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To: [All Faculty, Staff & Contract Employees](#)
Subject: July 2022 Covid Update
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Longwood community,

As many of you noticed, we updated our approach to the Fall 2022 semester at www.longwood.edu/covid19 earlier this month. This gives an overview of the approach that will guide our next semester together. We continue to ask students, faculty, and staff to take individual responsibility and follow guidance for the health of the greater campus and Farmville community, and we will continue to work closely with public health officials.

I want to share with you today some of that information on our website, and in addition some practical guidance for when you need to miss class, have a student isolating with Covid this fall, or need to miss work because you are isolating. If you have any further questions, you can direct them to questions@longwood.edu, and we will be in touch.

Positive Covid Test

If you test positive for Covid-19 this fall, you will be expected to follow public health guidelines, which currently means isolating for five days at home or in your room following. After that first five days, you are expected to wear a mask when around others for another five days. That guidance applies to all members of the Longwood community.

We are not setting aside dedicated isolation space for students this year who need to isolate. We will work with students on a case-by-case basis if they are unable to isolate at home or in their rooms.

Missing Class

If you are a student and test positive for Covid-19, you will miss in-person classes while you are isolating. It is your responsibility to inform the Care Team and your professors that you are isolating, and it is your responsibility to make up missed work as outlined by your professor in your class syllabus. Contact the Care Team at careteam@longwood.edu so they can work with you on your academic continuity plan. As with any absence lasting longer than two days, the Care Team will assist the student. Associate Deans will confirm with faculty that students have reached out to the Care Team and will be absent due to Covid isolation.

Missing Work

If you are an employee and test positive for Covid-19, you will need to isolate for five days away from campus. You will need to work with your supervisor to use sick leave for any days missed or options on working remotely.

Masks

At the end of the spring semester, we eliminated the mask requirement in all indoor public spaces, including classrooms, conference and meeting rooms, and individual offices. Masks optional will continue to be our policy as we begin the fall semester. We will monitor conditions and stay in close contact with local and state health officials, and may adjust mitigation measures if necessary. Community members are of course welcome to wear masks if they choose.

Vaccines

While a Covid-19 vaccination is not required to enroll at Longwood, we strongly encourage all students who can safely receive the vaccine to do so, and to stay up-to-date on recommended boosters.

Dashboard

Like most Virginia public universities, we will no longer this year be maintaining a daily dashboard of Covid-19 cases reported to us or confirmed at the University Health Center. At an earlier stage of this pandemic this was a useful practice, but under current circumstances, with widespread availability of vaccines and home testing, we do not believe it necessarily conveys information to campus in the most helpful manner. The U.S. [Centers for Disease Control](#) and [Virginia Department of Health](#) provide comprehensive and regularly updated access to regional data. As we always have in the past regarding contagious illnesses or other health issues on campus, we will provide updates to the community as necessary, so community members can be aware of conditions and take additional precautions if they so choose.

Other public health concerns

As was true before and throughout Covid and is true any year, we can expect to see a range of contagious illnesses in the campus community. Longwood has long experience responding to campus health issues. The University Health Center and Virginia Department of Health communicate regularly on a range of issues; in fact, we now work together more closely than ever. We are naturally staying in communication regarding the emergence of monkeypox cases around the nation, and it is certainly possible we will see cases on campus. If so we are prepared to respond appropriately to isolate anyone impacted, and reach out to potential contacts. Monkeypox is different from Covid in that it spreads through very close, usually skin-to-skin contact, and infection in someone exposed may be prevented if the contact is vaccinated soon after exposure.

A reminder that the University Health Center is located at 106 Midtown Avenue in the Longwood Landings. They are open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling 434-395-2102.

If you have questions about the Fall 2022 semester plan, please email questions@longwood.edu. Enjoy your summer!

Matthew McWilliams

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