



FISHER COLLEGE

Return to Campus Fall 2020 Student Guide



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Executive Summary

Dear Members of the Community,

Fisher staff and faculty have spent the last few months planning for the Fall 2020 semester. Many of our students have expressed a strong desire to return to campus, and I am pleased to confirm, Fisher plans to welcome returning students and the Class of 2024 to campus in the fall.

The health and safety of the Fisher Community is our first priority. The College has a Reopening Task Force that is working on plans for a safe reopening. Continuous information regarding COVID-19 and the College's response may be found at <https://www.fisher.edu/about/updates-on-the-coronavirus>.

Although it will not be business as usual on campus this fall, the College is working hard to create a safe environment for living and learning. Fisher is developing policies and procedures based on information and recommendations from local and national experts. While it is impossible to completely eliminate risk to student, faculty or staff exposure to COVID-19, we are confident that our strategy is comprehensive and informed by the best public health information currently available. Our policies and procedures will be adjusted based on new guidance. With that, the College remains vigilant and is monitoring the national and global situation.

We have developed our plans with flexibility in mind. Below you will find an overview of our strategy and tactics to address a safe return to campus. I look forward to seeing you at Fisher this fall.

Best Regards,

Steve

Steven Rich
Interim President
Srich@fisher.edu



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Introduction of Fisher Flex

Fisher College plans to reopen in the Fall 2020 semester using a model referred to as Fisher Flex. Fisher Flex provides a variety of course delivery models to support campus de-densification and social distancing, while providing students with the educational experience they seek. In this model approximately 50% of all classes are taught online, most with a live synchronous session each week. The remaining classes have a limited campus-based component in classrooms with reduced capacity. Additionally, residence hall occupancy has been reduced to meet social distancing guidelines. This coupled with testing, tracking and cleaning protocols have been established with community safety as the top priority.

Health on Campus

Personal Health Measures

Student and staff compliance with the following preventative health measures is essential for the health of everyone who is physically on campus and is thus essential for in-person education in Fall 2020.

Before returning to campus, all students, staff, and faculty will be required to complete an online educational experience regarding the health precautions, policy changes, and other behavioral expectations that will be in place during the fall semester

Testing and Symptom Monitoring

Fisher College is partnering with the Broad Institute for implementation of our overall testing strategy. In addition, the College has contracted with CoVerified, a symptom monitoring app directly connected to the Broad Institute. CoVerified will supplement the College's detection process by providing symptomatic tracking protocols. All members of the community will be required to use CoVerified daily in order to screen for symptoms of COVID-19.

Testing Policy

The College will continue to monitor guidance from public health and medical experts for testing procedures. Current testing protocols and procedures will be communicated to the faculty, staff and students and made available on the College COVID-19 resource page. Current policy is detailed below:



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- 1) All Residential Students will be required to submit a negative test result (taken within the previous 72 hours from arrival prior to coming to campus).
 - All commuting students from outside the lower risk states will be asked to submit a negative test result (taken within the previous 72 hours from arrival prior to coming to campus).
 - The individual must produce proof of a **negative test** result for COVID-19 from a test administered on a sample taken no longer than 72 hours before arrival in Massachusetts. If this is not provided, the student will obtain a test at Fisher College after arrival in Massachusetts, and **MUST quarantine** until receiving a negative result. After receiving your negative test result, please forward or scan a copy of your result to healthservices@fisher.edu
 - Any student from the non-exempt states must [complete a State of Massachusetts Travel Advisory form](#). These students must quarantine for 14 days unless they can provide proof of a negative test result that meets the criteria stated above.
- 2) All commuter students arriving from the handful of states excluded from the Governor's travel advisory will be tested upon their arrival on campus, a previous test is not required.
- 3) All faculty and staff will be tested upon arrival on campus, via a predetermined testing schedule.
- 4) Ongoing testing of all faculty, staff, and students will be conducted every two weeks on a pre-determined schedule.
- 5) Any contractors with long term assignments on campus will be handled as staff members.
- 6) Community members who are symptomatic and those with close contact (less than 6ft apart for more than 15 minutes) will be quarantined and tested as soon as possible.

