

Office of the Chaplaincy

Addendum to Pilgrimage Expectations – Travel Policies Related to COVID-19

The health and well-being of faculty, staff, and students is the highest priority while traveling. As the University moves through the [Physical Distancing Framework](#) for COVID, travel off-campus may be permitted in the yellow, lime, and green phases. Listed below are policies and processes related to off-campus group travel to which pilgrimage leaders and participants need to adhere in addition to the Pilgrimage Expectations outlined in the application process.

Pre-departure Testing

Participants are required to secure rapid antigen tests from designated on-campus locations and complete daily tests four days prior to departure and report any positive results to the Pilgrimage Coordinators and to the Student Health Center. Along with this daily testing, participants should plan to pick up rapid antigen COVID-19 tests prior to their departure and bring them with them in their checked luggage.

Face Coverings

(related policy: [Masks on Campus](#))

Per the [Physical Distancing Framework](#) and [Masks on Campus](#) policy, students, faculty, staff, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear a mask in the circumstances described below.

- Any faculty or staff member teaching on campus has the discretion to require all students to wear a mask in their classroom or lab if they so choose, but they must notify students of this requirement in advance. Students are required to comply with direction from their instructors to wear a mask in the classroom.
- Faculty or staff meeting with students or colleagues in private offices or small conference rooms may require the attendees to wear a mask, but should notify the attendees in advance.
- The University may require universal mask-wearing in certain work areas, if required by applicable regulations or if deemed necessary to promote the health of employees.
- Students, faculty, and staff experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 must wear a mask until they receive a negative test or go into isolation following a positive test.
- Students, faculty, and staff who test positive for COVID-19, and who are released before 10 full days of isolation in accordance with the University's isolation and quarantine protocol, must wear a surgical, KN95, or N95 mask for 10 full days from the start of their isolation period.
- Students, faculty, and staff who are identified as close contacts must wear a surgical, KN95, or N95 mask for 10 full days from the date of their exposure.
- Students, faculty, and staff must wear a mask in the Student Health Center, the on-campus testing clinic, and in designated areas of Sports Medicine.
- Students, faculty, and staff must wear a mask on public transportation such as planes, trains, or buses, including University shuttles or when in airports, train, or bus stations.
- The University encourages all community members to wear a mask when off campus in public indoor spaces where physical distancing is not possible.

Pilgrimage Mask Guidelines

- Students, faculty and staff are required to wear masks in all vehicles and inside all public buildings while traveling on pilgrimage.
- Masks may be removed in order to eat and sleep, but should be replaced as soon as possible.
- Team members may work with their roommates to determine mask usage in their individual living spaces.
- Masks are not required in outdoor spaces except when the individual is symptomatic, is awaiting test results, or has been identified as a close contact.

The Chaplaincy will provide KN95 masks for use during flights and in airports. Participants should plan to bring their own masks for the remainder of the trip. If you need to make different arrangements, please talk with the Pilgrimage Coordinators.

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Vaccinations

No one is to be asked their COVID-19 vaccination status. If a place that a group is visiting requires a COVID-19 vaccine to enter, Pilgrimage Coordinators will provide this information prior to departure. If a member of the group cannot provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination, alternate arrangements will be made. Students are encouraged to carry a copy of their COVID-19 vaccination record (hard-copy and electronic on phone) during travel.

Opting-Out of Travel

Because of the ever-changing nature of COVID-19, students may opt-out of the class travel, and faculty will have to give an alternative assignment. Students wishing to opt-out, due to COVID-19 concerns, need to notify the Pilgrimage Coordinators in writing at least 10 days prior to travel.

Pre-Departure Preparation

At the pre-departure orientation meeting, COVID-19 safety guidelines and protocols will be reviewed. The flowcharts in this policy will be shown, and the risks to students will be presented, including the risk that if a student tests positive for COVID-19 or is a close contact that they will be required to isolate or quarantine in their current location until released.

