



FALL 2020 RETURN TO CAMPUS HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Grove City College is committed to the safety and well-being of the campus community in response to COVID-19 concerns. To that end, the Fall Return Planning Committee has thoroughly reviewed hundreds of issues that must be addressed to ensure that students will enjoy a safe and productive learning and living experience.

This Health and Safety Plan provides detailed guidance and additional information on what to expect in the semester ahead. It sets forth protocols for monitoring and potentially mitigating the impact of the virus on campus and supporting students, faculty, and staff. The Zerbe Health and Wellness Center will continue to monitor all available information from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and other agencies.

Grove City College is a distinctive community with a strong culture of care and respect for others. This value of community will be a great asset as the campus returns to in-person classes this semester. Students, faculty, and staff will be expected to adhere to the policies set forth in this plan.

These guidelines will be updated as new information about the virus becomes known. The College may add or reduce health and safety measures at any time dependent upon experience with these policies or new health data and directives from local, state, and federal health organizations. Contingency plans have been developed in response to a significantly increased threat to student and employee health. Also, this plan will be updated for the spring semester.

Further questions about the health practice guidelines can be directed to:
fallreturn2020@gcc.edu.

FALL 2020 MODIFIED ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The College will open as scheduled for the fall semester on Monday, August 24. Students will not return to campus after the Thanksgiving break. Instead, there will be one week of online classes beginning on November 30 prior to finals.

To replace the instructional days of December 7-9, classes will be held on Monday and Tuesday, November 23 and 24, of Thanksgiving holiday week and on Labor Day.

Fall break, slated for October 15 and 16, is cancelled to limit student travel out of the area.

Alternative off days have been scheduled for October 2 and October 13.



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RETURN TO CAMPUS

The Community Agreement

For the Fall 2020 semester, each student will be required to sign a "Community Agreement." The text of the Agreement is provided below, and students will be instructed on how the Agreement will be executed:

PROTECT MYSELF PROTECT OTHERS PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY

He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Luke 10:27

As members of the Grove City College community, we are called to embrace Christ's command to love our neighbors as ourselves. During these unprecedented times, this calling requires acts of personal responsibility and a commitment to the common good. If everyone remains vigilant in adhering to the community standards listed below, and God is pleased to bless us, our hopes for a successful semester on campus will be achieved.

Please affirm your willingness to abide by the following community agreement:

Because I care for the well-being of the campus community and my own health, I will –

- Wear a face covering over my nose and mouth while on campus as directed by the College (see the Fall 2020 Return to Campus Health and Safety Plan) unless excused from doing so by the Office of Student Life and Learning for a medically documented disability
- Respect personal space and practice 6-foot physical distancing where possible
- Practice enhanced personal hygiene including frequent hand washing and sanitizer use, coughing and sneezing into the bend of my arm or a tissue, greeting others without physical contact, and following safety instructions and signage
- Keep personal belongings and corporate living, study, and workspaces clean
- Monitor for and report symptoms of COVID-19 including fever, cough, and shortness of breath to the Zerbe Health and Wellness Center (724-458-3850) and remain in my residence hall room or home until I receive further direction
- Isolate or quarantine myself and contact the Zerbe Health and Wellness Center if I suspect I have been exposed to the virus
- Follow the medical advice of treating health care professionals



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- Participate in screening, testing, and contact tracing to preserve the wellness of the College community
- Adhere to protocols established by the College in response to COVID-19
- Limit off-campus travel except for significant and essential purposes and demonstrate wisdom, discernment, and precaution when doing so in accordance with College guidelines
- Be sensitive, encouraging, and helpful to others and extend grace when needed
- Consider praying regularly for the safety and mission of our campus community and encouraging others to do the same

Quest Diagnostics Screening and Testing Protocol for Students

In partnership with Quest Diagnostics, the College will use a 2-pronged approach to assess, monitor, and maintain the health of students.

Pre-arrival screening

All students are required to complete a pre-arrival screening to determine required testing prior to arrival on campus, as follows:

- Quest Diagnostics will send each student a medical screening survey approximately 14 days prior to the student's return to campus.
- The questionnaire examines student habits, precautions over the previous several days, the presence of potential COVID-related symptoms, potential exposure to COVID-19 positive (COVID+) individuals, pre-existing conditions, geographic location of residence, etc.
- Symptomatic students, students who have been exposed to or are deemed to be at a higher risk for COVID-19, will be sent a test kit from Quest Diagnostics. The test, an FDA-approved anterior nares (nasal) swab, can be self-administered by the student. Students will submit their completed tests to a Quest laboratory, and Quest Diagnostics will notify students and the College of the results within 72 to 120 hours.
- Students who have cleared pre-arrival screening requirements or received a negative test result may come to campus.
- Any student who tests positive will not be permitted to come to campus until he/she has been cleared by a medical professional and has met the following conditions:
 - Has been fever-free for 24 hours
 - Is free of respiratory symptoms
 - Is 10 days past onset of symptoms
 - Has been evaluated by a medical professional and cleared to come to campus



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Returning Student Schedule

Resident Assistants	August 11
Band	August 14
Orientation Board	August 13 and 14
New Students	August 19-20
Returning Students	August 20-23

Move-In Process

All students will be required to complete a screening survey to determine risk for contracting COVID-19. This process will be coordinated by Quest Diagnostics (as described in the section above).