Face Coverings

All students and staff are required to wear face coverings that cover their mouth and nose at all times on in both indoor and outdoor spaces. The only time face coverings are not required is when they are (1) in their bedroom with only their roommate(s) who share the same bedroom, (2) when eating, or (3) when doing personal grooming.

Students should come to campus with an appropriate face covering, but will also be provided with a Fisher branded washable mask at check in. Extra disposable face covering will be available in the event a student, faculty or staff member forgets their mask.

In cases where students refuse to wear their face covering, the student will be subject to the College conduct hearing process with disciplinary actions including possible dismissal from the College.



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Physical Distancing

Keeping space between people is one of the best tools there is to avoid being exposed to the COVID-19 virus, students and staff are required to practice physical distancing, including staying six feet away from all people [except roommates].

Students and staff are expected to refrain from gathering in large groups on campus in which case face coverings and physical distancing are required.

The College has taken several actions to make physical distancing easier and provide periodic reminders. For example, the College has reduced seating capacity in the dining hall and reduced the maximum capacity of classrooms and other academic spaces.

Additionally, there is signage and markings on the floor throughout the campus to further enforce these guidelines. Signage will be posted throughout the College reminding faculty, staff, and students of social distancing and traffic patterns in the hallways and stairwells. A traffic pattern in hallways and one-way stairways and designated entry and exit doors in the classrooms will be clearly marked when possible.

Contact Tracing, Isolation, Self-Quarantine

Despite the many reasonable steps Fisher is taking to prevent the transmission of the virus, the presence and transmission of COVID-19 on campus is possible during this ongoing global pandemic. Therefore, the College has developed protocols for isolating people who have COVID-19 and helping people who may have been exposed to COVID-19 to self-quarantine.

A student or staff member who is diagnosed with COVID-19 will be asked to provide information about other people they have been in close contact with during the time when they may have been infectious and able to transmit the virus. A representative will contact persons who have been identified as having an exposure. Any student identified through contact tracing to have been in close contact with a diagnosed COVID-19 patient, must go into quarantine. The representative will also provide them with information and resources to self-quarantine. *Close contact is defined as exposure to an infected person within 6ft for 15 minutes or longer.*

Students who test positive and live within 250 miles of campus, must return home to quarantine. A plan should be in place prior to arrival for a parent to pick you up, should you test positive. Isolation housing will be provided in a residence hall room with a private bathroom. Isolation housing will be made available if students are not able to go home for their isolation/quarantine, however there is a limited capacity to how many students the College can house.



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Hygiene Protocols

Cleaning and Disinfecting

The College cleaning and disinfecting protocols are based on [CDC recommendations](#), using [EPA approved disinfectants](#). A complete and thorough cleaning will take place each evening for all classrooms, common areas (including hallways, elevators, dining facilities, etc.) Additional custodial coverage will be provided to sanitize and disinfect classrooms, commons areas, elevators, handrails and doorknobs on a structured cleaning cycle throughout the day.

The bathrooms used by faculty, staff and students will be cleaned and disinfected **at the beginning, middle and end of every day**. Disinfection wipes, hand soap and paper towels will be available in all bathrooms.

Disinfectant wipes will be available inside of each classroom and throughout every building. Students will be instructed to use hand sanitizer prior to entering a classroom and to utilize disinfectant wipes to clean their individual work areas before class. After class all students will be asked to use hand sanitizer upon exiting the classroom.

If any individual is diagnosed with COVID-19, all areas of the College that they visited within the past 24 hours, will be taken out of service and deep cleaned before reuse. If they were not present on campus during the prior 24 hours, regular intervals of cleaning and disinfecting will have ensured safety.

Hand Washing and Sanitizing

Proper hygiene and handwashing is critical to our safety plan. Outside each classroom hand sanitizers will be installed. Additionally, hand sanitizing stations will be installed in the hallways of all buildings. Signage encouraging frequent hand washing and or sanitizing will be placed throughout the campus buildings and common spaces.

The College will follow [CDC guideline for cleaning and disinfecting the facilities](#). A complete cleaning will take place each evening with additional cleaning of high touch surfaces, classrooms and common areas on a pre-established cycle daily. Students will be instructed through training and signage to utilize disinfectant wipes placed in each classroom to clean their individual work areas before each class even when such spaces have just been disinfected by Facilities (*see also Cleaning & Disinfecting section below for further details*).



