LAKE FOREST COLLEGE PLAN
FOR FALL 2021 SEMESTER
IN RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS

Introduction

Eighteen months after COVID-19 forced the College to pivot to remote instruction in March 2020, we now look forward to an on-campus fall semester for more than 1600 students and 400 faculty and staff. As the delta variant sweeps around the globe and infects numerous communities in this country, however, we must remain prepared to pivot again or make other changes in the event of a local outbreak.

This fall semester plan, like the 2020-21 plans before it, is designed to protect the health and safety of everyone on campus. The College requires compliance with the plan, and all students, faculty, and staff must embrace their responsibility to each other as members of our community in order to hold a successful fall semester.

Violations of community standards will be addressed through the accountability procedures that already exist for students, faculty, and staff in their respective handbooks. Violations that affect the public health of our community may warrant amplified consequences. Both student and student organization infractions will be addressed through the student conduct process. Progressive discipline, when warranted, will be administered quickly in order to protect the safety of our community.

Health and Safety

Transparency in Communication: We do not plan to continue publishing the dashboard with testing and case statistics, but we will maintain regular email communication with the campus community about any campus developments related to COVID-19.

Comprehensive Adherence to CDC Guidelines: All students, faculty, and staff are required to follow current CDC guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19, which include but are not limited to these mandatory actions: wearing face coverings indoors when unvaccinated, maintaining physical distance of six feet from others whenever possible, frequently washing hands for 20 seconds, and abiding by all other aspects of public health guidance from the CDC designed to reduce the spread of COVID-19. NOTE: To protect our campus community against the Delta variant or other potential variants, the College may need to require both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons to mask indoors. If that requirement becomes necessary, the College will issue a prompt campus-wide email.

Vaccinations: As previously announced, a COVID-19 vaccine is required for students, unless the student applied for and receives a medical or religious exemption. Falsification of vaccination records is prohibited and will be subject to the appropriate discipline processes. For those who are unable to access a vaccine at home, a COVID-19 vaccine clinic will be offered on Wednesday, August 25 on campus. Students, faculty, and staff who have not yet
been vaccinated must sign up with healthandwellness@lakeforest.edu as soon as possible in order to participate. Further details will be provided to those participating. Faculty, staff, and contracted employees have been strongly encouraged to receive a vaccine as well; at this writing, over 85% of them have submitted proof and we expect that percentage to rise still higher in the coming month. The College may still need to require the vaccination of all faculty and staff, unless they qualify for exemptions, in coming weeks.

The vaccination status of individual students, faculty, or staff cannot be shared with others except in limited, specific circumstances authorized by law.

Arrival Testing: Unvaccinated residential students will receive a rapid antigen test upon arrival during the check-in process. Results will be available within 15 minutes. Students who test negative for COVID-19 will move into their residence hall rooms; those who test positive will move into isolation housing (see more on isolation below) or return home if they prefer.

Unvaccinated commuting students will also be required to get tested during the week prior to classes. Further announcements are forthcoming about testing requirements for unvaccinated student-athletes as a requirement for athletic participation.

Surveillance Testing: Unvaccinated students, faculty, and staff (including those with approved exemptions) will be required to undergo continued weekly surveillance testing. A schedule, location, and timeframe will be published directly to those impacted.

Contact Tracing: Certain College staff members have been certified as contact tracers through Johns Hopkins University, and they will interview COVID-positive persons to review close contacts on campus, identify potential exposures, and manage positive cases. It is essential that community members are honest with their contact tracer about their contacts with others, so that we can accurately determine who may have been exposed. To that end, we intend to offer amnesty for routine infractions of the community standards that are committed by students who are responsibly participating in the contact tracing process.

Isolation: Faculty, staff, or students who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to isolate, under the guidance of the Associate Director of Health Services, for the length of time specified by the CDC. At this writing, the duration of isolation for our environment (which is considered congregate living) is 10 days from the first symptoms, or in the case that there are no symptoms, 10 days from the date of the positive test.

Isolation can end only when three conditions are met: 1) after those 10 days, 2) once the person is fever-free for 24 hours without medication, and 3) as any symptoms significantly improve. Faculty, staff, and commuting students will isolate in their own homes. Residential students will be moved to an isolation residence on campus. Students will not be permitted to exit their isolation building for the duration of their isolation period unless urgent medical care is required. Meal delivery will be provided in order to maintain strict isolation protocols. The College’s Nurse Practitioner and Registered Nurse from the Health & Wellness Center will oversee all care for any student requiring isolation on campus.