Students identified for testing through the pre-arrival screening process will be required to complete a COVID-19 test between given dates and subsequently cleared via the process before coming to campus (as described in the section above).

As a courtesy to others, students should self-isolate to the best of their abilities for 5 days prior to coming to campus.

A resident student may have a maximum of 2 visitors to assist him/her with the residence hall move-in process, and these visitors are only permitted to stay on campus for up to 3 hours.

The move-in process will be staggered this semester to reduce move-in traffic. The Resident Director (RD) responsible for each building will send an online signup sheet to the students who will be moving into that building in order to extend the check-in process.

- New students: Extended to 2 days (Wednesday-Thursday, August 19-20)
- Returning students: Extended to 4 days (Thursday-Sunday, August 20-23)



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KEEPING A SAFE AND HEALTHY CAMPUS

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Cleaning will be increased in high-traffic areas and high-touch surfaces and include the following measures:

- All tabletops, desktops, and other hard and non-permeable surfaces will be disinfected at a minimum of once daily.
- High touch areas such as handrails, benches and tables, elevator buttons, door handles, telephones, will be disinfected using an EPA-approved product.
- Electrostatic Victory sprayers will be used to disinfect large, high-traffic areas.
- Spray bottles of disinfectant and wipes will be placed in select areas.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers are available in all campus buildings.



Masking

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has ordered that masks be worn in public areas unless there is a medical reason not to do so. Masking will be required in most areas for staff, faculty, and students. The campus community will be provided masks with the Grove City College logo. These coverings or other face coverings brought from home, including neck gaiters, may be worn.

Mask/face coverings worn on campus should:

- Fit over the nose and mouth and fit snugly against the side of the face
- Be secured with ties or ear loops
- Include multiple layers of fabric
- Allow for breathing without restriction

Areas that masks should be worn include:

- All instructional and administrative buildings
- Outdoors where 6-foot social distancing is not possible, such as class changes, group gatherings, excessive sidewalk traffic
- Breen Student Union
- Harbison Chapel
- Office spaces



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- Buhl Library
- Dining halls when not eating
- When attending sports and athletic venues as a spectator

Areas where masks are not required include:

- Residence hall rooms
- Colonial Hall suites
- Working independently in personal office
- Outdoor areas where 6-foot social distancing is maintained

Students with questions about masks and face coverings should contact the Office of Student Life and Learning at studentlife@gcc.edu.

Social Distancing

Close contact with others should be limited in indoor and outdoor spaces. It is important to distance from others when possible. Social distancing is especially important for people with underlying conditions and at a higher risk for severe illness.

Maintaining physical distance is the single best way to prevent infecting others or being infected. Respect others by following these physical distancing practices:

- Strive to maintain a minimum of 6 feet from others.
- Walk to the right in common hallways, corridors, sidewalks, and pathways.
- Follow signs that direct traffic flow as entrances and exits in some buildings will be one way.
- Avoid crowded places.
- Avoid using elevators unless necessary and keep elevators to a 2-person maximum.
- Eliminate physical contact such as handshaking and embracing.
- Refrain from going to class or coming to work if ill.



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Guidelines for Waiting in Administrative Areas

- Social distancing is required in all administrative, service-oriented areas.
- Only one masked guest is permitted in a staff member's office at any one time.
- In areas where plexiglass shielding is in place, individuals must remain behind the shielding when interacting with staff.
- Furniture must not be moved from its original location.

Communication to Campus Community

The College has dedicated web pages on www.gcc.edu for official information about the College's response to the pandemic, including campus announcements, plans and protocols, and guidelines.

Campus-wide email is the primary mode of communication with students and employees. Campus communications will be disseminated through the following channels, as appropriate:

- Email
- Text
- Website
- Social media
- Campus alerts (emergency messages via text message and email)

Use of College Vehicles

College vehicles may be used during the fall semester. When the keys are returned to Campus Safety, the vehicle will be taken out of service until housekeeping has disinfected it.

Vendors/Deliveries/Contractors

Vendors, delivery services, and contractors are required to follow masking and social distancing policies set forth by the College. All offices will be responsible for ensuring that these parties are informed of the College's guidelines. Please see the section "Visitor Information and Campus Life" on [pages 19-23](#).



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ASSESSING AND MAINTAINING THE HEALTH OF THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Physician Consultant Agreement with Allegheny Health Network (AHN)

Grove City College has entered into an agreement with Allegheny Health Network to be a part of their new Physician Consultation Program. As a member of this program, the College has been paired with an AHN network physician who will be available for consultation on all matters related to the implementation of mitigation measures and response to COVID-19.

The College's physician consultant, who is an expert in internal medicine and has experience working with patients suffering from diabetes, hypertension, autoimmune conditions, and mental health disorders, will also have access to an advisory board of medical professionals with expertise in infection prevention, infectious diseases, mental and behavioral health, laboratory medicine and employee health, primary care, and wellness.

The consulting physician and the advisory board will provide expert medical and scientific guidance to the College as the needs of the campus community evolve over the course of the semester.

Coordination with Public Health Officials

In developing its plan to keep the students and employees of Grove City College, as well as the surrounding area, safe, the Health Working Group of the Fall Return Planning Committee will maintain ongoing consultation with multiple medical professionals, including the Allegheny Health Network, the Zerbe Health and Wellness Center, and the College physician.

