

Return to Campus Webinar & Community Meeting

August 27, 2021

12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Simmons
UNIVERSITY



Welcome and Introduction from President Lynn Perry Wooten

COVID-19 Update

- Our priority is health and safety
- We are data driven and follow the science
- We continuously monitor latest public health guidance

Top 5 Topics about which Faculty and Staff are Inquiring

1. Vaccination Mandate
2. Exemptions
3. Testing
4. Masking
5. Campus Upgrades

COVID-19 Vaccination Mandates

Faculty and Staff

- All faculty and staff are required to be vaccinated by October 1, 2021 with the exception of those with approved medical and religious exemptions.
- Unvaccinated employees without an approved exemption will not be permitted on campus after this date.

Students

- All students who participate in face-to-face learning are required to be vaccinated (or have an approved exemption) by August 27, 2021
- Non-Compliance will result in suspended access to campus buildings



COVID-19 Vaccination - Faculty and Staff

How do I request an exemption?

- Those with a medical condition or a sincerely held religious belief that precludes them from getting vaccinated should consult with Human Resources at hr@simmons.edu to request an exemption and complete the necessary exemption request form(s).



COVID-19 Testing: Faculty and Staff

A New Update on Faculty and Staff Testing

- Weekly testing will be required for faculty and staff who are on campus at least one day a week
 - regardless of vaccination status
- Enhanced testing will help ensure health and safety
- More info to come early next week on the process

Protocols for Positive Cases & Close Contacts

- Go home and begin quarantine; inform your manager; isolate for 10 days
- If an employee tests positive outside of Simmons, contact Human Resources and your manager; cleaning and contact tracing protocols will go into effect



COVID-19 Testing for Students

What to know about student COVID testing

- Faculty will be notified if a student enrolled in their class tests positive
- Students are required to isolate for 10 days after onset of symptoms AND 24 hours without symptoms without medication. A negative COVID test is not required to return to activities.
- Student and faculty will receive a notification prior to clearance date
- Absent students are required to complete all work required in the courses

COVID-19 Health and Safety

Masking

- Masks are required for all individuals indoors. Masks may be removed in designated areas when eating or drinking or when alone in a private office.



COVID-19 Health and Safety

If an employee has **symptoms** of COVID-19

- Any employee, vaccinated or not, who experiences symptoms related to COVID-19 should not come to campus
- If an employee experiences symptoms on campus, they should go home
- It is highly recommended to get a COVID test, but Simmons cannot do symptomatic testing for employees on campus
- Do not return to campus until symptoms have cleared



Symptoms of Coronavirus

Keeping You Safer: COVID Measures

- Hand sanitizer and wipes available across campus
- Masks and hand sanitizer available by request
- Masks are required for all indoors
- Masks may be removed at your individual workstation or office
- HVAC systems checked and upgraded with CDC-recommended MERV-13 filters
- Air purifiers in classrooms and common work areas



Campus Protocols and Updates

Meetings/Events

- Meetings of more than 4 people must be done virtually
- Food is not allowed at events unless it is pre-packaged or plated/served—no 'reception' food
- Space reservations should be made via events.simmons.edu

Food on campus

- Food only in designated dining spaces (Bartol, Fens, Common Grounds) OR at your workspace
- Food is allowed in residence hall kitchens and lounges

Guests and visitors to campus

- Guest lecturers, speakers & presenters must be vaccinated and wear masks
- Other guests to campus must follow masking guidelines
- Any outside group requesting space on campus must verify that their participants are vaccinated

In the Classroom

Mask and enforcement policies and non-compliant students

- Student should be asked to leave the classroom if they are violating a COVID safety policy
- Faculty are encouraged to call Public Safety if the student refuses to leave and advise Student Affairs
- Faculty will be notified of vaccine non-compliant students enrolled in their classes

Positive cases among students

- Faculty will be notified of students who test positive who are enrolled in their classes
- Faculty will be notified when a student will be absent and returning to class due to COVID-related restrictions

Food and drink classroom policy

In the Classroom

Teaching in Hyflex

- Hyflex can be used to assist a student in isolation or quarantine and faculty should consult with their dean and Technology Services
- Switching to hyflex is not required and faculty may work with an isolated or quarantined student as they see fit

Contingency Planning

- **Our priorities remain the health and safety of our community and the ability to provide a positive in-person experience for students**
- **The COVID Task Force will continue to monitor public health guidance and data**
 - Availability of student isolation space
 - Infection rate trends for faculty, staff and students
 - City/Commonwealth infection rates or ER utilization

COVID Communications Update

- **Planned communications for the Fall**

- “The Brief” on Tuesdays and Thursdays
 - Continue to submit questions to preparedness@simmons.edu
- “Simmons Starts” for larger updates
- “The Anchor” for students (graduate, undergraduate, and families)
- COVID-19 testing dashboard
- The Simmons website: Return to Campus
<https://www.simmons.edu/return-to-simmons>

Q&A with Task Force Panel

Backup Slides

What if....

- If you are a close contact to someone who tested positive?
- “Close contact” is defined as being within 6 feet of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period - regardless of masking status
- Fully vaccinated employees – do NOT need to quarantine unless they develop symptoms, but after exposure should get tested within 3 to 5 days and wear a mask indoors for 14 days after
- Vaccinated employees – are required to