

Walnut Hill College

2021/2022

Health Protocols



Walnut Hill College
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2021-2022

Introduction

Important notice to all members of the Walnut Hill College “college community” which includes our returning students, incoming freshmen, the immediate family members of students, college faculty, staff, administrators, and visitors to the campus. Worldwide, doctors and scientists agree that ***receiving a vaccination for COVID-19 is not only safe, but also the most effective measure in the fight against COVID-19.***

The information included in this document is meant to assist all readers in understanding the college’s protocols and requirements regarding appropriate measures to help maintain a safe and healthy campus and college community. These ***protocols and requirements are subject to change throughout the year*** as further research and news regarding COVID-19 is updated. It is necessary that all students, incoming freshmen, the immediate family members of students, college faculty, staff, administrators, and visitors to the campus keep fully informed of all changes and updates.

The information included in this document is in no way meant to substitute professional medical care by a licensed doctor. As well, these protocols and requirements do not give specific medical directives to students, incoming freshmen, immediate family members of students, faculty, staff, administrators, and visitors.

All readers of this document must review this information carefully, be certain to update themselves with additional information published by Walnut Hill College as well as suggested and reliable government agencies. These agencies are Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Department of Public Health for the City of Philadelphia, and the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

The headings of each section of this protocol and requirement document are not meant to be all-inclusive of the concepts and directives found within each section. It is important that all readers review each section very carefully to gain the best possible understanding.

Campus Health and Safety

Walnut Hill College recognizes that the worldwide pandemic continues to be a fluid and rapidly changing situation. The college is committed to carefully monitoring and responding to new information about COVID-19 and its effects. Given that news and directives regarding COVID-19 continue to be ever-changing, the college will adjust these protocols and requirements as needed throughout the year. Adjustments to these protocols and requirements will be updated on the college website. You are expected to keep track of any important changes.

When considering changes to our protocols and requirements, college administrators will primarily rely on research, recommendations and directives from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Department of Public Health for the City of Philadelphia, and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. As well, college administrators will consult other government health and education agencies.

At the start of the 2021/2022 Academic Year the college ***will not be requiring all students, staff, and visitors to be vaccinated.*** As such, the college is primarily following the guidance of the CDC as it relates to [Institutions of Higher Education where Not Everyone is Vaccinated](#).

All members of the Walnut Hill College community are required to continue to follow standard health protocols including effective and regular handwashing, cleaning and sanitizing contact surfaces regularly, and, perhaps most importantly, remaining home when sick with any illness.

Contact Tracing

The CDC explains that 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 and their contacts (people who may have been exposed). For COVID-19, a close contact is defined as anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours before the person began feeling sick until the time the patient was isolated.

Faculty, staff and students should maintain a list of locations they visit, and any contacts they have had. If you test positive, you will be required to work with the state's Department of Health to support their contact tracing requirements. The Department of Health can use that log to trace your contacts should you become ill or contract the virus. You will not be required to share this information with anyone else and will not be asked to share the information unless you become symptomatic. In order to support contact tracing,

- All students and staff members who believe they might have COVID-19 and are being tested for the virus must contact health@walnuthillcollege.edu immediately.
- All students and staff members who have been officially diagnosed with COVID-19 must contact health@walnuthillcollege.edu immediately.
- **Non-vaccinated students** who have been in close contact with a positive case must contact health@walnuthillcollege.edu immediately.

In accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996; most often referred to as HIPAA and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; often referred to as FERPA Walnut Hill College will keep all information about a specific individual confidential. Only required college administrators will have access to a person's medical information. Although, the college, as a place of employment, is required to disclose if someone on campus has the virus, names will never be disclosed.

Covid-19 Testing

Worldwide, doctors and scientists agree that **receiving a vaccination for COVID-19 is not only safe, but also the most effective measure in the fight against COVID-19**. Additionally, outside of getting fully vaccinated, they recognize that broad-based testing is one of the most effective methods of managing COVID-19. **Students who are ill must not go to class nor attend any on campus activities**. Students who believe they may have COVID-19, or are ill with [symptoms of COVID-19](#), must get tested immediately regardless of their vaccination status. The college will not pay for any fees related to COVID-19 testing. Students should consult their health care insurance company for guidance.