Thermometers and Extra Masks

Students are strongly encouraged to bring their own thermometers. However, touchless thermometers are available in the residence halls, and Residence Life staff should be contacted for access to these devices. A supply of extra masks from home is also recommended. Masks will be available for purchase in the Bookstore.

Self-Screening

While the College is implementing measures to protect the community from the spread of COVID-19, each member of the community must aid this effort by engaging in healthy habits. A daily self-screening assessment to track symptoms related to COVID-19 includes:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea



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Although many of these symptoms may be associated with various other illnesses and conditions, if a student is concerned his/her symptoms may be related to COVID-19, he/she is encouraged to contact the Zerbe Health and Wellness Center at 724-458-3850 to discuss his/her concerns/symptoms with a health professional, who will assist in determining the appropriate level of care.

Athletes who are currently participating in intercollegiate varsity competition will be subject to additional requirements as indicated in the "Screening" subsection under "Athletics" on [page 26](#).

Self-Reporting Symptoms via the myGCC Portal

This portal will be available on myGCC to all students and employees. Students/employees can self-report when experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19.

When a student self-reports symptoms, the portal will automatically notify the Office of Student Life and Learning. The Office of Student Life and Learning will notify the Zerbe Health and Wellness Center, the student's Resident Director (if the student is a resident student), and the student's professors that he/she is ill and will be placed in isolation. Please see the "Illness Protocol" on [pages 11-12](#) for details.

For employees who self-report symptoms, the portal will automatically notify the employee's direct supervisor that the employee is in self-isolation.

Surveillance Testing for Students

- The College will partner with a third-party medical servicer to procure tests for monitoring the health of the student population and has invested in fluorescent immunoassay analyzers (FIA) to facilitate the testing process.
- The College will test a portion of the student population weekly and continue to evaluate the effectiveness of this procedure and modify it as necessary. Testing will be administered in the Zerbe Health and Wellness Center by qualified staff members in an area reserved specifically for this purpose.
- Students who are selected to participate in surveillance testing will be notified via email. Each of these students will receive instructions for scheduling an appointment to be tested in the dedicated COVID-19 surveillance testing location in Zerbe Health and Wellness Center.
- The student will self-administer the nasal swab under the direction of the Zerbe Health and Wellness Center health professional. Upon completion, the test will be processed through the FIA, which can produce a result in approximately 15 minutes.
- If the test is positive, the student will consult with a Zerbe Health and Wellness health professional about next steps, which may include a referral for PCR testing and may initiate the "Illness Protocol." Please see the "Illness Protocol" section on [pages 11-12](#) for additional details.



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Student Classifications

Students who test positive for COVID-19, are symptomatic for COVID-19, or who have been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19 must follow the "Illness Protocol" in the next section. These classifications are defined as follows:

- **Student who tests positive for COVID-19:** A student who tests positive through the College's surveillance testing process will begin following the illness protocol immediately, pending the result of the student's PCR test.
- **Symptomatic student:** A symptomatic student is defined as one who is experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and has self-reported symptoms via the myGCC portal and/or contacted the Zerbe Health and Wellness Center at 724-458-3850. The student should begin following the illness protocol immediately, per the direction of the Zerbe Health and Wellness Center health professional.
- **Exposed student:** An exposed student is defined as one who has been within 6 feet of a COVID+ individual for 15 minutes or more.

Illness Protocol

A student who has tested positive for COVID-19, is symptomatic, or has been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19 must follow the illness protocol as indicated below:

- The student must self-isolate immediately and self-report symptoms via the myGCC portal or contact Zerbe Health and Wellness Center at 724-458-3850. For an exposed student, the health professional will determine the student's level of exposure and will direct the student accordingly.
- In the event that quarantine is necessary, the student will be asked to return home for the quarantine period if he/she is able to do so. Otherwise, the student will remain in quarantine on campus.
- The student is responsible for contacting his/her parent or guardian at this point to advise the parent or guardian of his/her situation and the implementation of the illness protocol.
- The student must remain in quarantine until he/she has been cleared to return to normal activity by a qualified physician or Zerbe Health and Wellness Center health professional. The health professional will determine appropriate treatment, testing, and/or other necessary steps to address the student's condition.
- The Office of Student Life and Learning will alert the contact tracing team to initiate the contact tracing process for any student entering quarantine. Please see the section "Contact Tracing" on [pages 13-14](#) for details.
- If a student receives a positive PCR test result, the student must remain in quarantine until released by a qualified physician or Zerbe Health and Wellness Center health professional. Quarantine is likely to last for 10 to 14 days.
- If a student receives a negative PCR test result, the student will be evaluated by the Zerbe Health and Wellness Center health professional to terminate quarantine.



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- In the event a student quarantines on campus, the Office of Student Life and Learning will extend care to the student, and a Zerbe Health and Wellness Center professional will check with the student daily.
- Before a student can return to his/her normal routine (e.g., residence hall living, attending classes in person, etc.), he/she must meet the following criteria:
 - The student must be evaluated and approved to return to normal routine by a qualified physician or a Zerbe Health and Wellness Center health professional.
 - The student must be fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.
 - The student must be symptom-free.
 - At least 10 days must have passed since the onset of symptoms.
- Athletes who are currently participating in intercollegiate varsity competition will be subject to additional requirements as indicated in the "Illness Protocol" subsection under "Athletics" on [page 27](#).

