

This document provides guidance and direction regarding the university's expectations for employees, departments and programs hosting visitors or holding events, programs, conferences and other activities into the fall 2021 semester. **As with all planning related to the COVID-19 pandemic, this guidance is subject to change in the university's sole discretion, for any reason, including but not limited to changing public health conditions and/or changing guidance, laws, or regulations from local, state, or federal entities, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (collectively, "Government Guidance").**

This guidance assumes a high level of community vaccination and continuing satisfactory public health conditions; if those assumptions prove wrong, the guidance may change.

This document will cover the following areas:

1. Vaccination protocols
2. Routine asymptomatic COVID-19 testing
3. Mask wearing policies
4. Academics
5. Events and gatherings
6. Visitors and guests, including vaccination protocols
7. Athletics and recreation

1. VACCINATION PROTOCOLS

JWU students and employees are required to get the COVID-19 vaccine subject to medical, religious, or other exemptions. Members of the community should, as a general matter, refrain from inquiring about any other member's vaccination status; HR may make such inquiries as needed. Any concerns should be addressed directly with an appropriate supervisor, or for students, Student Conduct.

2. COVID-19 ROUTINE TESTING PROGRAM

- In mid-August, the university will continue the community-wide COVID-19 routine asymptomatic testing program for students and employees who have not provided documentation of receipt of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- University Health Services will offer mandatory symptomatic testing for students exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. Faculty and staff exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms should not go to campus and should continue to see their own health care provider for symptomatic testing.
- Point of origin testing will be required for any unvaccinated student. A negative PCR or rapid antigen test must be submitted within 72 hours of the student's return to campus.

3. MASK AND SOCIAL DISTANCING PROTOCOLS

- In general, all persons must continue to wear a mask where required by Government Guidance. Below, we capture the latest Government Guidance.

- In accordance with the latest CDC guidance, to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, all persons, whether fully vaccinated or not, must wear a mask indoors in public if located in an area [of substantial or high transmission](#). Currently, Rhode Island and Charlotte are both area of substantial or high transmission. Therefore, **effective immediately we are reinstating the requirement that all individuals—regardless of vaccination status—must wear masks indoors, unless in a private, non-shared space or when eating or drinking.** In addition, social distancing of at least three feet must be maintained when unmasked.
- Vaccinated Individuals: Vaccinated persons need not wear masks outdoors.
- Unvaccinated Individuals: Unvaccinated persons must wear masks outdoors if unable to maintain at least six feet of social distance.
- Optional Mask Wearing: Wearing a mask is most important if you have a weakened immune system or if, because of your age or an underlying medical condition, you are at [increased risk for severe disease](#), or if someone in your household has a weakened immune system, is at increased risk for severe disease, or is unvaccinated. If this applies to you or your household, you might choose to wear a mask regardless of whether you are required to do so. Any member of the community who is not otherwise required to wear a mask may, of course, choose to wear a mask in any setting at any time and for any reason (including personal and community protection against seasonal flu and colds). This personal choice should be respected. As a general rule of thumb, inquiries should not be made regarding why an individual is wearing a mask other than by Human Resources, managers, or other specifically designated staff. Any concerns should be addressed directly with an appropriate supervisor, or for students, referred to Student Conduct.

4. ACADEMICS

- Class Sizes: For the fall 2021 semester we do not plan to have limitations or restrictions on in-person class meetings, unless the size of the classroom does not allow for physical distancing, taking into account unvaccinated populations. However, classes shall be limited to 30 students.
- Libraries, Labs, and Other Settings: We plan to open these spaces at full capacity. Pre-pandemic capacity limitations in laboratories and other academic settings will determine allowable attendance.

5. EVENTS AND GATHERINGS

- August 15 and Beyond: Participants must follow current guidance herein, as relates to masks.
- Undergraduate Student Organizations: Undergraduate student organizations should work with the Student Involvement Office for guidance and support related to in-person meetings and activities.

6. VISITORS AND GUESTS

Given the number and range of types of visitors to the JWU campus throughout the year, there will be

additional and more detailed information regarding visitors communicated to the campus through *This Week @ JWU*. The guidance below provides general information to set expectations and allow departments and programs to begin planning for the fall.

Beginning August 15, we plan to allow visitors on campus without specific approvals or permissions, subject to the provisions and expectations detailed below:

- **Mask and Social Distancing Protocols:** Visitors will need to comply with the mask protocols and social distancing requirements applicable to JWU community members, outlined herein.
- **Vaccination:** We strongly encourage all visitors to be vaccinated. All visitors who have not completed the vaccine series including 14 days after final dose must follow all the protocols for unvaccinated individuals. They must abide by the COVID-19 Visitor/Vendor Policy and any requirements specific to the facility or program they are visiting (e.g., health care or medical research settings with indoor mask requirements).

Campus Admission Tours: Campus tour participants will be instructed upon registration that masks are required indoors in public spaces, except as otherwise provided herein.

7. ATHLETICS AND RECREATION

- **Access to Facilities:** We plan to open all facilities at full and normal capacity by the beginning of the fall semester.
- **Athletics Competition:** While intercollegiate competitions are subject to the rules and regulations of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and other sports conferences, the university is prepared to host competitions without limitations or restrictions, including normal attendance by spectators, in the fall season, except as otherwise provided herein. Athletes competing at locations outside of the university will have to comply with the guidelines applicable at such locations, which may be more stringent than those of the university.

The return to normal operations will be a transition process, and we understand that the guidance provided in this message may raise additional questions and issues that need to be resolved. We will do our best to resolve such questions. Questions regarding to the return to normal operations can be directed to the Office of Emergency Management.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the health and safety of the campus and surrounding community and your patience and understanding as we work together toward the next academic year.