If any student or other community member should require additional medical care, the College is fortunate to be located minutes away from two world-class hospitals.
All residential students – but especially those with exemptions to the vaccination requirement – are encouraged to prepare a “go bag” that will expedite their move to isolation housing in the case they test positive for COVID-19. The “go bag” should be pre-packed with comfortable clothes, a clean spare mask, a thermometer, basic symptom-reducing medications like acetaminophen, ibuprofen, and cough drops, a spare cell phone charger, a spare set of hygiene products (toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, and feminine products), some non-perishable snacks, an empty water bottle to refill, and a list of things you’ll need to pack in the moment, as a reminder: medications, laptop and charger, academic materials, etc.

**Quarantine:** The contact tracing procedure may reveal close contacts who may have been exposed to the virus. At this writing, the CDC guidance defines close contacts as those who have been 15 cumulative minutes of contact within a 24-hour period with a COVID-positive person (or persons), within 6 feet, and without mutual facial coverings.

- **Vaccinated close contacts of positive cases:**
  - do not need to quarantine unless symptoms develop
  - will be required to take a COVID test 3-5 days after exposure
  - will be required to wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result
  - must isolate if they test positive

- **Unvaccinated close contacts of positive cases:**
  - must be quarantined in their rooms for 14 days in order to prevent transmission of the disease
  - faculty, staff, or commuting students will be required to quarantine at home
  - residential students will quarantine in their own rooms for the duration of their quarantine period, and they will not be permitted to exit the building. (Roommates of quarantined students are not automatically placed on quarantine, unless they are also officially deemed to be close contacts of the COVID-positive person.) Meal delivery will be provided in order to maintain strict quarantine protocols.
  - will be required to take a COVID test approximately 5-7 days after their most recent contact with a COVID-positive person

**Absences:** All community members who are ill with symptoms consistent with COVID are advised to stay home and seek medical care.

Students in isolation and quarantine should contact their faculty members to discuss how their work may be completed, but there will be no College-sponsored asynchronous learning or remote learning accommodation for in-person courses.

Faculty members in isolation and quarantine should work with their department chair and the Dean of the Faculty for course coverage issues. The plan could potentially include temporary remote teaching or coverage by colleagues.

Staff members in isolation and quarantine will be required to use their sick or vacation days (if available) to cover their leave, and should consult with their supervisors.
Until COVID-19 vaccines are approved for young children, the College recognizes the possibility that an outbreak could cause a school or daycare center to close temporarily. In that event, if faculty or staff members have no other childcare option and must stay home to care for young children, then:

- Faculty must promptly propose a temporary course coverage plan to their department chairs and the Dean of the Faculty. The plan could potentially include temporary remote teaching or coverage by colleagues, and should prioritize a return to in-person teaching as quickly as possible.
- Staff must promptly contact their supervisors to make use of the Flexible Work Policy, as needed.

**Masks / Facial Coverings:** The College complies with CDC guidance, and local and state mandates.

- Outdoors, masks are optional for both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.
- Indoors, masks are strongly recommended for vaccinated individuals, and may become required.
- Indoors, masks must be worn by unvaccinated individuals to protect their safety and the safety of others.

Unless/until the College requires masking indoors regardless of vaccination status, persons in charge of specific indoor spaces may require others to mask in those spaces. For example, faculty may require masking in their classrooms, faculty or staff may require masking in their personal offices, and students may require masking in their own residence halls rooms. Moreover, everyone should routinely carry a mask and be ready to put it on, as a matter of courtesy, if reasonably requested by another member of our campus community.

Any individuals with symptoms consistent with COVID – whether vaccinated or unvaccinated – should wear a mask until cleared by a campus nurse (or medical professional). All visitors for medical or mental health appointments at the Health & Wellness Center must wear masks upon arrival and in the waiting room.

At this writing, travelers are advised that masks are required on public transportation and therefore are also required in College vehicles, rental vans, and buses.

