

## Fall 2021 Reopening Plans

### Academics

For the next academic year, our plan is to return to in-person instruction – with professors and students in the classroom. Roanoke will not be offering hybrid or online courses.

Professors will plan to teach in the classroom, and students will be expected to attend classes in person.

The academic year will begin at the planned time. New students will move in on Saturday, August 28. Returning students will move in on Sunday, August 29. Classes will begin Wednesday, September 1.

### Campus Life

We anticipate a return to a pre-COVID level of student activities, such as in-person concerts, lectures and performances. We also expect a robust athletics schedule and currently are working with the Old Dominion Athletic Conference on dates and specifics.

We will continue to monitor COVID-19 guidelines from the Commonwealth of Virginia and the federal government. While we expect a normal year, we will have plans in place should the COVID-19 environment change.

Additional information will be provided by the appropriate offices as we get closer to your arrival on campus in August. If you have questions, please contact us at [questions@roanoke.edu](mailto:questions@roanoke.edu).

### Student Vaccine Requirements

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have determined the COVID-19 vaccine to be safe and effective. It is recommended as the best way for our communities to return to normal life. Many in our Roanoke College community have already been vaccinated but COVID-19 still presents a risk to our residential campus community.

All students are required to be fully vaccinated before returning for the fall semester. We believe this is the best way to protect our campus community, allow the College to return to in-class instruction and offer a variety of activities for everyone on campus.

Students will need to complete the vaccine shots no later than August 2, 2021, to allow for two weeks to elapse in order to be fully vaccinated in time for arrival on campus.

All students are required to provide proof of their COVID-19 vaccine. This will be submitted via the [Student Health Portal](#) where all student vaccine and health information is stored. Vaccine card copies can also be sent by email to [healthservices@roanoke.edu](mailto:healthservices@roanoke.edu) or you can bring a copy to the Student Health Center.

## **Waivers for medical or religious exemptions**

Students who have medical or religious reasons for not being vaccinated may request a waiver. The [medical exemption request form](#) is available for download to complete and give to your physician. The religious exemption form is being finalized, and once released will be emailed to students and posted online. We will send another communication once it is released.

If approved, those who sign a waiver will be expected to adhere to COVID-19 safety precautions for their own health as well as the health of the overall community.

Students who are approved for the waiver and are not vaccinated,

- will be required to wear a mask in indoor settings and in outdoor settings if social distancing can't be maintained.
- must participate in weekly COVID-19 testing through Student Health Services.
- will be required to quarantine per CDC guidelines if exposed to COVID-19.
- will be placed in isolation if they have tested positive for COVID-19.

Also,

- Isolation and quarantine prevent students from attending classes, and with no online classes, students would need to make individual arrangements with their professors to keep up in classes.
- Most students will be asked to return home if quarantine or isolation is required.

## **Student Pre-Arrival Negative COVID-19 Test Requirement**

All students are required to produce a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of checking-in to campus. The results of these tests can be submitted via the [Student Health Portal](#) or by email [healthservices@roanoke.edu](mailto:healthservices@roanoke.edu). Students receiving a positive result will not be permitted to check-in.

## **Employee Vaccine Expectation**

Roanoke College faculty and staff are expected to be vaccinated for COVID-19 and to provide proof of their vaccine to Human Resources. The vaccine will be mandated for employees who travel and perform critical in-person functions. Vice Presidents will provide additional information about the areas in which vaccines will be mandated.

Employees will have the option of requesting a waiver for medical or religious exemption of the vaccine; details are below.

Employees need to complete the vaccine shots no later than August 2, 2021 to allow for two weeks to elapse for full vaccination.

## **Waivers for medical or religious exemptions**

Students, faculty or staff who have medical or religious reasons for not being vaccinated may submit a request for a waiver. The [medical exemption request form](#) is available for download to

complete and give to your physician. The religious exemption form is being finalized, and once released will be emailed to students and employees and posted online. We will send another communication once it is released. If the waiver is approved, employees who sign it will be expected to adhere to COVID-19 safety precautions for their own health as well as the health of the overall community.

Individuals who sign the waiver and are not vaccinated,

- will be required to wear a mask in indoor settings and in outdoor settings if social distancing cannot be maintained.
- must participate in weekly COVID-19 testing through Student Health Services.
- will be required to quarantine per CDC guidelines if exposed to COVID-19.
- will be placed in isolation if they have tested positive for COVID-19.

We will continue to monitor COVID-19 guidelines from the Commonwealth of Virginia and the federal government. Of course, we will have plans in place should the COVID-19 environment change.

### **Face Masks**

Due to increased incidence and prevalence of COVID-19 locally and the emergence of variants like Delta, all students, faculty, staff and visitors must wear an appropriate face mask when indoors with others and outdoors when physical distancing is not possible through September 30<sup>th</sup>. This policy will be evaluated based on information from the Virginia Department of Health.

### **Daily Health Assessment**

All students, faculty and staff are required to complete the online Daily Health Assessment, [COVID.ROANOKE.EDU](https://COVID.ROANOKE.EDU). Anyone who has developed symptoms or has been in contact with an infected individual should contact the Health Center (540-375-2286) as soon as possible so that your situation may be assessed and appropriate care initiated.

### **COVID-19 Policy Violations**

Students violations of COVID-19 policies will be referred to the Dean of Students Office as a conduct violation. Additional violations may result in sanctions up to and including suspension from the College.

### **Communication**

Regular communications will be distributed to the campus community from the Office of the President, the Dean of Students Office, Residence Life & Housing and the Student Health & Counseling Center.

A COVID-19 Dashboard [Covid-19 Dashboard](#) will have data on current number of positive cases, testing and other updates to policies.

### **Incident Command Structure (ICS)**

The ICS continues to serve as the advisory group to the President's Cabinet regarding COVID-19.

Tom Rambo, Dean of Students & COVID-19 Coordinator  
Sandy McGhee, Assistant Dean for Student Health & Counseling  
Joe Mills, Director of Campus Safety  
Teresa Gereaux, Director of Public Relations  
Kathy Martin, Associate Vice President for Human Resources  
Scott Allison, Athletics Director  
Courtney Penn, Associate Dean of Admissions  
Amy Perkins, Assistant Dean of Students  
Mark Poore, Chief Information Officer  
Jeremy Ruch, Assistant Director of Development  
Gail Steehler, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs  
Jeff Taylor, General Manager for Housekeeping  
Tim Tenon, Director of Auxiliary Services & Sustainability  
Jimmy Whited, Director of Residence Life & Housing  
Ben Irvin, Director of Facilities Management

### **Contact Information**

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