Quarantine Accommodations

Students quarantining on campus under the illness protocol will be housed in specially-designated areas reserved for this purpose. The College will designate each of these spaces for the quarantine of symptomatic, exposed, and asymptomatic students awaiting test results.

In the event the designated quarantine locations cannot accommodate students requiring isolation, consideration will be given to alternative locations where students may safely quarantine.

While the student is in quarantine on campus, meals will be delivered to him/her 3 times per day.

The student will be issued specific instructions for using the restroom facilities while in quarantine.

The student's professors will be notified of the student's absence through the myGCC portal system or through the Office of Student Life and Learning. However, the student will be responsible for contacting his/her professors to determine a plan for keeping up with his/her classwork while in quarantine. The student will also be responsible for keeping track of his/her assignments.

When a student leaves quarantine housing, the Office of Student Life and Learning will contact housekeeping to clean and disinfect the space.

Student Requests for Testing

If a student visits the Zerbe Health and Wellness Center and requests COVID-19 testing, a qualified staff member will evaluate the student and determine if testing is necessary.

If the medical professional evaluating the student determines that testing is not indicated, the student may choose to visit a local testing center. Students will be advised that testing centers may not be performing asymptomatic testing.



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A Special Note on International Students

In accordance with CDC guidelines that require all those who have travelled from outside the country to quarantine for 14 days upon their arrival, the College has been in contact with its international students to ensure this guideline is met.

In the event an international student needs to quarantine on campus, the College has a plan in place to safely transport him/her from the airport to campus and provide him/her a place to quarantine for the requisite number of days.

Contact Tracing

Contact tracing will identify individuals who were within 6 feet of the student for more than 15 minutes while the person was symptomatic or within the 48 hours prior to becoming symptomatic. The following means will be implemented to assist in the contact tracing process:

- **Use of smartphone application by all students and employees**
 - The designated smart phone application is free to all users and can greatly aid the College in identifying campus community members who may have been exposed to COVID-19. All members of the community will be asked to download the app onto their smartphones.
 - The app uses the phone's speaker when a person is in proximity to someone else who is also using the app. In the event an individual tests positive for COVID-19, he/she will open the app and click the button to indicate that he/she has tested positive. The app will automatically send an alert to any other individuals whose devices have been in close proximity (3 to 6 feet) to his/her device for more than 15 minutes. All notifications are entirely anonymous, and no personal or private information is accessible to the app.
 - Students receiving the exposure notification will be advised to schedule a screening with the Zerbe Health and Wellness Center through the telehealth portal on Microsoft Teams. If a student receives the notification outside the Health Center's normal hours of operation, the student will be advised to isolate in his/her residence hall room and contact Campus Safety who will contact an on-call nurse.
 - Employees receiving notification will be advised to return home and seek medical assistance from a primary care physician. The employee should alert the supervisor about possible exposure. The employee and supervisor will determine the employee's working arrangements during isolation and pending testing results.
 - The COVID+ individual, whether student or employee, will not be identified. The anonymity functionality of the app ensures compliance with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) guidelines. For further employee guidance, see the "Employee Return-to-Work" section on [page 28](#).



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- **Contact tracers:** The College will identify individuals in the campus community to serve as contact tracers. These individuals will be certified through the Johns Hopkins University Contact Tracing education course. The contact tracer team will be led by a College faculty member who will be responsible for ensuring proper certification is achieved.

Telehealth Portal

The College will utilize all available technology resources to facilitate social distancing while meeting the needs of students and employees, especially those who may be compromised. As part of this effort, students will have access to a telehealth portal on Microsoft Teams. This portal will allow a student to be assessed remotely by the College physician or nurse practitioner to minimize possible exposure to other students.

Please note that students who need to see a nurse in person must call Zerbe Health and Wellness Center at 724-458-3850 to make an appointment.

Counseling Center

Students may schedule remote counseling sessions with a designated counselor in the Counseling Center by calling 724-458-3788.



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ACADEMIC LIFE

In-Class, In-Person Instruction Policies

The policies for in-class, in-person instruction are as follows:

- All students, faculty, and staff must wear face coverings in all academic buildings.
- Faculty may choose to teach in a cloth mask or face-shield, and all faculty are expected to teach in person unless otherwise given permission for alternative course delivery.
- All students, faculty and staff must enter/exit academic buildings through designated doorways.
- Faculty/staff may hold in-person office hours/meetings in places where social distancing can occur.
- Faculty/staff may hold in-office hours/meetings with 1 student at a time.
- Faculty may choose to hold all (or a portion) of office hours/meetings online.



Online or Hybrid Course Delivery

- Faculty with a compromised immune system (or living with a family member that has a compromised immune system) may be allowed to teach online or in a hybrid format. Such situations will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- If a student with a compromised immune system wishes to maintain enrollment for the fall semester, he/she must contact the Registrar. Such requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
- Faculty with specific concerns regarding in-person teaching will have the option to teach in classrooms with lower density or may teach some courses in a hybrid format.
- Online course development must be reviewed with the Office of Graduate and Online Education, and all online courses must be processed through the online teaching committee.
- Faculty teaching online must attend online course development training.
- All labs will be held in person unless otherwise specified.



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Student Gatherings in Academic Buildings

- Students may use conference tables or classrooms for studying purposes when and where social distancing can occur.

