



UNDERGRADUATE RESIDENTIAL AND COMMUTER STUDENT Spring semester 2021 return “checklist”

Posted 12/15/20

PRIOR TO PHYSICALLY RETURNING TO CAMPUS IN JANUARY 2021

- **Self-quarantine and other mitigation practices:** In the 10 days preceding your physical arrival on campus for spring semester, all residential and commuter students are asked to quarantine as much as possible. 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 cases 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 public transit, 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).
- **If, during winter break, you decide to change your learning status for the spring semester (i.e., residential, commuter or fully remote),** please email housing@messiah.edu as soon as possible. Residential students who decide to study fully remote will need to set up a time to move their belongings out of their room/apartment. [View Messiah’s refund timeline and policy here.](#)
 - **Residential students (new and returning):** *Watch for an email from your RD during the first week in January that will ask you to register for a move-in date/time slot for returning to your campus residence.*
- **Secure a required PCR test prior to campus arrival (if traveling from within the U.S.):** Prior to physically returning to campus, all undergraduate residential and commuter 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 must be taken after January 1, 2021 and within 10 days of your arrival on campus. The **firm deadline** to provide your test result to Messiah is no later than two business days prior your physical return to campus.*

For example: a student who is scheduled to move back to campus on Jan. 19 must take a PCR test in the window 10 days prior to that date, i.e., starting Jan. 9, and would need to provide the University with their test result no later than Jan. 15.

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 students more information—along with other testing options—during 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 .

- **Requirements for international travel:** *Students traveling from outside of the U.S. should plan to arrive to campus 10 days early (but no earlier than Jan. 11, 2021) for on-campus quarantine and testing in preparation for the start of the spring semester. Upon arrival, students will receive instructions related to temporary, on-campus quarantine and COVID-19 testing will occur. The test results will be reviewed by the Engle Center who will give further direction based on results. If test results are positive for COVID-19, or test results are delayed for any reason, quarantine may be extended.*
- **Register for FalconCare so that you have access to Messiah’s 24/7 student telehealth service** while you are on break and when you return for spring semester. [Learn more and sign up here.](#)
- **Get your flu shot**, if you haven’t already, while you are home for winter break. (While not required, this is an important step you can take to keep you and our campus healthy.)

WHEN YOU RETURN TO CAMPUS

- **Population testing upon return to campus:** Within a few days of arriving on campus, residential and commuter 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 living, study and work 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.
- **Our first two weeks:** During the first two weeks back on campus, it will be essential for students to re-establish safe and health campus “family groups,” similar to the process we used this fall. Accordingly, residential students will be returning under Phase I visitation

(i.e., wearing masks on your floor/section, no visitation in student residences for the first two weeks). Off-campus travel will also be restricted to essential travel only, i.e., work, internships, clinicals, student teaching, medical care, etc.

- **Daily health screening:** When you return to campus, you will resume submitting your daily Falcon Health COVID-19 health check-in starting on your first physical day on campus (whether campus housing move-in or your first day of in-person class).
- **Continued sampling testing and mitigation measures:** Students should anticipate a continuation of the same mitigation factors that Messiah had been implementing to remain open safely during the fall semester, including population and ongoing sampling testing; wearing masks, social distancing, visitation guidelines, and restrictions related to off-campus travel and gatherings.