

The Return to Campus Plan

Fall 2021



For Students, Faculty and Staff





Introduction



This fall, we ask that all members of the University community foster an environment that provides a sense of belonging and well-being for one another.

During the past year and a half, the COVID-19 pandemic has challenged Concordia University Chicago in unimaginable ways. With God as our refuge and strength, and through robust response efforts, the University saw an exceptionally limited number of cases on campus during that time. This is due, in no small part, to the dedication and courage of all members of our on-campus and extended communities as they adhered to the University's protocols and cared for one another.

It is this courage that is integral to freedom and will continue to act as an important tenet of our interactions with one another on campus this fall. In addition, we ask that all members of the University community foster an environment that provides a sense of belonging and well-being for one another. In doing so, we ask students, faculty and staff to protect themselves and protect others through their words and actions.

It is understood that a cooperative effort by all members of the University community is needed for the successful implementation of the aspects of the plan that relate to them.

The COVID-19 outbreak remains an ever-changing and fluid situation. The University is continuously monitoring the situation locally, nationally and globally. CUC's operations will remain flexible throughout the academic year, giving the University the ability to pivot as necessary.

CUC's ongoing response to COVID-19, including this plan, follows current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and other authoritative guidelines, regulations and laws. This version of the plan reflects adherence to state of Illinois IDPH Phase 5 guidelines to the fullest extent possible.



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Academics

The University looks forward to welcoming students back to the classroom, without capacity restrictions this fall. CUC students studying on campus already benefit from small classes. In a change from last academic year, classroom density will not be limited—classrooms will be configured in a way that best promotes the particular academic learning environment.

Most traditional undergraduate courses will be offered in an in-person, on-campus format only. This method of course delivery is a hallmark of CUC's undergraduate experience and supports the most comprehensive learning experience for students.

Graduate-level and ADP courses will be offered in both online and in-person formats. Students should consult their individual course schedules for specific course delivery details.

Internships/Practica/Student Teaching/Field Work

Students participating in off-campus learning and work experiences should work directly with their program directors to determine additional details for their individual opportunities. All students are expected to adhere to the specific safety protocols developed by individual, off-campus partner sites, with the understanding that they may differ from those exercised on the CUC campus.



Residential Life

The Office of Residence Life and Housing is excited to welcome students back to a vibrant living learning community within our residence halls. Room and hall occupancy limits have returned to pre-pandemic levels, allowing residential students to immerse themselves in the unique and meaningful experiences that on-campus living provides.

During the fall semester, the University's residence halls will operate as follows:

- Students are welcome and encouraged to host guests into their residence hall rooms provided they adhere to the guest policy, which can be found in the student handbook.
- Intervisitation, when person(s) of the opposite gender are permitted as guests, will be allowed. Hours:
 - Sunday-Thursday: 10 a.m. - Midnight
 - Friday and Saturday: 10 a.m. - 2 a.m.
- Students will have roommates. Single rooms are available on a limited basis.
- Lounges and kitchens will be open.
- Students can expect robust residence hall programming with multiple engagement opportunities.
- Move-in protocols are not restricted, but we encourage students and guests to be mindful of others when moving about campus.
- Contact Housing@CUChicago.edu for additional information or with questions.



Food Service

The University continues to work closely with our partners at Sodexo at each of the on-campus outlets. Sodexo's position as a national leader in higher ed and corporate food service ensures that best industry practices are being followed at all times. Face masks will continue to be required for all servers/cashiers. Food service operations will continue expanded sanitation procedures, improved take-out opportunities and use of technology solutions to instill a high level of trust, confidence, flexibility and satisfaction. In addition, expanded continuous dining hours will help support reduced dining room capacity.

BiteU Smartphone App

Flexible ordering and dining options will continue to be available via Sodexo's BiteU smartphone app, for use by both students and employees.

Features include:

- Contactless payment
- Pre-ordering of food for pick-up
- Management of student meal plans
- Assistance managing dining hall capacity at peak hours
- A new, in-app loyalty program



Athletics

Our student-athletes are eager to get back on the field, court and course as they return to campus. Athletics is committed to maximizing the on-campus athletic experience for all student-athletes, with an understanding of how deeply participation enriches the college experience for many. The University looks forward to delivering on its promise of providing rich opportunities that enable high-level participation in all sports as it returns to full training, practice and competition schedules this fall.