Faculty and Student Travel and Co-curricular Events

- All non-essential travel for the fall semester is cancelled, including College-funded conferences or other student field trips.
- All co-curricular faculty/student travel is cancelled for the fall semester unless specifically approved by the Provost.

Guests in Classrooms or Speakers in Courses

- All guest lecturers must follow specific safety protocols before entering any classroom (including temperature check, masking, and proper social distancing).
- All guest lecturers in scheduled classes, traveling more than 100 miles from/to the College, are cancelled.
- Prospective students may be permitted to visit select classes as coordinated through the Admissions Office. In such cases, only 1 prospective student will be permitted per class and the prospective student must be masked at all times.

Faculty Illness and Course Delivery

- Faculty with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should visit their personal physician or healthcare provider for further diagnosis.
- Any faculty member who contracts COVID-19 will be asked to remain at home for at least 10 days and will have a plan in place to move courses to online delivery for students.

Final Exams

- All final exams or projects will be administered online or conducted in an online format during final exam week.



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STUDENT LIFE

Residence Hall Policies

No outside visitors (family, friends, overnight admissions guests, etc.) will be permitted in the residence halls. Commuters will not be permitted to spend the night except in cases of severe weather or other extenuating circumstances. Please see the section "Visitor Information and Campus Life" beginning on [page 19](#) for more details.



Building and floor lounges will remain open, but students will be required to follow social distancing and masking practices.

KetRec kitchen and SouthRec kitchen will be closed.

Open Hours will not become effective until after September 7th.

Residence Hall Masking and Social Distancing

Residents are not required to be masked when in their residence hall rooms.

When leaving the residence room and hall, students are asked to follow social distancing guidelines.

When social distancing is not possible, students should be masked.

Dining Facilities Plan Modifications

Adjustments in the dining facilities will include the following:

- Use of disposable service ware, cutlery (forks, spoons, knives), multi-use plates, and beverage containers
- Prepackaged condiments
- Informational signage as needed
- 30-minute intervals for sanitization of stations
- No refillable cups or water bottles
- Reduced seating to create adequate space for social distancing and to limit occupancy



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Hicks and MAP Cafés

The College's dining cafés in MAP and Hicks Halls will be open to members of the campus community at the regularly scheduled times. For this fall semester, extended dining options will also be offered in Hicks Café, as follows:

Hicks Café – Extended Dining Options

- Hours of Operation: Between mealtimes, members of the campus community only may enter Hicks Café. Stations will be open for dining options as follows:
 - After-hours breakfast: 10:00am-10:50am – comfort station opens with daily breakfast menu options available and breakfast pastries
 - After-hours lunch: 1:00pm-5:00pm – offerings will include pizza/pasta, salad bar/deli, dessert, and beverages

Catering

Catering services will be available with either attended or drop-off meal service. For drop-off meal service, the following modifications will apply:

Drop-Off Meals

- All meals will be pre-ordered and portioned into containers for each individual order (e.g., deli bars now become pre-made sandwiches with portioned sides).
- Condiments will be pre-packaged.
- Snacks and desserts will be pre-packaged.
- Beverages will be provided in cans or bottles or portioned into glasses or cups with lids.
- Utensils will be pre-packaged or wrapped silverware.



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VISITOR INFORMATION AND CAMPUS LIFE

Visitor Information and Definitions of Terms

A visitor is anyone on campus who is not a dual-enrolled or degree-seeking enrolled student (commuter or residential) or a College employee. Visitors will be considered “Essential” or “Non-Essential” according to the following definitions:



- **Essential Visitor** – An individual who has been pre-approved to be on campus by the director of the office he/she intends to visit. Examples of offices whose directors might pre-approve an essential visitor include:
 - Career Services Office
 - Alumni Office
 - Chapel (for guest speakers)
 - Development Office
 - Provost's Office (for guest speaker or lecturer)
 - Admissions Office (please see the information under “Admissions Office Visits by Prospective Students and Families” on [page 21](#))
 - Athletics Office (for prospective student recruits/families, visiting team personnel, etc.)
 - Operations vendors/deliveries/contractors
- **Non-essential Visitor** – An individual who has not been pre-approved to be on campus. Examples of non-essential visitors include:
 - Overnight guests in residence halls (except as defined under “Residence Hall Policies” on [page 17](#))
 - Social visits by parents, siblings, and friends of students or friends and family members of College employees
 - Unapproved guest speakers for student-led, non-academic events (please see the section “On-Campus Events Scheduling” on [pages 21-22](#) for additional information)
 - Club sports visiting teams



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General Policies for Essential Visitors

Essential visitors must abide by the following guidelines:

- Must have a scheduled appointment and/or documented pre-approval for coming to campus
- Must comply with the College's masking and social distancing policies (please see the sections "Masking" and "Social Distancing" on [pages 6-7](#))
- Must wash hands and/or use sanitizer upon entering any College building
- Must self-screen on the morning of a visit – any "yes" answers to the following questions should prompt the visitor to cancel and reschedule:
 - Have you had a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees within 24 hours of visiting campus?
 - Have you tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days?
 - Have you had direct contact with a person confirmed to have COVID-19 or with someone who is under care for suspected exposure to COVID-19 within the last 14 days?
 - Have you traveled internationally within the last 14 days?
 - Have you experienced a cough, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, or new loss of taste or smell in the last 14 days?
- An essential visitor who tests positive for COVID-19 within 7 days after visiting the College must notify the College individual/office who issued pre-approval for the visit.