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Life on Campus

Student Housing Assignments

Housing options will be offered to all students planning to reside on campus for Fall 2020. The College will assign no more than two students per bedroom.

Reallocation of specific residence hall spaces is necessary to de-densify some buildings. In addition, the College will house some students off-campus in a leased hotel space in order to limit rooms to single and double occupancy. The College reserves the right to assign College-leased off-campus housing to students. Students who are assigned to off-campus College-leased housing must comply with guidelines for on-campus facilities and any additional requirements stipulated by the third-party property owner.

In light of new housing options and the need to de-densify some buildings, the Office of Residence Life and Housing will be instituting modified housing preference, reassignment, and confirmation processes. These modified processes will cause a delay in the usual timeline for notification of housing assignments.

Students should expect notification of housing assignments by mid-August.

Move-In / Move-Out Logistics

Students will be encouraged to pack lightly and due to MA regulations anyone coming to campus that is not from the following states (Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Hawaii) will be required to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of arrival. This includes the student and anyone helping the student move-in.

- The College will conduct an initial COVID-19 test upon students' arrival. Students and families will need a move-out plan in place for a possible emergency move-out in the event of a viral outbreak. *More details will follow.*

Move-in will be staggered over several days, and students will receive an assigned date and time for move-in. *More details will follow.*

In order to deep-clean each residence hall between semesters, students will need to move fully out of the residence halls by Wednesday, November 25.

- Students who are not able to return home between Thanksgiving break and the beginning of the January term may apply for an exception to remain on campus. Applications will be due November 1, and exceptions will be granted on a limited basis.



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Travel

College-sponsored travel in Fall 2020 will be severely limited; a decision about Spring 2021 will be made in the mid- or late-fall term.

Students who travel to/enter from out of state may be required to self-quarantine for up to 14 days upon arrival to Massachusetts. Due to MA regulations anyone coming to campus that is not from the following states (Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Hawaii) will be required to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of arrival. This includes the student and anyone helping the student move in.

International travel is highly discouraged at the present time. International travelers will need to quarantine for 14 days unless they provide proof of a negative test within 72 hours of arrival. No study abroad for the fall – spring is still under consideration based on public health circumstances.

Fisher College strongly discourages personal interstate travel until in-person instruction has ended, currently scheduled for Wednesday, November 25. This recommendation includes refraining from travel over weekends, on holidays, or otherwise from the time they arrive at the start of the fall term until the time they depart for Thanksgiving.

Residence Hall Life

Face coverings are not required when students are in their bedroom and the only other person present is their assigned roommate. Any time students leave their bedroom, including going to common spaces or bathrooms, face coverings are required.

When interacting with others in residence hall areas, physical distancing should be maintained and masks must be worn.

Students will be assigned to use specific bathrooms, and limited occupancy in the bathroom spaces will be implemented.

Students are limited to conducting personal hygiene in the floor bathroom to which they are assigned and must keep their shower and bathroom supplies in their rooms rather than storing them in bathrooms.

Laundry facilities will be available for student use. Students will comply with the occupancy limits posted for each facility.

Maintaining a clean living environment is important for the prevention of transmission of all germs, including COVID-19. The College is taking extra precautions to clean high-touch areas across campus, and the same principles apply in students' living spaces. Students should clean high-touch surfaces regularly within their own living spaces to limit transmission of germs carried in droplets that may have landed on surfaces, or may have been transferred to surfaces from our hands. High-touch surfaces include, door and cabinet handles, bathroom faucets and surfaces.



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Guests

In order to limit the spread of COVID-19, it is necessary to limit contact between people, particularly in the residence halls. Accordingly, absolutely no guests from outside the College will be allowed in residence halls during Fall 2020 semester.

Similarly, students will not be permitted to access any residence hall building other than the one to which they have been assigned. Students will be required to abide by all room occupancy limits.

Students are not permitted in any room other than the room assigned with only their assigned roommate.