All student-athletes and members of the athletics staff will be required to strictly adhere to all applicable NCAA and NACC regulations including those related to practice, gameplay, COVID-19 testing protocols, travel and more.

As of the distribution date of this plan, final detailed plans from the NCAA and NACC were not yet available. Once plans are communicated to the University, the Department of Athletics will communicate explicit protocols for each individual sport/team as well as for coaches, athletic trainers, athletics support staff and fans. Coaches for each team/sport are responsible for sharing and implementing the complete athletics plan throughout the semester.



Campus Life

Campus life is an integral part of the on-campus student experience. To the fullest extent possible, the University looks forward to offering rich and fulfilling programming without restriction during the fall semester. All indoor and outdoor campus activities are being planned without capacity limits, which follows state of Illinois IDPH Phase 5 guidelines. This extends to worship services, the fitness center, student lounges, dining service locations and the library.

Disease Prevention and Best Health Practices

Concordia University Chicago continues to follow best practices and regulations, as defined by the CDC and the IDPH for COVID-19 prevention.



Vaccination

The University will not require members of the campus community to be fully vaccinated as a condition for returning to campus this fall. However, Concordia-Chicago strongly encourages all students, faculty and staff to receive a COVID-19 vaccine prior to returning to campus. We trust the science related to the vaccine, but also respect each individual's right to make the best personal choice for themselves.



Handwashing

Handwashing remains a primary method of reducing exposure to germs and viruses. 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. 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.



Face Masks and Physical Distancing

Vaccinated Individuals

Students, faculty, staff and other members of the University community who have received the COVID-19 vaccine are not required to wear a mask indoors or outdoors while on campus.

Unvaccinated Individuals

Students, faculty, staff and other members of the University community who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine are strongly encouraged to keep face masks available at all times and to wear them whenever six-foot physical distancing is not possible.

Additional Guidance

All individuals who choose to wear a mask on campus at any time, for any reason, are encouraged to continue doing so regardless of their vaccination status. It is each individual's responsibility to follow the facial masking and physical distancing recommendations and we trust that all members of the University community will be truthful in their actions.

The University also maintains a limited stock of disposable face masks for short-term guests and visitors. Disposable masks are designed for a single use and should be placed in the trash at the end of each day. Please call the Switchboard at 708-209-3039 to make your request and schedule your pickup.



Public Transportation

As of the release date of this document, face masks are still required on all forms of public transportation in the Chicago metropolitan region. Avoid touching surfaces with your hands to the greatest extent possible. Upon disembarking, wash your hands thoroughly or disinfect with hand sanitizer.

Refer to specific transit agency website for specific steps and requirements:

- **CTA:** www.transitchicago.com/coronavirus/
- **METRA:** <https://metrarail.com/coronavirus>
- **PACE:** www.pacebus.com/news/information-about-paces-response-coronavirus-covid-19



Air Travel

The U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) continues to require specific COVID-19 mitigation measures in airports and on flights, including wearing face masks at all times and physical distancing. Students and employees returning to campus via plane should be prepared to follow federal TSA standards as well as procedures specific to individual airports. Current TSA travel information is available at TSA.gov/coronavirus.

University Travel Procedures

In coordination with the state of Illinois' IDPH Phase 5 guidelines, the University allows University-related travel as follows:

- Domestic employee travel is allowed for all business purposes, and is no longer restricted to fundraising or recruitment. Note: ALL travel must adhere to existing University approvals and procedures.
- International travel, for employees and students, must be submitted to the University's Emergency Response Team for review on a case-by-case basis to ensure adherence to applicable CDC guidelines. Submit an [International Travel Request](#) online.



Cleaning, Disinfection and Housekeeping

Housekeeping continues to follow CDC and IDPH protocols for cleaning the campus. The products used for cleaning are on the EPA-approved list and are hospital grade. All Housekeeping staff are trained in the proper use of the cleaning materials, PPE and the necessary frequency of cleaning to meet CDC guidelines.

- Housekeeping applies an EPA-approved antimicrobial protectant to all high-touch surfaces in areas regularly trafficked by members of the on-campus community. The substance kills the SARS-CoV-2 virus on contact and also provides a non-toxic, long-term microstatic barrier that guards against a wide variety of microbial surface contaminants.
- Housekeeping is able to provide offices with cleaning supplies for their areas upon request.
- The University has installed hand sanitizer stations throughout campus and will continue to maintain these stations. Please contact Housekeeping at ext. 3161 to request a refill of an existing station and/or bottles within offices.