Walnut Hill College is located in the heart of the University City section of Philadelphia. Therefore, we are neighbors with world-class hospitals and medical centers including the University of Pennsylvania and Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, among others.

- There are many walk up and drive through testing centers located nearby.
- There are several hundred testing centers located in the tristate area of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.
- Most pharmacies offer vaccinations and testing.
- Here are two resources. Carefully check to make sure that you are reading the most current list of testing sites:
 - Department of Public Health; city of Philadelphia -<https://www.phila.gov/covid-testing-sites/#/>.
 - University of Pennsylvania health system - <https://www.pennmedicine.org/coronavirus/drive-thru-testing-sites>

Vaccination Requirements

Although Walnut Hill College ***strongly encourages all individuals to get fully vaccinated against COVID-19***, it is not requiring all students to be vaccinated, however the college is requiring all students to inform the college of their vaccination status. College protocols for the start of the 2021/2022 academic year will be based on guidance related to ‘mixed populations’ as it relates to vaccination.

Walnut Hill College’s priority remains the health and safety of the entire college community and carefully considers guidance from federal, state, and local departments of health as well as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The below protocols for non-vaccinated students are based on those recommendations and mandates as well as WHCs desire to maintain a safe and healthy campus.

Protocols for Non-Vaccinated Students

Although Walnut Hill College does ***strongly encourage all individuals to get fully vaccinated against COVID-19***, it is not requiring all students to be vaccinated. Non-Vaccinated students at WHC must follow the following procedures. Individuals who are ***not fully vaccinated***:

- must ***double-mask*** while indoors and while in crowded outdoor situations
- must continue to practice social distancing selecting chairs in isolation rows in classrooms and maintaining a distance of 6 feet from all other campus members
- must complete a daily health survey to help them determine if they are exhibiting symptoms related to Covid-19
- will be placed in dormitories and/or dormitory floors in which only not fully vaccinated students are housed and to which visitors will not be permitted
- will be housed in ‘single’ rooms or with another non-vaccinated student
- will have restricted access to communal areas
- will be restricted from off-campus field trips and experiences. These trips include, but not limited to our planned international travel experiences to France, England, and Florida and the Bahamas and many other planned local field trips.

Protocol Table

The below table outlines all protocols for students based on their vaccination status. Students should review this table carefully and plan to follow all protocols outlined in this table and this document.

Protocol	Vaccinated	Non-Vaccinated
Mask Wearing	<p>In accordance with the City of Philadelphia’s mask mandate effective August 11, 2021, all students, staff, and visitors must wear masks when indoors on campus.</p> <p><u>WHC Protocol:</u> Vaccinated students, staff and visitors must wear a mask that covers the chin, mouth, and nose while indoors or at crowded outdoor activities.</p>	<p>When people who are not fully vaccinated reduce respiratory spread, they protect others as well as themselves. Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.</p> <p>To be in alignment with the City of Philadelphia’s suggestions, the College is requiring all students who are not vaccinated to wear two masks while indoors.</p> <p><u>WHC Protocol:</u> Non-vaccinated students, staff and visitors must double mask while indoors and at outdoor activities. Both masks must fully cover the chin, mouth, and nose.</p>
Physical Distancing	<p>No federal, state, or local health authority has issued a mandate for physically distancing vaccinated individuals.</p> <p>WHC will continue to rely on best practices associated with physical distancing, however, vaccinated individuals are no longer required to maintain 6 feet of space between one another.</p> <p><u>WHC Protocol:</u> Vaccinated individuals may choose maintain a physical distance of 6 feet or more, however, classroom spaces will not be modified for the purposes</p>	<p>WHC will continue to rely on best practices associated with physical distancing. Non-vaccinated individuals are must wear proper face coverings and are strongly encouraged to maintain 6 feet of space with all members of the campus community.</p> <p>Class sizes and classroom spaces will not be modified for the purposes of physical distancing for all individuals.</p> <p><u>WHC Protocol:</u> Although class sizes and classroom spaces will not be modified for the purposes of physical distancing for all individuals a single row of chairs separated by 6 feet from other chairs will be available in each classroom. Non-</p>