Dining

As the pandemic evolves and state regulations and guidelines change, it is anticipated that dine-in service will be limited during the academic year, and service may be takeout only.

Dining services will provide to go containers, and self-service options will be served by the Dining team members only.

- The Falcon's Nest will also be open for take-out only and can be pre-ordered online.

To prevent overcrowding, Dining will follow state guidelines to limit the number of guests allowed in the seating area. Students may also be assigned times for access into the dining hall depending on their class schedules to further alleviate community traffic and capacity.

Events & Gatherings

Gatherings in indoor and outdoor spaces will be limited in size in accordance with local, state, and College public health guidelines, both on and off campus. Students must adhere to the occupancy limits of each campus space.

Hosting and attending large events are prohibited for Fall 2020 because such events are incompatible with the physical distancing that is necessary to reduce the spread of COVID-19. As such, most campus events will be cancelled or held virtually.

Students will not be allowed to host guests/visitors on campus for the fall semester.

Student Organizations

As much as possible, student organization events should occur through a virtual format. In-person events will need approval through the Office of Student Activities, will include attendance caps, and must meet all other College guidelines for physical distancing and personal protection. Large events will be prohibited.



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Campus Recreation

Gym may be available for physically-distanced student use and according to state guidelines. *More information will come.*

Facilities

The College has redesigned spaces on campus to adhere to physical distancing requirements. Students may not rearrange spaces or move furniture or other fixtures.

There will be increased cleaning across campus. The frequency and type of cleaning for each space will be determined by space's purpose and volume of use. Designated high-traffic areas, such as high-volume elevator lobbies, high-volume restrooms, and other similar areas will be cleaned multiple times per day. Cleaning and disinfection protocols specified by public health authorities will be implemented.

Identification

During this period of face covering and a prohibition of visitors to campus, we need to have the ability to readily identify members of the Fisher community. So that we can easily identify members of the campus community this fall, we will be requiring students to keep their College identification cards visible at all times when moving about the campus. The College will provide lanyards for this purpose to all members of the community who require access to campus.

Academic Experience

Faculty have been working diligently this summer to build their courses in the multiple delivery modalities referred to as Fisher Flex, to be offered this Fall at Fisher. Our intention is to allow students, regardless of major or year of study, to have access to a schedule of courses that meet their needs and degree requirements.

Academic events such as our speaker series, recognition lunch, and major's fair and career services events will be conducted virtually this fall.

Academic Services

All students have an assigned Academic Advisor. Returning students may continue to reach out to their advisor for any questions or support. New students will be assigned an academic advisor who will facilitate an email introduction. Advising sessions will be available using Collaborate (video and audio).

The library will be open with reduced hours, however, social distancing will require that occupancy is minimized in the study areas as well as the computer stations. Electronic resources will be available to anyone remotely and professional librarians will be available in person or via video or audio by appointment, to provide guidance and support.



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Computer stations will be set up throughout the college with the required technology for students to participate in live collaborate sessions if they do not have access to the needed technology, however it is recommended that students participate from their rooms or homes whenever possible. Tutoring will be available completely online (video and audio) using several technology resources. Appointments will be required and links will be provided. *The IT help desk will be available in person or via email or help desk 617-236-5464.*

Academic Calendar and Coursework

The academic experience at Fisher this fall will incorporate a variety of instructional delivery modalities. Approximately 50% of classes will have some in-person component either through a blended or fully face-to-face modality with small class sizes where social distancing can be achieved. The remainder will be delivered through remote learning. Face coverings will be required in classrooms, seating capacity will be reduced, and class times will be staggered to avoid crowding. Students will have the option of selecting a fully online schedule, based on course availability. However, students who wish to reside in the residence halls will be required to have on campus course work.

Individual course delivery is subject to change based on modified guidelines or circumstances. For example, if a COVID-19 case is diagnosed in a faculty member or student, a class may need to pivot to online for a period of time during the required quarantine.

The academic calendar for the fall remains unchanged. However, all classes will become remote from Thanksgiving break (November 25th) until the end of the semester on December 18.

Freshman have been assigned a professional advisor who have worked throughout the summer to create their fall schedules. Returning students may login to MyFisher at any time to review their current schedule with the modifications that have been implemented as noted above.

