

Fall 2021

COVID-19 Trinity Community Contract

During the 2021-2022 academic year, Trinity College will resume more normal operations on campus. As we all have learned, the COVID-19 virus and variants remain highly transmissible. Therefore, it is extremely important that members of our community remain vigilant and follow the college's safety practices to reduce the spread of the virus on campus. Doing so will allow us not only to return to but also maintain more normal operations. As we did last year, we are again asking students to commit themselves to caring for the community by promising to adhere to the guidelines below, and by signing this community contract. Trinity requires a full community effort for the college to have another successful school year. For that reason, students who do not fulfill their health and safety obligations under this contract will be subject to the disciplinary processes detailed in the Student Handbook.

We would like to emphasize four areas of special interest for students during the upcoming semester:

1. **Protect yourself.** Students are required to be vaccinated in order to study, live, or visit the campus this academic year. A small number of students have been granted an exemption for medical or religious reasons. These students must adhere to additional health and safety guidelines as outlined in the exemption protocols. Throughout this semester, all students (regardless of vaccination status) must monitor symptoms and report to medical professionals if they experience a fever of 100.4F (38 c) or higher, dry cough, difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell. If you feel ill, do not attend class nor move about campus. Call the Health Center at 860-297-2018.
2. **Protect the community.** All members of our community whether or not they are vaccinated must abide by college policies related to mask wearing and social distancing. In particular, students are expected to adhere to the guidelines regarding social gatherings. Any member of the community who tests positive for COVID-19 or who is notified that they have been exposed to a person who tested positive must abide by any mandates to isolate, quarantine, or take other precautions as directed by college officials.
3. **Testing.** Students who have been granted an exemption from the COVID 19 vaccine are required to be tested once a week. Failure to comply with the testing regimen could result in removal from campus. Vaccinated students will be required to participate in "surveillance" testing for COVID-19, as follows. Our current plan is to test 10-15% of the student population on a weekly basis. This may change depending on the known or suspected presence of the virus within our community.
4. **Stay informed.** Given the evolving nature of COVID-19 and the public health guidance, the College's operations may change over the course of the semester and we expect you to know and follow the college's COVID-19 protocols and policies, as they evolve. Therefore, it is imperative that you read your Trinity College email, which will provide the latest updates.

Because of the potentially severe public health effects of noncompliance, students who do not comply with these expectations will be subject to immediate removal from campus. Conduct that endangers others by exposing them to or increasing their risk of contracting COVID-19 may result in significant disciplinary sanctions. The severity of sanction will be commensurate with the demonstrated level of endangering behavior (e.g., see *Student Handbook*, page 84, prohibiting behavior or any activity that endangers the health and safety of oneself or of others). Sanctions may include, but are not limited to: parental notification, written warning, admonition, housing reassignment, loss of specified campus privileges, loss of privilege to live on campus, loss of privilege to attend in-person classes, censure, suspension, or expulsion.

To participate in in-person instruction and to live, study, or to attend any gatherings on campus, you must fully acknowledge and agree to the following:

Students planning to be on campus this academic year need to be either vaccinated against COVID-19 or have an approved medical or religious exemption for the COVID-19 vaccination.

Students living or studying on campus must submit a pre-arrival COVID-19 test. The test needs to be a [molecular PCR test, not a rapid antigen test](#), taken within three (3) days of your return to campus. There are many options for obtaining a test, including ordering by mail, but they require some checking of availability and guidelines in your area, as well as advance planning. We've provided here some [resources for obtaining a pre-arrival test](#). Students will be required to submit their pre-arrival test results when they arrive on campus. Please refer to the move-in instructions you should have received during the week of August 16th.

Students with approved exemptions for the COVID -19 vaccination will be tested on a weekly basis. Vaccinated students [and students granted exemptions?] will be part of surveillance testing of 10-15% of the student population on a weekly basis. Students are required to submit the [COVID-19 Testing Consent Form](#) to allow for the Broad Institute/Clinical Research Sequencing Platform (CRSP) or other organization engaged by the College to assist with testing and mitigation of virus spread. [This form is due upon arrival on campus](#).

