

Wheeling University Updated COVID Plan Summer 2021

Wheeling University is adjusting its COVID-19 protocols and planning for face-to-face instruction in the fall. The health and safety of the Wheeling community are at the forefront of all University policies in response to COVID-19. Our commitment to each other's health and safety is an extension of our approach to being in a community together as a Cardinal Family.

Wheeling University has been digesting the flood of guidance issued in the past two weeks by state and federal agencies. What follows are our adjusted guidelines and next steps. Keep in mind that these protocols can and most likely will change between now and Aug. 23, when the fall semester begins. We will provide additional information coming in the weeks ahead via the President's Weekly Updates.

We expect to be fully open and somewhat back to normal come fall, and we hope even to be maskless – dependent on how widely vaccinated our Wheeling population is by the beginning of the academic year. We are making good progress in vaccinations and are in the process of surveying students, staff, and faculty to determine the percentage of vaccinated community members on our campus. Continued progress in vaccination will provide us greater confidence in easing restrictions for social distancing and masking inside certain facilities on campus in the next several weeks. We will be working to achieve a goal of all of these numbers being 70 percent or better for fall. You can help the cause of a maskless new year by confirming your vaccination status by completing the survey and uploading an image of your vaccination record as part of the survey.

Here is Wheeling's general COVID-19 mitigation framework, effective immediately:

- For now, masks will be required indoors across campus, unless you are in your office working alone. You can wear a mask at your discretion when you are outside.
- We are discontinuing social distancing measures on campus.
 - In classrooms and dining areas, we are reverting to our traditional room designs and assignments.
- We are urging all community members to receive their vaccines, but we will NOT generally require them.

- We will strongly encourage vaccinations through summer and fall for students, faculty, and staff.
 - We will establish on-campus clinics, especially around the start of classes in August. However, vaccines are readily available now in Ohio County, and across the country, so you do not have to wait until August to be sure you are fully vaccinated by the time of your planned return.
 - To help us make decisions on campus policies and procedures, we are closely tracking how many in our Wheeling community are vaccinated. Please upload an image of your vaccination record as part of the Vaccination Survey as soon as possible.
- We will no longer utilize LiveSafe as part of our campus health and safety procedures but may as deemed necessary.
 - We will no longer require temperature check stations.
 - We have removed the mandatory temp check station at the main entrance. The scanners are still present in the Public Safety Office, and we encourage you to use them at your discretion when needed.
 - We will discontinue our current Travel policy.
 - We will continue testing for NCAA COVID-19 in the fall as required, but **those who show proof of being vaccinated will not have to test unless they have symptoms.**
 - Vaccinated individuals will not need to quarantine if identified as a "close contact" unless they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19.
 - Students moving back to campus in August will be required to provide a negative COVID-19 test or proof of vaccination.
 - We will continue testing as needed and our isolation/tracing/care program into the fall. This system, which helped us contain outbreaks of COVID-19, allowed us to stay open throughout this academic year. We will also continue to set aside spaces on campus for isolation and quarantine if that becomes necessary.
 - Employees can continue practices that might have worked – including GoToMeeting/Zoom meetings.
 - Whether student, staff, or faculty: **If you are sick or having symptoms of COVID-19, please stay home.** This policy worked well for us this past year, and we believe it will continue to serve us well.
 - We will continue offering in-classroom cleaning supplies.
 - We will continue supplying sanitizer across campus.
 - We will be moving courses back to traditional face-to-face using hybrid learning and remote learning when necessary and approved.

- We have rolled back gathering limits and space restrictions across campus, effective immediately.
 - In-person staff meetings can be resumed, but accommodations or alternatives should be considered if not all employees are comfortable or vaccinated.
 - Classrooms and sitting areas will immediately begin to be repopulated with furniture that has been in storage.
 - Water fountains across campus will be turned on.
 - COVID-19 limits in Starbucks, the Ratt, Benedum Room, and elsewhere across campus will be lifted, and capacity will be restored to pre-pandemic levels. Signage is already being removed.

- Visitor restrictions in our residence halls are rescinded, effective immediately.

We will continue to send messages to your email and will post them at <https://wheeling.edu/coronavirus/>.