COVID-19

Visitors to Vanderbilt: Return-to-Campus Acknowledgment
GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR SAFETY
GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR SAFETY

The “high touch, highly interactive, mobile, densely populated living and learning environment” on a residential campus such as VU’s presents certain risk factors for transmission of COVID-19 (American College Health Association Guidelines, Considerations for Reopening Institutions of Higher Education in the COVID-19 Era).

In charting a path forward amid the unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Protecting the health of the VU community will require long-term effort and commitment, cooperation, teamwork, and understanding. Protocols will be pragmatic and will evolve over time.

- We must each exercise both personal and community responsibility.

**Visitors will be expected to abide by guidelines and protocols established by VU to slow the spread of COVID-19 infection, some of which are detailed further in this document. These guidelines and protocols may change in light of the evolving nature of the pandemic.**
SCREENING, TESTING, AND TRACING
TESTING AND RECOVERY

If I am exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 (list follows) or if I have been exposed to COVID-19, I will not come to the Vanderbilt campus.

If I have tested positive for COVID-19 (regardless of whether I have symptoms), I understand that I will not be permitted to return to the Vanderbilt campus until I have been cleared by my medical provider or my local or state health department. Generally, I will not be cleared to return to the Vanderbilt campus until:

• I have been fever-free without the use of fever reducers for 24 hours;
• I have improving symptoms; and
• It has been at least 10 days since my symptoms first appeared.

(If I tested positive but had no symptoms, I may be cleared to return 10 days after the positive test as long as I do not develop symptoms.)
COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

The symptoms of COVID-19, as identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as of August 9, 2020*, are:

• Cough
• Fever (temperature of 100.0°F or above) or chills
• Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
• Fatigue
• Muscle or body aches
• Headache
• Sore throat
• New loss of taste and/or smell
• Congestion or runny nose
• Nausea or vomiting
• Diarrhea

*CDC may update this list from time to time. Any updates may be found at cdc.gov.
SYMPTOM MONITORING

When on campus, I may be screened for symptoms and/or be required to have my temperature taken before I can enter campus buildings.

I may be required to complete a questionnaire on a regular basis related to COVID-19 symptoms, and/or to take and report my own temperature.

VU has updated the VandySafe app to include a built-in symptom monitoring tool that will allow me to screen myself daily for symptoms. (You can download the VandySafe app for free in the Apple or Google Play app stores.)
Contact tracing is an important tool for VU and local public health officials to be able to trace and monitor contacts of infected people. Effective contact tracing helps to prevent additional transmission.

I will notify Vanderbilt if I test positive for COVID-19 during the time or within two weeks after the time that I am a visitor on campus, so that VU can conduct appropriate contact tracing.

I agree to cooperate with VU’s and public health officials’ contact tracing efforts. I will be forthcoming and honest when providing information to contact tracers.
PHYSICAL DISTANCING, GATHERINGS

Maintaining physical/social distancing is required on the Vanderbilt campus. Because people can spread the virus before they know they are sick, it is important to stay away from others whenever possible, even if you have no symptoms.

- I will stay at least 6 feet (about two arms’ length) from other people whenever possible.
- I will follow instructions on signage throughout campus on how to maintain safe physical distancing.
- I will follow posted elevator protocols and will use stairs if possible.
- I will not host, attend, or otherwise participate in gatherings (on or off campus) unless the size of the gathering is permitted under current university guidelines.
FACE MASKS/Coverings

Face masks/coverings must be worn at all times in public settings (e.g., classrooms, common study spaces, outdoor spaces, hallways, stairwells, elevators, and restrooms). Appropriate use of face masks/coverings protects those around us; it is possible to spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick. A face mask/covering is not a substitute for physical distancing.

• I acknowledge that face masks/coverings are required in classrooms and other public settings.
• I will wear a face mask/covering in public spaces regardless of whether other persons are present at the time.
• If I do not have a face mask/covering, I will be provided with one.
• If I have difficulty wearing a face mask/covering, I will talk with my VU sponsor (who may consult Occupational Health for advice).
• If I cannot wear a face mask/covering because of medical or other reasons, I will talk with my VU sponsor about possible accommodation.
PERSONAL HEALTH MEASURES

• I will wash my hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, including after I have been in a public place or used the restroom; after blowing my nose, coughing or sneezing; and before and after eating.

• If soap and water are not available, I will use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

• I will cover my mouth and nose with a tissue (or use the inside of my elbow) when sneezing or coughing.

• I will not share food or drinks with others.

• I will avoid sharing workspaces and equipment when possible.

• I will avoid being in an elevator with other people and will use stairs if possible.
OUTDOOR SPACES

• Physical distancing must be maintained at all times when outdoors.

• Face masks/coverings must be worn at all times when outdoors, with the following limited exceptions:
  • While engaged in vigorous outdoor recreation, such as biking or running, so long as physical distancing is maintained at all times including with those walking on campus paved paths, sidewalks, and plazas
  • While actively engaged in eating/drinking outdoors, so long as physical distancing is maintained
  • While outdoors and sitting in one spot, so long as physical distancing is maintained
COOPERATION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT
I will comply with VU’s guidelines and protocols designed to slow the spread of COVID-19, including but not limited to the guidelines and protocols contained in this document.

I will review additional communications from VU regarding related developments and changes to these guidelines and protocols.

I understand that if I do not comply with VU’s guidelines and protocols, Vanderbilt may in its sole discretion require me to leave campus and will take any such noncompliance into account when considering whether to permit me to return to campus in the future.
If while on campus I exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 or receive information that I or a person I have been in close contact with has tested positive for or been diagnosed with COVID-19:

• I may be required to self-isolate or quarantine in my residence.

• Contact tracing may be initiated, and I will cooperate by providing information to support that effort.

• I may be identified by name to VU employees with a need to know that I am required to quarantine or isolate so that they can provide appropriate services to me and the campus community.

• I may not return to campus until I have been cleared.
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I understand and acknowledge that while VU is continuing to clean, sanitize, and engage in physical distancing and other best practices to keep the VU campus safe, and that VU is continuing to follow the guidance of public health officials to help prevent the contracting or spread of COVID-19, the nature of the COVID-19 virus is somewhat unknown. VU cannot control risks associated with COVID-19, guarantee that the campus (including any building) is free of the virus, or that I or my belongings will not be exposed to it.

I understand that VU’s activities are subject to change at the discretion of the university in response to, among other things, developments on campus and in the greater Nashville area, and subject to local, state, and federal public health guidance.
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I have read and understand this summary of return to campus expectations. I agree to follow all Vanderbilt University guidelines and protocols related to slowing the spread of COVID-19 infection.

Due to the evolving nature of CDC and other public health recommendations, these guidelines may be amended from time to time. I have access to any such changes through Vanderbilt’s Return to Campus website. Updates may require a renewed acknowledgment.

I understand that if I have questions, I can raise them with my VU sponsor.