Signage will be posted at each building with information about whom to contact to gain entry to the building.

For offices other than the Admissions Office: an office director who wishes to approve an individual for a campus visit must confirm approval with the visitor in writing in advance of the visit. The instructions and pre-approval form are posted on the "Employee" tab on myGCC. Instructions are also provided on myGCC in case of an unscheduled visitor.

The office director must keep a record of the details of each visit and visitor he/she approves as "essential" (including date, time, location, and reason for the visit). If an essential visitor later reports that he/she has tested positive for COVID-19, the office director must notify the director of the Zerbe Health and Wellness Center immediately. These instructions are also posted on the "Employee" tab on myGCC.



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Admissions Office Visits by Prospective Students and Families

The Admissions Office will continue to host prospective students and families for interviews, tours, and preview events by appointment. Additional details and visit guidelines are posted on the Admissions web page on www.gcc.edu.

Campus Life and Definitions of Terms

The following terms have been established for guiding campus life programming:

- **Instructional gathering** – an on-campus event related to academics/Chapel program
- **Non-instructional gathering** – an on-campus event not considered to be instructional
- **Essential off-campus travel for students and student organizations** – academic or varsity sports
- **Non-essential off-campus travel for students and student organizations** – travel not considered to be essential off-campus travel for students/student organizations

Examples of such non-essential travel include, but are not limited to:

- ICO trips
- Fraternity, sorority, and housing group fall parties and formals
- Service projects (exceptions may be given in rare situations)
- Young Life (interactions with middle- and high-school students)
- Campus Crusade for Christ (in-person, off-campus evangelism efforts)
- Outing Club (gatherings at the Club)
- Tower of Words (visiting the Grove City Adult Literacy Center)
- Prison Ministry (visiting any prisons)
- Impact Outdoor and Adventure Education (off-campus activities)
- Retreats for student clubs/organizations
- Conferences for student clubs/organizations
- Club Sports
- Any travel by other student clubs/organizations not listed above

On-Campus Events Scheduling

Students, faculty, and staff may request approval for on-campus events through Ad Astra. Requests will be reviewed by the Conference and Event Manager, who may consult with the



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appropriate individuals and offices to determine whether the event should be approved, denied, or reworked to meet necessary safety guidelines.

Members of the campus community wishing to request an event must apply for a "COVID-19 Safety Permit" and will be required to acknowledge review of the safety permit and accompanying "Guidelines for Planning an Event During COVID-19" are available at: www.gcc.edu/covidpermit. If approved, the individual/organization must submit a list of event attendees at the completion of the event.

Music, Art, and Theater Events Scheduling

Some of the music, art, and theater events scheduled for the Fall 2020 semester have been cancelled, and others have been modified to reduce risk. The College will determine approval to schedule other events after the results of studies by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) have been released to the public after August 3.

Chapel Program

Chapel is considered an instructional gathering held in Harbison Chapel, with overflow to Crawford Auditorium and Ketter Auditorium. Other modifications for the fall semester include the following:

- The Chapel credit requirement will be reduced from 16 credits to 8 credits for Fall 2020 to assist in reducing the number of attendees at various venues.
- Attendees will be required to wear masks for the duration of all Chapel services and social distancing will be maintained.

Students should refer to Chapel program information for other details involving special speakers, music, and other related matters.

Orientation and Welcome Week

The Orientation Board will arrive 1 week earlier to prepare for the changes to this year's Welcome Week.

New student move-in has been extended to 2 days to promote a staggered arrival. New students will only be permitted to bring 2 family members into the residence halls to assist with move in and room set-up. These family members will only be permitted to stay for up to 3 hours.

Traditional larger events, such as the Graffiti Dance, have been cancelled or adapted to align with the College's safety plan. All other events have been reviewed and will be adjusted as needed.

In general, small connection groups led by Orientation Board mentors, as well floor gatherings led by Resident Assistants, will be utilized this year to promote connection and community, while mitigating the potential risk of spreading COVID-19. More information can be found at this link: [Orientation Board and Welcome Week Information](#).



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Career Services Office Recruitment Initiatives

The Career Services Office (CSO) will host recruiters for on-campus interviews with students. The CSO will follow all guidelines and policies established by the College to reduce risk for interviews and all sponsored programs.

CSO is modifying the format of the annual Career Fair to a virtual format available to students on the Handshake app.

Homecoming

Grove City College is cancelling all in-person events for alumni, friends, and parents scheduled for this year's Homecoming Weekend to maintain the health and safety of the campus community. Student activities and traditions that are held on campus will go on as planned over the weekend of October 2-4 with some modifications to meet health guidelines.

Commencement

Spring 2020 Commencement exercises are tentatively slated for October 3, 2020.



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ATHLETICS

Fall Varsity Athletic Competition

The President's Athletic Conference (PAC) President's Council has voted unanimously on the following decisions related to varsity athletic competition in the fall 2020 semester:

- NCAA-defined "high contact" and "medium contact" sports of football, men's and women's soccer, women's volleyball, and men's and women's cross country will be postponed until the spring 2021 semester, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The NCAA-defined "low contact" fall 2020 sports of women's tennis and men's and women's golf will tentatively be permitted to compete this fall with conference competition only, as previously announced, barring additional NCAA or state guidelines/restrictions. The conference will also explore logistical options for holding fall athletic competitions in other "low contact" sports such as men's and women's outdoor track and field and men's tennis which have typically held traditional seasons in the spring in past years.
- Tentative modified spring varsity game/competition schedules in football, soccer, volleyball, and cross country will be developed by the PAC Scheduling Working Group and released in the near future.
- The PAC Presidents' Council also agreed to not hold any winter sport varsity competitions prior to January 1, 2021.