Most of the commonly available mask types are approved (N95, K95, one-use disposable surgical/medical masks, and reusable multi-layer cloth masks) provided that both the nose and the mouth are covered. Single-layer neck gaiters, loose-fitting bandanas, and masks with valves are not approved: they are not sufficient to block the virus’ particles.

**Campus Density:** Due to our robust student population this fall, classrooms and residence halls are at full capacity. Furniture has been returned to classrooms and lounge spaces. The Dining Hall will be back to the typical seating, and will continue to offer plentiful to-go options. Nearly all courses will be held in-person, and most staff will be working in-person. Faculty may opt to teach outside when conditions allow, and some committees will continue to meet via Zoom.
**Daily Medical Screening:** We will no longer be using the daily medical screening app called Campus Clear. However, community members are encouraged to pay close attention to their symptoms, and wear masks and stay home if they are ill.

**Arrival Restrictions:** Current CDC and Lake County guidance does not require students from any home location to face an automatic quarantine upon arrival. The College will continue to track any state or federal restrictions that affect student travel, and if requirements change, the College will be prepared to pivot and notify affected students or other community members.

**Influenza:** The College strongly encourages all students, faculty, and staff to get the flu vaccine when it becomes available this fall. To encourage widespread participation, multiple flu vaccine clinics will occur on campus; most insurance providers cover vaccine costs. Further announcements will be forthcoming if a requirement becomes necessary.

**Cleaning:** Aramark Custodial Services will continue to do extra cleaning of shared bathrooms and high touch surfaces, and custodians will use EPA-approved disinfectants against COVID-19. Faculty, staff, and students will also have ready access to College-provided sanitizer in locations around campus, including offices, classrooms, private restrooms and at multiple refill stations. Students will also have ready access to cleaning materials in the residence halls.

**Teaching and Learning**

**Calendar and Schedule:** The College has returned to a typical academic calendar, which is published on the College web page, and a typical daily course schedule with the usual 10-minute passing times.

**Course modalities:** All students will be learning in person and nearly all courses are being delivered in person. A very limited number of remote courses will be noted on the course schedule. Remote learning will not be offered for other courses.

**Asynchronous learning:** Asynchronous options will not be offered.

**Academic Policies:** Please take note of the deadlines for opting to take a course Pass/Fail rather than for a letter grade (October 29), the deadline for a Course Withdrawal (October 29), and the Add/Drop deadline (September 2).

**Internships:** Off-campus internships are permitted and must be in accordance with new employer and employee COVID-19 guidelines set forth by the CDC, OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration), and state, county, and local regulations. Please refer to the Career Advancement Center Academic Internship Program web page or email cacintern@mx.lakeforest.edu for more specific information.

**Library:** The Donnelley and Lee Library will be open for in-person usage. Service hours can be found here.

**Ready to Pivot:** Lake Forest College students, faculty, and staff have shown remarkable resilience and flexibility over the last 18 months. In the unlikely event that we need to pivot to
remote instruction – for a short or long period – clear communication will occur and more instructions would be provided at that time. The College would hold a two-day break between the decision to pivot and the resumption of courses. This will give faculty and especially students additional time to adjust to all-remote, non-residential instruction.

**Campus Life**

**Gathering:** In-person campus events and gatherings of all sizes are permitted in Phase 5 of the State of Illinois plan *Restore Illinois.* Some meetings – both large and small – may continue to be held virtually due to convenience or comfort. Students will continue to have individual Zoom licenses.

**College-Sponsored Trips:** The Center for Chicago Programs’ trips, enrichment course field trips, experiential trips, and service and volunteer trips are all permitted. Faculty and staff travel for student recruitment, research, and professional development are permitted under pre-existing policies. At this writing, travelers are advised that masks are required on public transportation and therefore are also required in College vehicles, rental vans, and buses.

**Off-Campus Study:** For the Fall semester, off-campus programs are proceeding, but Lake Forest College In The Loop has been cancelled.

**Guests:** Campus guests (i.e., friends, significant others, alumni, and family that are not immediate members of the Lake Forest College community) are permitted to visit residence halls, the library, and other campus buildings. The College’s guest registration policy as outlined in the Student Handbook applies for overnight visits. We request that students limit their move-in helpers to two.

**Amnesty:** Students are asked to report sexual misconduct or acts of bias on our campus without fear of being held responsible for a violation of these COVID policies that may be revealed when reporting. To that end, we intend to offer amnesty for routine infractions of the community standards that are unearthed in the Title IX/bias reporting processes.