	of physical distancing for vaccinated individuals.	vaccinated students should choose a seat in one of these rows to further protect the college community.
Housing/Dormitories	<p>The CDC and the City of Philadelphia have issued some guidance as to communal housing for vaccinated students. The guidance is similar to other indoor settings and include wearing a mask while in communal spaces in dormitories and physically distancing if you choose to, as well as to properly clean and sanitize facilities and practice proper hand-washing procedures often.</p> <p>WHC Protocol: Residential Life and Learning (Dormitory) students will be permitted to be housed in single, double, or triple rooms. Additionally, vaccinated students are permitted to have fully vaccinated guests visit their dorm rooms in accordance with standing RLL Dormitory policies outlined in the Student Handbook.</p>	<p>The CDC and the City of Philadelphia have issued some guidance as to communal housing for non-vaccinated students. The guidance is similar to other indoor settings and include wearing two masks while in communal spaces in dormitories, physically distancing, as well as to properly clean and sanitize facilities and practice proper hand-washing procedures often. WHC Protocols are based on these recommendations and the colleges desire to maintain a safe and healthy campus.</p> <p>WHC Protocol: Residential Life and Learning (Dormitory) students who are not vaccinated will only be permitted to be housed in single rooms.</p> <p>Non-vaccinated RLL students are not permitted to have guests visit their dorm rooms regardless of the guest's vaccination status.</p> <p>Non-vaccinated RLL students are not permitted to visit other student dorm rooms regardless of the other student's vaccination status.</p> <p>Non-vaccinated RLL students must wear two masks and properly socially distance in all communal spaces outside of their dorm room.</p> <p>Similar to vaccinated students, all non-vaccinated RLL students should properly clean and sanitize facilities and practice proper hand-washing procedures often.</p>
COVID-19 Testing	CDC recommends that anyone with any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 get tested, regardless	CDC recommends that anyone with any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 get tested, regardless of vaccination status

of vaccination status or prior infection. If you get tested because you have symptoms you should stay away from others pending test results and follow the advice of your health care provider or a public health professional.

WHC Protocol:

Fully vaccinated students who exhibit signs of COVID-19 must get tested immediately and should stay away from others pending test results while following the advice of your health care provider or a public health professional.

A positive test result requires the student to immediately leave campus and complete a 10-day quarantine.

WHC Close Contact Protocol:

Fully vaccinated students with no COVID-19 symptoms do not need to be tested following an exposure to someone with COVID-19.

or prior infection. If you get tested because you have symptoms or were potentially exposed to the virus, you should stay away from others pending test results and follow the advice of your health care provider or a public health professional.

WHC Protocol:

Non-vaccinated students who exhibit signs of COVID-19 must get tested immediately and stay away from others pending test results while following the advice of your health care provider or a public health professional.

A positive test result requires the student to immediately leave campus and complete a 10-day quarantine.

WHC Close Contact Protocol:

Non-vaccinated students who have been in close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 must leave campus immediately and get tested for the virus.

The test results must be submitted to health@walnuthillcollege.edu within 48 hours of the exposure.

Non-vaccinated students who test positive for COVID-19 will need to complete a 10-day quarantine.

Non-vaccinated students who test negative for COVID-19 must quarantine for 5 days and receive a second test on, or after the 5th day.

A positive test result after the 5th day of quarantine requires an additional 10 day quarantine.