High and medium contact sports of football, soccer, volleyball, and cross country will safely resume in an expanded PAC athletic schedule this coming spring when conditions permit.

Social Distancing

The following social distancing practices must be maintained by everyone involved in a varsity sport:

- Social distancing will be encouraged at all times, as per the College's protocol.
- On-field/court personnel will be limited to those deemed essential for a team to function, including staff, media, and athletes.
- Teams will follow College COVID-19 guidelines for social distancing, masking, and room occupancy levels for team meetings.
- Virtual team meetings should take place when possible.
- When at practice or competition, any unnecessary contact should be avoided such as handshakes, high fives, fist bumps, or elbow bumps.
- Student athletes should sit every other seat on a bench (as possible) and should avoid using a dugout when possible and stand 6 feet apart when not participating in a drill or activity that requires closer contact.



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Sanitization

The following sanitization practices must be followed:

- All equipment must be cleaned between individual uses. Balls should be rotated during drills throughout the practice. Once a ball is rotated out, it is removed from practice for the day. Balls, cones and previously used equipment will be sanitized before the next practice session.
- When possible, athletes should not share equipment.
- Athletes must not share bench, hand, or shower towels.
- Each athlete should have a personal defined hydration container that is never to be shared. This container must be washed daily with cleaning detergent and hot water.
- Where individual bottles are not permitted, individual pre-filled cups will be used. These cups should be filled by gloved and masked operations personnel.
- Hand sanitizer will be made available throughout the facility for use before, during, and after workouts.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The following PPE practices must be followed:

- All coaches and staff will be masked at all times when interacting with athletes. Athletes will wear masks in all indoor settings including meeting rooms, locker rooms, athletic training room, and weight rooms.
- Coaches and athletic personnel should always be masked when interacting with athletes. Athletes will wear masks in all indoor settings – meeting rooms, locker rooms, athletic training room, and weight rooms.
 - All personnel (athletes and staff) will wear a mask when not actively participating in the sport. That means masks must be worn on the sideline areas and benches by all.
 - Athletes and coaches will always wear masks during weight training workouts in the fitness center.
 - Cloth face coverings are adequate. The garment should cover both the nose and mouth and allow for continued unlabored breathing. Face shields are not preferable but can be allowed if an extenuating circumstance calls for their use.
 - The recommendation for all is for frequent handwashing and avoidance of touching the face. Coaches and trainers should remind all participants of these best practices in every team setting.
- Please see the section regarding “Masking” on [pages 6-7](#) for information about the College’s policy.



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- Athletic training personnel will continue to wear gloves as part of normal NATA/ICSM athletic training protocols and follow best practices for frequent handwashing and avoid touching the face. Coaches and trainers should remind all participants to follow these practices in every team setting.

Pre-participation Exams

Athletes will undergo pre-participation exams and required follow-up as necessary. Please note that physical screenings will be done by appointment upon arrival to campus. Athletes will receive further direction from the Athletics Department.

Daily Screening for Athletes Currently Competing in Intercollegiate Varsity Sports

Please see [pages 9-10](#) of this plan for details regarding the College's protocol on "Self-Screening" and "Self-Reporting Symptoms via the myGCC Portal" under "Assessing and Maintaining the Health of the Campus Community."

Athletes who are currently competing in intercollegiate varsity sports will be required to undergo additional screening according to the following guidelines:

- Student athletes, coaches, and staff will be screened daily with no-touch temperature checks and an app-based questionnaire as provided by the Athletic Department. Any "yes" answers will be flagged, sent directly to the athletic training staff's attention, and the students will be isolated according to Grove City College COVID-19 protocols.
- A positive screen that would warrant further investigation would be a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees or a "yes" response to any of these four questions:
 - Do you have new onset cough or shortness of breath?
 - Have you had a fever or felt febrile?
 - Have you developed a lack of taste or smell?
 - Have you had known exposure to a COVID-19-positive individual?

Acclimatization

The NCAA and other medical guidance suggest athletes undergo acclimatization in preparation for any sport season. Acclimatization will occur in a phased and staggered manner to help prevent the potential spread of illness by an asymptomatic carrier, as well as allowing for proper reconditioning of the body for competitive collegiate athletics.

This process will vary by sport and will be communicated and implemented by Athletic Department personnel as appropriate.



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Illness Protocol for Athletes Currently Competing in Intercollegiate Varsity Sports

Please see [pages 11-12](#) of this plan for details regarding the College's "Illness Protocol" under "Assessing and Maintaining the Health of the Campus Community." Athletes with a positive COVID-19 test may return to intercollegiate varsity competition upon the conclusion of the following:

- Symptom-free for 72 hours
- At least 10 days have passed since onset of symptoms
- At least 1 negative COVID-19 test result
- A COVID-19-positive athlete may not return to play without evaluation and clearance documentation by the school team physician in relation to cardiologic health.

