



LAKE FOREST  
COLLEGE

# LAKE FOREST COLLEGE PLAN

FOR SPRING 2023 SEMESTER

IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

## Introduction

Lake Forest College students, faculty, and staff have admirably navigated the pandemic over the last two years. 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. Our country's scientific and medical leaders have made clear that we are preparing to move into the "endemic" phase of this pandemic, which means that we will soon be learning how to live with COVID-19 as we do with influenza or other illnesses. This spring semester plan, like the plans before it, is designed to continue to protect the health and safety of everyone on campus while allowing for the return of our vibrant in-person campus community. 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.

## Health and Safety

**Communications:** We plan to continue publishing the [campus dashboard online](#) weekly on Wednesdays during the spring semester.

**Vaccinations:** All community members must be "up to date" by the time they arrive, which means having a primary vaccine series (two doses for Pfizer and Moderna, or one dose for Johnson & Johnson), and having one booster as well, if 5 months have passed since completion of the primary vaccine(s).

- *More details for students:* If you have not already, you can submit proof of completed vaccination and booster in the [Lake Forest College Student Health Portal](#).
- *More details for faculty and staff:* If you have not already, you can submit proof of completed vaccination and booster in the ADP app. Contact Director of Human Resources Agnes Stepek at [stepek@lakeforest.edu](mailto:stepek@lakeforest.edu) with any questions

COVID-19 vaccine clinics were offered on campus in the fall. Vaccines are widely available at local pharmacies.

**Recommended Pre-Arrival Testing:** We strongly encourage arranging for a COVID test at home within 48 hours before you arrive on campus. Appointments are widely available at local pharmacies and clinics, and home kits can be purchased easily at many retail locations. For those who live in the US, tests can still be ordered for free from the US Government at [www.covid.gov](http://www.covid.gov). Knowing your COVID status before arriving on campus will allow you to plan ahead and isolate, if necessary, in the comfort of your home. Negative tests need not be reported, but positive results should be reported to Andrea Conner, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students at [conner@lakeforest.edu](mailto:conner@lakeforest.edu) (students) and Rebecca Kay, Human Resources Coordinator, at [rkay@lakeforest.edu](mailto:rkay@lakeforest.edu) (faculty and staff).

**Arrival Testing:** The College will not require COVID-19 testing upon arrival.

**Additional Ongoing Testing:** If the College experiences or projects an uptick in cases, we may institute mandatory testing of a percentage of the overall population – or for those with vaccine exemptions – at any time. Students who are symptomatic are encouraged to get tested at Health & Wellness. Faculty and staff that are symptomatic are encouraged to take a test at home before coming to campus whenever possible.

**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 is 5 days from the first symptoms, or in the case that there are no symptoms, 5 days from the date of the positive test.

Isolation can end only when three conditions are met: 1) after those 5 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.

After being released from isolation, individuals are required to wear a KN95 mask at all times in public areas on days 6-10.

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 menstrual 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.

**Contact Tracing and Quarantine:** The College discontinued formal contact tracing in March 2022, and began to direct the COVID-positive person to inform their close contacts to watch for symptoms and get tested approximately 5 days after the last exposure. Concurrently, the College discontinued required quarantines for those exposed to COVID as well.

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

Students in isolation 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 should work with their department chair and the Dean of the Faculty on course coverage issues, which 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.

**Masks / Facial Coverings:** Masks are encouraged everywhere indoors but will only be required in the following limited situations:

- Classes and labs, but faculty are free to eliminate the mask requirement in their classes and labs. Faculty should inform students of their classroom masking policies.
- Elsewhere, persons with ‘authority in a space’ can set the masking policy in that space. Faculty and staff can require masks in their offices, students can require masks in their residence hall rooms, and event planners can designate certain events as ‘masks required.’ Signs are available [at the following link](#) for people to post in their spaces. Students are responsible to wear masks where required, consistent with this paragraph, and students who decline to do so will be entered into the student conduct process.
- Persons who are not fully vaccinated *and* boosted are strongly encouraged to wear their masks at all times.
- Faculty who have concerns based on personal circumstances and may need accommodation should contact their department chair and the Dean of the Faculty. Staff who have concerns and may need accommodation should contact their supervisor and the Director of Human Resources. Students who, based on personal circumstances, would like masks to be work in a particular campus space should speak with the faculty or staff member who has authority over that room or space. If that conversation does not resolve the situation, the student should then email [coronavirus@lakeforest.edu](mailto:coronavirus@lakeforest.edu) for assistance.

**Influenza:** The College strongly encourages all students, faculty, and staff to get the flu vaccine. Vaccine clinics were offered on campus this fall; they are readily available at all local pharmacies.

## Teaching and Learning

**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. Neither College-sponsored remote learning nor asynchronous options will be offered for other courses.

**Ready to Pivot:** Lake Forest College students, faculty, and staff have shown remarkable resilience and flexibility. 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.

## Campus Life

**Gathering and Events:** In-person campus events and gatherings of all sizes are permitted. 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. The default mode for most meetings will be in-person, but some meetings may continue to be held virtually due to convenience or comfort via Microsoft Teams.

**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.

**Off-Campus Study:** All off-campus programs and Lake Forest College In the Loop are proceeding.

**Guests:** Campus guests (i.e., friends, significant others, alumni, and family) 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.

**Dining Hall:** The Dining Hall is open to students, faculty, staff, and guests for in-person dining.

## 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 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.

**Athletic Contests and Spectators:** Contest schedules for 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 and Building Usage:** Full capacity has been restored to classrooms, lounges, meeting rooms, and residence halls. The Sports and Recreation Center and Donnelly & Lee Library are operating with their normal hours and procedures.

## Conclusion

The College will continue to monitor the situation on campus and locally, and communicate any updates or changes with students, faculty, and staff via campus email.

We send you our best wishes and look forward to seeing you on campus again for the spring semester.

Jill M. Baren, President

Ravi Agarwal, Chief Information Officer

Andrea Conner, Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students

Chris Ellertson, Vice President for Enrollment

Jackie Hoefler, Vice President of Communications and Marketing

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