A negative test result after the 5th day of quarantine requires 2 additional days of

		quarantine before returning to the campus community.
Reportable Illness	<p>WHC Protocol: Regardless of vaccination status, students who believe they might have COVID-19 due to exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, or have been officially diagnosed with COVID-19 must immediately notify college officials by emailing health@walnuthillcollege.edu. Additional direction will be provided by the college at that time.</p>	<p>WHC Protocol: Regardless of vaccination status, students who believe they might have COVID-19 due to exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, or have been officially diagnosed with COVID-19 must immediately notify college officials by emailing health@walnuthillcollege.edu. Additional direction will be provided by the college at that time.</p>
Attendance Modifications	<p>WHC is enforcing its attendance policy as it is outlined in the college Student Handbook.</p> <p>WHC Protocol:</p> <p>Positive Diagnosis Absences related to verified and documented positive diagnosis of COVID-19 that are reported to college administration and follow protocols described under COVID-19 Testing will be excused.</p> <p>Excused dates will be limited to a 10 day quarantine beginning with the date the test was taken that resulted in a positive diagnosis.</p> <p>Close Contact The CDC states that people who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have symptoms.</p> <p>Failure of the student to communicate with college administration during any, or all of this time period will result in vacated excused absences.</p>	<p>WHC is enforcing its attendance policy as it is outlined in the college Student Handbook.</p> <p>WHC Protocol:</p> <p>Positive Diagnosis Absences related to verified and documented positive diagnosis of COVID-19 that are reported to college administration and follow protocols described under COVID-19 Testing will be excused.</p> <p>Excused dates will be limited to a 10 day quarantine beginning with the date the test was taken that resulted in a positive diagnosis.</p> <p>Close Contact Non-vaccinated students who have been in close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 must follow protocols described under COVID-19 Testing.</p> <p>Students who test positive for COVID-19 following the initial test will be excused for up to 10 days.</p>

	<p>Non-vaccinated students who test negative for COVID-19 following the initial test will be excused for 5 days to quarantine, but must receive a second test on the 5th day.</p> <p>A negative test result on the 5th day of quarantine requires 2 additional days of quarantine which will also be excused.</p> <p>A positive test result after the 5th day of quarantine requires an additional 10 day quarantine, absences during which will be excused.</p> <p>Failure of the student to communicate with college administration during any, or all of this time period will result in vacated excused absences.</p>
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Best Practices from the CDC

Walnut Hill College encourage you to take all precautions and best-practices to help ensure your health and safety. In addition to the CDC guidelines listed below we also recommend:

- ***Receive your vaccination against the Covid-19 virus*** as soon as possible
- Take your temperature when you are feeling ill
- Talk to your doctor about vitamin supplements to boost your immunity
- Get plenty of rest, which will boost your immunity
- See medical attention if you feel ill or notice some symptoms
- Ask questions of your doctor for medical advice

If you have a question about college policies and plans regarding COVID-19 ask any college official or email health@walnuthillcollege.edu.

Wash your hands often

- [Wash your hands](#) often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- It's especially important to wash:
 - Before eating or preparing food
 - Before touching your face
 - After using the restroom
 - After leaving a public place
 - After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
 - After handling your mask

- After changing a diaper
- After caring for someone sick
- After touching animals or pets
- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.

Cover Your Mouth and Nose when Around Others

- You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick.
- The mask is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.
- Everyone should wear a [mask](#) in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other [social distancing](#) measures are difficult to maintain.
 - Masks should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- Do NOT use a mask meant for a healthcare worker. Currently, surgical masks and N95 respirators are critical supplies that should be reserved for healthcare workers and other first responders.
- Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others. The mask is not a substitute for social distancing.

Cover Coughs and Sneezes

- **Always cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow and do not spit.
- **Throw used tissues** in the trash.
- Immediately **wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Clean and Disinfect

- **Clean AND disinfect [frequently touched surfaces](#) daily**. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- **If surfaces are dirty, clean them**. Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- **Then, use a household disinfectant**. Most common [EPA-registered household](#) will work.

Monitor Your Health Daily

- **Be alert for symptoms**. Watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or [other symptoms of COVID-19](#).
 - Especially important if you are [running essential errands](#), going into the office or workplace, and in settings where it may be difficult to keep a [physical distance of 6 feet](#).
- **Take your temperature** if symptoms develop.

- Don't take your temperature within 30 minutes of exercising or after taking medications that could lower your temperature, like acetaminophen.
- Follow [CDC guidance](#) if symptoms develop.