Competition and Travel Considerations

Communication shall be maintained between all medical providers, athletic trainers, and athletic directors in the PAC according to the following agreements:

- There will be global agreement that all ill athletes will be held from participation no matter the circumstances.
- Member schools will need to be willing to share information regarding potential positive cases and exposures.

All teams participating in PAC competition will be required to complete a health screening, including a temperature check, before traveling to an away competition. Upon arrival, a verified copy of the team roster, coaching, and support staff for that day's game that documents temperature readings and verifies no COVID-19 symptoms evident (based on the PAC screening questionnaire) will be submitted to the home team's athletic training staff.

Travel should be limited and when possible, by charter bus or air. During travel:

- Social distancing and masking protocols should always be maintained.
- Teams will follow charter bus companies' guidelines for safe travel.
- Preparations should be made for limited stops when en route (such as prepackaged meals).
- If an overnight stay is necessary, no more than 2 people will be assigned to a room with their own sleeping space.



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EMPLOYEE RETURN-TO-WORK PLAN

Place of Work

Employees who can effectively work remotely and whose presence is not deemed essential to supporting the return of students and College functions will continue to do so. Essential campus services such as those performed by maintenance, grounds, housekeeping, and Campus Safety will continue.

The College is implementing the following measures to help prevent COVID-19:

- Self-monitoring of symptoms by employees to ensure they do not come to work sick and that they leave campus at the onset of symptoms
- Requiring masking in designated areas on campus
- Restricting or prohibiting non-essential visitors (please see section "Visitor Information and Campus Life," [pages 19-23](#))
- Utilizing video or phone conferencing instead of face-to-face meetings
- Ensuring signage regarding COVID-19 prevention strategies is in place to encourage physical distancing, hand washing, and other prevention measures
- Working with the housekeeping staff to ensure appropriate cleaning and sanitizing of classrooms, workplaces, offices, and other locations
- Restricting and/or prohibiting nonessential, College-related travel (please see section "Visitor Information and Campus Life," [pages 19-23](#))
- Minimizing the number of occupants in College vehicles when vehicle travel is necessary
- Making workplace modifications, including but not limited to:
 - Reducing the number of workstations, where possible
 - Placing plexiglass to limit the connection to other workstations or in areas such as student and/or customer service greeting areas
 - Reducing the number of chairs in building common areas, such as academic building lobbies and seating areas
 - Reassessing flow patterns throughout select buildings to allow for reduced contact and discouraging congregation
 - Propping doors open to avoid high-touch surfaces



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FALL RETURN PLANNING COMMITTEE

In May 2020, President Paul J. McNulty formed a committee to plan for the return of students for the Fall 2020 semester.

Comprised of administrators, faculty and staff and chaired by President McNulty, the Fall Return Planning Committee formed itself into 6 working groups to develop plans and protocols which would support the continuity and quality of the College's core functions – academic affairs, student activities, athletics, dining and residence halls, career services and more.



Best practices involving testing, contact tracing, monitoring, social distancing, separation, and enhanced cleaning have been considered and addressed by the committee. The working groups will continue to function throughout the fall semester, and will be ready to adapt or update the plan, policies, and protocols to maintain a safe and healthy campus.

The Fall Return Planning Committee:

- Dr. Peter Frank '95,
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Michael Buckman '82,
Vice President for Business & Finance
- Joseph Cirelli,
Assistant Dean of Student Life
- Dr. John Coyne '04,
Associate Dean of Student Life
- Jonathan DiBenedetto,
Director of Residence Life
- Dr. Vincent F. DiStasi '88,
*Vice President for Information Technology,
Chief Information Officer*
- Michael Duda '95,
Risk and Insurance Specialist
- JonErik Germadnik,
General Manager Bon Appetit
- Todd Gibson '02,
Director of Athletics
- Susan Grimm,
Environmental Health & Safety Specialist
- Larry Hardesty,
Vice President for Student Life and Learning
- Dr. John Inman,
Vice President for Enrollment Services and Registrar
- Dr. Paul Kemeny,
Dean of the Calderwood School of Arts & Letters
- Dr. Charles E. Kriley '88,
Professor of Chemistry
- James M. Lopresti,
Vice President for Operations
- Melissa MacLeod '96,
Senior Director of Alumni and College Relations
- Jacquelyn Muller,
Senior Director of Communications
- Dr. Constance N. Nichols '93,
Professor of Education and Department Chair
- Amy Pagano,
Director of Zerbe Health & Wellness Center
- Johanna Paul '12,
Visit Coordinator Admissions
- Zachary Pitcher '17,
Chapel Programming Director
- Dr. Richard Savage,
*Dean of the Hopeman School of Science, Engineering,
and Mathematics*
- Dr. Kevin S. Seybold,
Professor of Psychology and Department Chair
- Betty Tallerico,
Assistant to the President
- Dr. Jeffrey Tedford '00,
Associate Professor of Music and Department Chair
- Marci Wagner,
Director of Human Resources
- Michelle Williams '01,
Director of Financial Services
- Lee Wishing '83,
Vice President for Student Recruitment
- Dr. Brian Yowler,
Assistant Professor of Biology



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FURTHER RESOURCE INFORMATION

Further resource information is available via the following links:

- [COVID-19 Glossary of Terms](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [National Institutes of Health](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)
- [U.S. Department of State](#)

For further inquiries, please email: fall2020return@gcc.edu