Responding to COVID Symptoms While Traveling

Based on the University's protocols for responding to students with COVID-19 symptoms on-campus, the following protocols are in place while traveling with students.

If an individual notifies a Pilgrimage Coordinator that they are presenting with COVID-19 symptoms, the Pilgrimage Coordinator should assist the individual in obtaining a COVID-19 test, as well as have them isolate in their lodging accommodations.

COVID-19 Tests

If an individual presents with COVID-19 symptoms during travel, a rapid antigen test will be taken. If the test is positive, the result will be reported to the Pilgrimage Coordinators, who will share this information with the appropriate administrators on campus.

Testing, Isolation, and Quarantine Protocols

The University has updated isolation and quarantine protocols as part of its COVID-19 response in line with the most recent guidance from the CDC and the Virginia Department of Health. The following information outlines the necessary testing, isolation and quarantine protocols while traveling. The Pilgrimage Coordinators are required to contact appropriate administrators on campus who need to be aware once a student receives a positive COVID-19 test and subsequently throughout the process for updates.

Details about these new requirements include:

Isolation

- Regardless of vaccination status, students who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate for 5 full days from the earlier of the onset of symptoms or a positive test (PCR or rapid antigen).
- A self-test kit will be provided by the University. Students will be instructed to take the test on day 5 of isolation.
 - If the test is positive, they should report the test as instructed when placed in isolation and remain in isolation with a potential release on day 7.
 - Students may take another test on day 7 of isolation. Test results should be reported as instructed when placed in isolation. If the test is positive the student remains in isolation for 10 full days with release on day 11.
 - If the test is negative, the student is released from isolation as soon as they report the negative test using the appropriate form.
- Release from isolation on day 6 may occur given the following conditions are met:

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- Negative self-test taken on day 5
- No fever for 24 hours without fever reducing medicine; and
- Other symptoms resolved or resolving
- ***Note: Students released from isolation on day 6 must wear a mask for 5 days after release. The mask must be worn at all times except when sleeping or eating. The mask should be a N95, KN95, or surgical mask and NOT a cloth mask.***
- Release from isolation on day 7 may occur given the following conditions are met:
 - Negative self-test taken on day 7
 - No fever for 24 hours without fever reducing medicine; and
 - Other symptoms resolved or resolving

Note: Students released from isolation on day 7 must wear a mask for 3 days after release. The mask must be worn at all times except when sleeping or eating. The mask should be a N95, KN95, or surgical mask and NOT a cloth mask.

Isolation means that the symptomatic individual is in their own room; if another room needs to be acquired, the Pilgrimage Coordinator can facilitate. The Pilgrimage Coordinator will also have to organize meal drop-off for the individual in isolation. One of the Pilgrimage Coordinators will need to stay locally with any student in isolation until they are released from isolation.

Pilgrimage Coordinators will have to work with the affected individual to identify close contacts, as well as notify others in the group who are close contacts. The Pilgrimage Coordinator also needs to contact the appropriate administrators on campus to provide the names of all close contacts.

Close Contacts

- According to the Virginia Department of Health, a close contact is defined as:
 - Being within 6 feet of a person who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, or
 - Having direct exposure to respiratory secretions (e.g., being coughed or sneezed on, sharing a drinking glass or utensils, kissing)
- The following protocols apply to all close contacts, regardless of their vaccine status:
 - Consistent with CDC guidance issued in August 2022, the University does not require close contacts to quarantine.
 - Anyone identified as a close contact will be required to wear a mask when indoors for 10 full days from the date of their exposure to an individual who tests positive. The mask should be a N95, KN95, or surgical mask and NOT a cloth mask.
 - All close contacts must close monitor their symptoms and test promptly if they develop symptoms of COVID-19. If the initial test is negative, the close contact should test again 24 hours later.
 - Close contacts will be required to conduct a self-test on days 1, 3, and 5 post exposure and report that test result as directed by the University’s contact tracing team.