**Parking:** Eligible students (i.e. commuting students, and junior/senior residential students who bring a car to campus) must register their vehicle and purchase a parking permit through Public Safety before the first day of classes.

While first-year and sophomore residential students are not eligible to obtain a permit to park on campus, they can request to purchase a regular permit for documented medical reasons by submitting a [Verification of Need for Accessibility Services form](#). In rare and demonstrated cases of extreme financial need or hardship, students can request to purchase a regular permit by submitting a [First-Year or Sophomore Resident Parking Permit Application](#) form before bringing a car to campus.

**Smoking:** In accordance with the 2008 Smoke-free Illinois Act, smoking is prohibited within 25 feet of the building entrances, exits, windows that open, or ventilation intakes. Since one must remove their mask to smoke or vape, it is even more important to adhere to these regulations.
Athletics

Plans: The College, in collaboration with other colleges in our athletic conferences, is currently planning to conduct intercollegiate varsity practice and competition at normal allowable levels per NCAA guidelines.

Guidelines: To protect the health and safety of our student-athletes, all athletic practices and competition will comply with or exceed the protocols and best practices prescribed by the NCAA Sports Science Institute (SSI), National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA), American College Health Association (ACHA), and CDC, as well as state and local athletics guidelines. Specific details on student-athlete testing requirements and contact tracing protocols will be communicated by the College’s Athletic Director and head coaches prior to the beginning of each season.

Athletic Contests and Spectators: Contest schedules for fall, winter, and spring varsity sports have been posted. As of this writing there is no restriction on spectator attendance, but this is subject to change at any point during the academic year.

Club Sports, Intramurals, and Physical Education Classes: Club and Intramural Sports and Physical Education courses are expected to follow normal operating procedures. Any changes and important information will be communicated directly to participants on an as needed basis.

Facilities and Spaces

Room Capacities: Full capacity has been restored to classrooms, lounges, meeting rooms, and residence halls, and all furniture has been returned.

Signage and Building Protocols: Traffic flow has been returned to normal in entrances, hallways, stairwells, and elevators. However, signs and floor decals will still be posted in certain spaces to encourage social distancing. Water fountains have been turned back on. We have retained sanitizing stations, paper towel dispensers, and Plexiglas barriers in most areas. In restrooms, new handles allow operation by elbows or feet in many locations, and paper towel dispensers replace air dryers. Water lines in all campus buildings have been flushed.

Ventilation: All mechanical ventilation systems are properly functioning as designed, with the highest possible level of outside air flow. Filters in building ventilation systems have been inspected and replaced, and the filters are the highest MERV rating each system will allow. Additional HEPA filters have been placed in classrooms, student gathering spaces, and administrative offices to increase the amount of air exchanges per hour where warranted per Illinois Department of Public Health guidance. Exhaust fans in washrooms have been set to run continuously, 24/7. We are following the recommendations of ASHRAE, the national standard for ventilation during the pandemic.
Dining Services: Students, faculty, and staff are all permitted to eat in the dining hall, which has been returned to its typical seating set-up. Food will be self-service, and Parkhurst staff will wear masks, clean regularly, and will have completed training in health and safety protocols. Decals on the floor will keep students at safe distances while waiting. Meal exchanges are offered at Boomers when the dining hall is closed. For ‘to go’ meal exchanges, students will use a green washable container. When the container is returned, the student will receive a sanitized carabiner to hold for the next exchange.

Sports and Recreation Center: Current plans include student, faculty, and staff access to the Sports and Recreation Center for workout purposes at normal capacity levels and operating hours. Community Recreation use has also opened to normal capacity. Open ice at the Ice Rink also returns to normal operating hours.

Staff Offices: Beginning August 2, staff will be working from their campus offices, unless special permission to work remotely has been granted through the College’s Flexible Work Policy. Plexiglas barriers will remain in areas that have frequent interaction with others. Staff will have ready access to hand sanitizer to supplement custodial cleaning of touchpoints.

Tents: Tents will be available on North, Middle, and South Campuses through the fall to enable outdoor programming. Faculty are invited to hold classes in the tents or other outdoor locations, and student organizations or other groups may also schedule meetings there. The tents are reserved through Ad Astra, the College’s reservation system.