Employees may request additional cleaning of campus spaces by calling Housekeeping at ext. 3161.



Reporting and Testing

Reporting

The University requires formal reporting for all individuals who have a confirmed case of COVID-19, have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 or have an assumed case of COVID-19.

Employees and students must complete the online [COVID-19 Self Reporting Form](#) if:

- They have tested positive for COVID-19.
- They have an assumed case of COVID-19. Individuals may have met with a healthcare professional who believes they have COVID-19, but haven't been tested or are awaiting the results.
- They are unvaccinated and have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- They are vaccinated, have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 and are experiencing symptoms.

The University will use information received via the mandatory [COVID-19 Self-Reporting Form](#) to facilitate contact tracing on campus.

Reporting protocols are designed to identify members of the campus community who have tested positive for COVID-19. The process involves a short interview conducted with individuals who have reported a positive COVID-19 test result; employees will be contacted by Human Resources and students will be contacted by the Dean of Students office. Those who have tested positive will be asked to identify any individuals with whom they were in close contact (CDC definition) over the prior 3-5 days. To the best of its ability, the University will contact exposed individuals to notify them and ask that they also complete the self-reporting form for exposure and advise them on the related testing, isolation and quarantine protocols.



Testing

During the fall semester, the University will not conduct regular weekly testing of its on-campus population. Rather, limited tests will be available on-campus by appointment through the Health Clinic.

Testing of specific populations (e.g. athletes) is a possibility should tests be mandated by external agencies (e.g. NCAA, NACC). As of the distribution date of this plan, no mandated testing has been announced.

Individuals may also visit their personal healthcare provider to receive a COVID-19 test. [The Illinois Department of Public Health's](#) website lists available testing sites as well.

Individuals who receive a positive COVID-19 diagnosis as a result of a test should report the results in accordance with the University's reporting requirements.



Exposure and Quarantine

Quarantine Requirements

The University continues to follow federal CDC quarantine protocols.

Quarantine is required for students and employees who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19—excluding people who have had COVID-19 within the past 3 months or who are fully vaccinated.

- People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered do not have to quarantine or get tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms.
- People who develop symptoms again within 3 months of their first bout of COVID-19 may need to be tested again if there is no other cause identified for their symptoms.
- People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they have been fully vaccinated against the disease and show no symptoms.

Steps to take:

- Stay home and/or in campus quarantine for 14 days (or follow the reduction guidelines below) after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19.
- Watch for fever (100.4 F), cough, shortness of breath or other symptoms of COVID-19.
- If possible, stay away from others, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19.

Quarantine reduction is applicable:

- After day 10 without testing
- After day 7 after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day 6 or later)

After stopping quarantine, you should:

- Watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure.
- If you have symptoms, immediately self-isolate and contact your local public health authority or healthcare provider.
- Wear a mask, stay at least 6 feet from others, wash your hands, avoid crowds and take other steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



Isolation/Quarantine Rooms

The University has a limited number of on-campus isolation rooms for residential students who have tested positive for COVID-19 and quarantine rooms for students who have been in close proximity to someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19. Residential students who test positive must complete the COVID-19 self-reporting form. After doing so, Residence Life staff will be in contact regarding further procedures. Assignment of on-campus isolation/quarantine rooms will be decided on a case-by-case basis upon review of each student's specific situation. Students who are assigned to these rooms will receive meals delivered to them after placing their daily orders via the Sodexo BiteU app.



A Common Goal

Successful implementation of this plan depends on the cooperation and active participation of all members of the University community. Together, by caring for ourselves and one another, we can ensure a safe and successful academic year.

Important Contacts

If you have additional questions or concerns, please direct your inquiry to the following offices:

Traditional Undergraduate Students and Parents *(Current)*
Dean of Students Office
dos@CUChicago.edu

Traditional Undergraduate Students and Parents *(New for Fall 2021 or later)*
Dean of Students Office
dos@CUChicago.edu

Graduate Students
Graduate Admission & Student Services
grad.admission@CUChicago.edu
708-209-4093

ADP Students
ADP Advising Office
ADPAdvising@CUChicago.edu

Faculty/Staff
Office of Human Resources
hr@CUChicago.edu
708-209-3512

ECEC Families
Early Childhood Education Center
crfecec@CUChicago.edu
708-209-3099