When reviewing your schedule you will notice various notations. Please refer to the chart below for an explanation of the course types and meeting requirements to assist you in interpreting your schedule. You can contact the Registrar's Office at registrar@fisher.edu if you would like to request any changes.

You should frequently review your schedule and ensure you review it on the day before classes begin and every day the first week. Classroom modifications and delivery format are subject to change.



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Sample schedule as printed from the Registration Screen in MyFisher:

se	Title	Instructor	Credits	Day Time Room
AC121-01	Financial Accounting	K. McWilliams	3.0	M W 09:30a-10:45a 118-22
MG441-01	Bus Policy & Strat Mgt	K. McWilliams	3.0	TH 11:00a-12:15p 118-53
MG390-01	Management Intern.	N. Pithis	3.0	F TBA ONLINE
MG450-01	Senior Project	D. Brady	3.0	TU 11:00a-12:15p COLLAB
CS101-05	Computer Concepts & Appli	B. Selvaraj	3.0	TU 2:00p-3:15p 118-43 TH 2:00p-3:15p ONLINE

Course Notations and Explanations:

Example	Times	Explanation
AC121-01	MW 9:30-10:45 118-22	Class meets in person twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30-10:45 in room 118-22
MG441-01	TH 11:00am-12:15p 118-53	This is a Blended class, which meets one day a week in person on Thursday from 11-12:15 in room 118-53, and has additional weekly course instruction and material online via Blackboard.
MG390-01	F TBA ONLINE	This is an online class without a designated weekly Collaborate (live virtual session). It will be asynchronous (no live video sessions). The F designation, is for internal use only and not relevant.
MG450-01	TU 11:00a-12:15p COLLAB	This is an online class with a live virtual meeting through Collaborate on Tuesdays from 11-12:15.
CS101-01	TU 2:00p-3:15p 118-43 TH 2:00p-3:15p ONLINE	This class format meets twice a week but students are assigned to one of the in-person days and will attend the class via Collaborate on the alternate days. In this case, the student will attend in person in room 118-43 on Tuesdays, but will join the class virtually through Collaborate on Thursdays. This is considered a SPLIT class.



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Athletics

Currently, the NAIA has allowed colleges to participate in fall sports. Practice will be held in the fall and a limited number of fall games may be played depending upon restrictions and other teams' willingness to compete. The College will continue to follow guidance and restrictions for participation in varsity athletics put forth by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and CDC. More details will be communicated directly to student-athletes in the coming weeks.

Public Safety

Fisher College Police Department

Adherence to COVID-19 related policies is a personal demonstration of individual commitment to the health and safety of Fisher College and our surrounding community. Each member of the College will be expected to wear a face covering while on campus, comply with social distancing guidelines, follow the directives of the College Nurse, cooperate with Fisher College directives, and abide by local health guidance when off-campus. These restrictions and requirements are subject to change throughout the semester.

Fisher will inform all faculty, students and staff about the College's COVID-19 policies. This will happen through one or more of the following training modes; orientation, videos, letters, websites, President's Briefings, and other means.

Faculty and staff will be encouraged to respond to and address with students who are not cooperating with the directions through a graduated approach from proactive expectation settings, reminders, and documentation of repeated non-compliance for review by notifying the Dean of Students Office at 617-670-4421 and Fisher College Police at 617-236-8880 for defiant or disruptive response.



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Risk and Options

Even with these mitigation measures and students' full compliance with the guidance provided in this document, it is unfortunately not possible to completely eliminate the risk of COVID-19 infection on campus. It is likely that there will be cases of COVID-19 on campus during 2020–21. It is possible that students may become ill and spread the disease to others in their residential cohorts, in their classes, and others on campus. It is also likely that some students will become infected at Fisher and spread it to family members and any other people they have close contact with outside of Fisher.

In making a decision whether or not to return this fall, each student should think carefully about their personal health and their tolerance for risk. Fisher encourages students to consult with their physician, family, and others important to them in making the decision about participation in the Fall 2020 term.



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The College will notify the community of any updates as they arrive. Please refer to the Fisher's website to review these important notifications as they come. Thank you!

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