



LAKE FOREST COLLEGE PLAN

FOR SPRING 2022 SEMESTER

IN RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS

Introduction

Lake Forest College students, faculty, and staff have admirably navigated the pandemic over the last twenty months. Our COVID protocols, which followed the recommendations of the CDC and local health agencies, have served us well in allowing us to teach and learn together in community this fall.

While we are all seeking stability and a return to “normal,” the Delta variant continues to traverse the globe, and the new Omicron variant may affect our Winter Break, travel plans, and the start of the spring semester 2022 in ways that are not yet clear. It is imperative that all community members remain flexible and prepared to pivot again or make other changes in the event we are forced to do so.

This spring semester plan, like the plans before it, is designed to protect the health and safety of everyone on campus. The items in this plan should be treated as an addendum to the Fall 2021 plan, meaning that all items in the Fall 2021 plan are still active and in effect unless new information is provided below.

Health and Safety

Vaccinations: Any new employees and students who join us in Spring 2022 will also be required to provide proof of vaccination. As before, medical or religious exemptions can be requested.

Testing Pre-Arrival: We encourage all students – especially those travelling to high-risk areas – to procure their own COVID test in the 72 hours before arrival on campus. Similarly, we encourage faculty and staff to do the same in advance of their first day back working on campus in January. Knowing your COVID status before arriving on campus will allow you to plan ahead and isolate, if necessary, in the comfort of your home.

Testing On Arrival: All students, faculty, and staff – whether vaccinated or not – will be tested for COVID in the first two weeks of January according to the following schedule:

- January 3-7: winter athletes, RAs, students who stayed in winter housing, and staff
- January 10-14: new students, all remaining returning students, and faculty

The Testing Clinic will be open in Buchanan Hall from 8:30am-4:00pm, Monday-Friday, both of those weeks. Instructions will be provided to specific groups in advance of those dates via email, so please be sure to check your College email as Winter Break comes to a close for more detailed instructions.

Testing for the Unvaccinated: Those with exemptions to the vaccine requirement must continue to be tested weekly at the Testing Clinic in Buchanan Hall. These individuals will be

provided with instructions to sign up for a new appointment time that works for their Spring schedules.

Booster Shots: The CDC has now approved the usage of booster shots for vaccinated individuals (over the age of 18) to protect against potentially waning efficacy of the vaccines after six months. Just as we followed the CDC guidance to require vaccination, we will also require boosters for those who have not already been granted an exception. Booster shots can be administered as early as six months after the final dose in the original vaccine series, and individuals should obtain their boosters from a local pharmacy or clinic as soon as possible after they become eligible. The College's deadline for all non-exempted students, faculty, and staff to procure the booster will be March 25, 2022. We hope to sponsor a booster clinic on campus at a time that is beneficial for many of our community members.

Students will be asked to upload a fresh copy of their vaccine card to the Student Health Portal, and faculty/staff will be asked to upload their booster information to a similar Human Resources form on my.lakeforest.edu. Instructions for uploading this information will be sent in January.

Masks / Facial Coverings: All students, faculty, staff, and visitors – regardless of vaccination status – are required to wear masks indoors on campus. This includes all classrooms, public buildings, hallways, elevators, fitness areas, residence hall common areas and lounges, and campus vehicles. The only exceptions are:

- Residence hall bedrooms. Students may remove masks inside your own rooms when only you and your roommates are present. You must wear masks in hallways and common spaces, or when having guests in your room.
- Faculty and staff offices. Faculty and staff may remove masks when working alone inside personal offices or labs.
- Dining hall while actively eating. Diners must wear masks before and immediately after finishing food and drink.
- Outdoors. Masks are optional for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. Unvaccinated individuals must keep at least 6 feet of distance from other people.

As the Fall 2021 Plan made clear, it is vital that we wear masks properly and call upon each other to do likewise.

Influenza: The College strongly encourages all students, faculty, and staff to get the flu vaccine. To encourage widespread participation, multiple flu vaccine clinics occurred on campus in the fall and we will offer some in the spring; most insurance providers cover vaccine costs. Further announcements will be forthcoming if a requirement becomes necessary.

Teaching and Learning

Ready to Pivot: Lake Forest College students, faculty, and staff have shown remarkable resilience and flexibility over the last 20 months. In the unlikely event that we need to pivot to remote instruction – for a short or long period – clear communication will occur via College email 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.

Assistance with Contact Tracing: Over the fall semester, we learned some valuable lessons about contact tracing from faculty members. In particular, we found that assigned seats and taking attendance at each class session helped us determine who might have been within 6 feet of a COVID-positive student for more than 15 minutes. We urge all faculty to adopt these measures whenever feasible to assist in these efforts.

Spring Break: At this time, no changes to Spring Break are anticipated. However, it is likely that we will institute increased testing after the break (similar to Thanksgiving and Winter Breaks) and that will be outlined at a future date.

In The Loop: The Loop program in Chicago is being reinstated for Spring 2022, with special isolation and quarantine procedures for participants.

Campus Life

Gathering and Events: In-person campus events and gatherings of all sizes are permitted in Phase 5 of the State of Illinois plan *Restore Illinois*. Contact tracing in Fall 2021 showed that most cases of transmission from student-to-student happened in small, informal gatherings with close friends where masking policies were not followed. Students are urged to be more diligent in these settings.

In events of any size – both large and small – sign-in sheets are a useful way to assist with contact tracing, if it later becomes necessary, and we urge all event planners to use sign-in sheets.

The College may require some adjustments to certain large-scale gatherings on a case-by-case basis. Event planners are encouraged to consider measures to increase the safety of events by creating social distance, reducing the use of food and drink, or moving the event outside. Some meetings may continue to be held virtually due to convenience or comfort. Students will continue to have individual Zoom licenses.

Dining Hall: The Dining Hall will continue to be open to students for in-person and to-go dining. Students are reminded to don their masks again immediately after eating. Currently, faculty and staff are not permitted to eat in the Dining Hall, but to-go purchases are welcomed. We look forward to expanding permissions for faculty and staff to eat in the Dining Hall as soon as feasible in the Spring 2022 semester.

Facilities and Spaces

Tents: Once the weather is warm enough, the community should continue to use the tents that will be available on North, Middle, and South Campuses through the spring 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.

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 over the holiday period. 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 for the spring semester.

Stephen D. Schutt, President
Ravi Agarwal, Chief Information Officer
Andrea Conner, Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students
Chris Ellertson, 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
Shawn Vogen, Vice President for Advancement; Secretary