Arrival Instructions

Each student that arrives on campus between August 6 and August 25 must proceed directly to the designated check-in location below during the arrival times listed. There, a comprehensive, socially-distanced, check-in process will allow students to pick up keys, have their ID photo taken (if needed), purchase a parking pass (if eligible), and obtain any other relevant arrival information or materials.

Unvaccinated students will also be tested for COVID upon entry and will not be allowed to complete their check-in unless their rapid COVID test results are clear. After checking in, all students will be given parking directions for their residence hall move-in.

For move-in, we ask students to limit their move-in helpersto two whenever possible. Move-in helpers will be required to follow the current College face masking policy, which, at this writing, includes masking if unvaccinated.

Early Arrivals, First Connection: Certain populations of students are currently approved to come to campus early for College-sponsored reasons. That schedule is listed below; please note that all arrivals must occur before 4:00 pm in order to facilitate on-arrival COVID testing for unvaccinated students during the testing clinic’s open hours. No other early arrivals will be granted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Check-In Date</th>
<th>Student Group</th>
<th>Check-In Time</th>
<th>Check-In Location</th>
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<tr>
<th>Friday, August 6</th>
<th>Resident Assistants</th>
<th>More information has been emailed directly to early-arrival students by their sponsoring department.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, August 10</td>
<td>Football Student-Athletes</td>
<td>Rosemary House Sports and Recreation Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, August 13</td>
<td>First Connection Mentors</td>
<td>Rosemary House Sports and Recreation Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, August 15</td>
<td>Orientation Leaders</td>
<td>Rosemary House Sports and Recreation Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, August 16</td>
<td>First Connection Participants</td>
<td>Sports and Recreation Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, August 18</td>
<td>Volleyball, Soccer, Cross-Country, Golf, and Tennis</td>
<td>Sports and Recreation Center</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Student-Athletes</td>
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**New Student Orientation, New-to-Campus Orientation:**

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<tr>
<th>Check-In Date</th>
<th>Student Group</th>
<th>Check-In Time</th>
<th>Check-In Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, August 20</td>
<td>New First-Year and Transfer Students&lt;br&gt;New Student Orientation runs from August 20 – 25.</td>
<td>Residential Students&lt;br&gt; Last name A-F: 9:00 – 11:00 am&lt;br&gt;Last name G-O: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm&lt;br&gt; Last name P-Z: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm</td>
<td>Sports and Recreation Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, August 23</td>
<td>New-to-Campus Students&lt;br&gt;Sophomores or transfer students who started in the 2020-2021 academic year, but studied remotely, have been invited to this special orientation program to introduce them to campus. It runs from August 23-25.</td>
<td>Residential Students&lt;br&gt; Last name A-F: 9:00 – 11:00 am&lt;br&gt;Last name G-O: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm&lt;br&gt; Last name P-Z: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm</td>
<td>Sports and Recreation Center</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Returning Residential Students:

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<th>Check-In Date</th>
<th>Student Group</th>
<th>Check-In Time</th>
<th>Check-In Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday August 24</td>
<td>Returning Residential Students</td>
<td>Last name A-F : 9:00 – 11:00 am</td>
<td>Sports and Recreation Center</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Last name G-O: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Last name P-Z : 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday August 25</td>
<td>Returning Residential Students</td>
<td>Last name A-F : 9:00 – 11:00 am</td>
<td>Sports and Recreation Center</td>
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<td>Last name G-O: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm</td>
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<td>Last name P-Z : 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm</td>
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Conclusion

The College will continue our preparations in the weeks ahead, as virus developments may require, and will regularly communicate with students and their families, faculty, and staff. We encourage you to watch your email closely. We understand that – despite our efforts to communicate comprehensively – individual questions will remain. Please continue to direct your questions to coronavirus@lakeforest.edu and we will respond as soon as possible.

We send you our best wishes and look forward to seeing you on campus again very soon.

Stephen D. Schutt, President
Andrea Conner, Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students
Chris Ellerton, Vice President for Enrollment
DeJuran Richardson, Volwiler Professor and Senior Advisor to the President
Davis Schneiderman, Krebs Provost and Dean of the Faculty
Jackie Slaats, Vice President for Career Advancement and Athletics
Lori Sundberg, Vice President for Finance and Planning; Treasurer