Employees** who test positive are responsible for communicating with their supervisor, including their anticipated day of return.

**NOTIFYING YOUR ON-CAMPUS CLOSE CONTACTS:** If you have tested positive for COVID-19, it is required that you notify your close contacts **as directed below** to help keep COVID-19 from spreading at Messiah.

**What is close contact? When am I contagious?** Close contact means being within 6 feet of a COVID-positive individual for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period* during the period when you are contagious. This timeframe starts two days before your symptoms begin and continues until you are recovered. If you didn’t develop symptoms, the contagious period starts two days before your positive test. *You do not need to identify those close contacts with whom you were wearing a KN95 mask at all times.*
Who are my close contacts? Most frequently, on-campus close contacts consist of:

For students:
- Roommates
- Boyfriend/girlfriend
- Close friends you hang out with and/or eat meals with
- Those you participate in frequent activities with, i.e., lab partners, athletic teammates, music ensemble/cast members, student club/organization members, etc.

For employees:
- Those you share a work/office space with
- Those you eat with
- Those you meet with frequently during the workday/week

Ultimately, however, it’s important to contact anyone you think you were within 6 feet of for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period while you were contagious.

What should I share with my close contacts?

Messiah University provides several resources for you to share with your close contacts, including instructions on their next steps. (Your close contacts’ exposure begins on the date of their last day of contact with you.) Please share the below links when you reach out to your on-campus close contacts:

- [What should I do if I’m a close contact?](#) (PDF)
- [Messiah’s Spring 2022 COVID-19 Protocols](#) (PDF)

RETURNING TO CAMPUS FOLLOWING ISOLATION: In order to return to campus, you must be at least on day 6 from the date of your positive test as well as symptom-free and fever-free for 24 hours and off all medications that may be masking symptoms. Your initial test day is Day 0.

- Upon returning to campus, all community members are expected to wear a KN95 for a minimum of an additional 5 days in all indoor spaces (except for when actively eating or drinking; during these times you should socially distance from others).
  - **For residential students**, this includes wearing a mask in your residence hall except for when you are in your own room.
  - **Limit indoor dining experiences.** i.e., Get take-out and distance yourself from others, eat outside or in your room/apartment whenever possible.
  - It is your responsibility to report your status to your roommate, supervisor, off-campus internship, music director, community partner, coach, etc. Until your additional 5 days have been completed, it is expected that **you will not participate in activities where you cannot remain masked**.
  - **For employees**, this includes wearing a mask in all workspaces except for when you are alone in your own office/workspace.
CLOSE CONTACTS/COVID EXPOSURES: Testing and masking protocols

**Category 1 and Category 2 students and employees:**

If you are notified by a classmate, colleague or another community member that you were a close contact for COVID-19, you should respond by doing the following:

- **Wear a KN95 in all indoor spaces for at least 10 days from the date of your last contact with the positive person.** Assume you are positive or may become positive until shown otherwise.
  - For residential students, this includes wearing a mask in your residence hall except for when you are in your own room.
  - For employees, this includes wearing a mask in all workspaces except for when you are alone in your own office/workspace.
  - Limit indoor dining experiences. i.e., Get take-out and distance yourself from others, eat outside or in your room/apartment whenever possible.
  - During this time frame it is expected that you will not participate in activities where you cannot remain masked. It is your responsibility to report your close-contact status to your roommate, supervisor, off-campus internship, music director, community partner, coach, etc.

- Messiah offers a limited number of on-campus tests each week for those who have been notified that they are a close contact but are asymptomatic. While asymptomatic testing is not required, it is recommended by the CDC when possible. (These tests are best taken 5-7 days from last contact with the positive individual.) If you would like to participate, you may sign up for a time slot by using this link.

- If symptoms occur at any time, isolate and follow the protocols for reporting symptoms for students and employees.

VACCINATIONS AND BOOSTERS

Vaccination against COVID-19 remains the best tool against viral spread. Students and employees are strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated, which now includes getting a booster shot. There is good evidence that being fully boosted increases protection from illness significantly.

**Category 1 and 2 Students and Employees**

Please continue to upload your vaccination status to the HEALTH PORTAL, including any updates and boosters. This provides us with your most up to date information and gives us important data about our Messiah University Community and enables us to properly advise you should you have symptoms or be exposed to COVID-19.

- To update your vaccination status, go to the HEALTH PORTAL
- Go to the MY FORMS TAB
- Complete the COVID IMMUNIZATION HISTORY FORM (if this form is not present on your Portal, please send a message to englecenter@messiah.edu)
- Complete the form (you do not need to RE-ENTER previously provided information, please provide us with updates only)
- Upload a copy of your vaccine card