Students are required to follow the move-in instructions described in the letter you should have received during the week of August 16th sent from housing@trincoll.edu.

Students are not permitted to have non-Trinity guests (except for parents) during the academic year.

Students who travel off campus for a period longer than 24 hours for an unsupervised, non-College-sponsored reason must obtain a COVID-19 PCR test prior to their return to campus. Students who test positive or experience symptoms must report their positive status or symptoms to the Health Center.

Students must obtain their own (and bring with them to campus) a home-health kit containing the following items: disinfecting wipes (e.g., Lysol or Clorox); face coverings/masks (as directed by the Centers for Disease Control, or CDC); a small supply of disposable gloves; hand sanitizer (up to one liter, at least 60 percent alcohol); a personal-use thermometer; and a supply of acetaminophen, ibuprofen, cough drops, tissues, and standard first-aid items. This applies to

students who live both on and off campus. Should you need financial assistance to obtain these items, please submit a request to the [Student Emergency and Equity Fund](#).

If and when you first experience symptoms of or are diagnosed with COVID-19, you agree to disclose all recent contacts to the Trinity College Health Center for the purpose of contact tracing. According to the CDC, contact tracing is used by health departments to prevent the spread of infectious disease. In general, contact tracing involves identifying people who have an infectious disease (cases) and their contacts (people who may have been exposed) and working with them to interrupt disease transmission. For COVID-19, this includes asking cases to isolate and contacts to quarantine at home voluntarily.

If you or someone else is diagnosed with COVID-19, all other members of your living unit may be asked to self-quarantine in accordance to the guidelines provided while monitoring symptoms. This will be supervised remotely by the Health Center.

Students must obey all occupancy restrictions as posted in each building as well as all classroom guidelines and directives, including cleaning desk areas and work spaces with the approved cleaning products provided.

The potential continuing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the resulting risks and implications for on-campus residential education, are not fully foreseeable. As a result, students are required to comply with any public health directives issued by college officials. This includes directives related to quarantining, isolating, cleaning protocols, and following all the policies listed in this document as well as any new policies issued by the college in the interest of public health. Students must abide by any guidance/regulation placed on the college by the local, state, or federal government related to public health.

Mask wearing and distancing

The latest information from CDC strongly recommends that masks be worn indoors in regions where the COVID-19 virus is being substantially transmitted. As of July 28, Hartford County is classified as one of those locations. Given this guidance, the college is requiring masks to be worn for all indoor activities and in common areas (classrooms, event spaces, and hallways) except when alone, such as in a private office or in your residential setting.

Given the increased transmission of variants of COVID-19, mask wearing will be required for all outdoor college- and student-sponsored events and gatherings. For student-sponsored events that are not supervised by a college employee, masks are required for all indoor activities and participants will be limited to avoid densely packed spaces. Limitations will be based on ensuring a minimum of three-foot distance between participants and no more than 50 percent normal capacity. For outdoor student-sponsored events (e.g., social gatherings) that are not supervised by a college employee, participation will be limited to no more than 50 participants, and attendees are required to wear masks. Gatherings in which participants fail to adhere to these guidelines will be dispersed immediately, and students/organizations may face disciplinary consequences.

Classrooms, which are supervised environments where everyone is presumed to be vaccinated or exempt from vaccination and tested on a weekly basis will remain at full capacity.

While outside and going about daily outdoor activities, members of our community are not required to wear masks but this is subject to change, based on the known or suspected presence of COVID-19 on campus.

Emergency departure

You must complete this emergency departure form and keep it up-to-date:

<https://forms.trincoll.edu/Emergency-Preparedness/Emergency-Departure-Plans/>

Pledge

I understand that even with all the protections implemented by Trinity College and my compliance with those protections, it is possible that I may be exposed to and contract COVID-19. Infection can result in severe illness or even death.

By signing this, I pledge my commitment to this community contract and the requirements set forth above. I also promise that I have shared this information with my family:

Student signature _____ Date _____