



# FISHER COLLEGE

*Fall 2021 COVID-19 Community Guide*





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## *Fall 2021 COVID-19 Community Guide*

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## Executive Summary

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Dear Members of the Community,

Fisher staff and faculty have spent the last few months planning for the Fall 2021 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 2025 to campus in the fall.

The health and safety of the Fisher Community is our first priority. The College has a Return to Campus Fall 2021 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>.

It is our plan to 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.

Fisher College has mandated the COVID-19 Vaccine for all community members. Everyone should upload their vaccination card into CoVerified or email a copy to [healthservices@fisher.edu](mailto:healthservices@fisher.edu). If you need to file a medical or religious exemption you can do so by completing the appropriate [exemption form](#).

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 Rich*

Steven Rich  
President





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## Introduction of Fisher Flex

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Fisher College plans to return in the Fall 2021 semester using a model referred to as Fisher Flex. Fisher Flex provides a variety of course delivery models. In this model approximately 20% of all classes are taught online, most with a live synchronous session each week. The remaining classes have a campus-based component in classrooms with reduced capacity. This coupled with testing, tracking and cleaning protocols have been established with community safety as the top priority.

## Health on Campus

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### **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 2021. All community members must wear masks when inside any campus building.

### **Testing and Symptom Monitoring**

Fisher College will continue to participate in the Safe for School Testing Program and purchase COVID-19 PCR tests from the Broad Institute (Cambridge, MA), joining several other independent colleges and universities. Tests will be administered at Fisher College by self-swab and observed by staff. 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.

### **Baseline Testing**

All community members returning to campus are required to participate and conduct a baseline COVID-19 PCR self-swab test upon arrival on campus or on the day of move-in for a residential student. Following the baseline test, unvaccinated students will quarantine while waiting on results of baseline test. Vaccinated community members will not be required to quarantine until results of baseline test.



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### **Fully Vaccinated**

- You have received 2 doses of the Moderna, or Pfizer vaccine and two full weeks have passed since your last dose.
- You have received 1 dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and two full weeks have passed since your dose.
- You have received a World Health Organization approved vaccine and two weeks have passed since your last dose.

### **Unvaccinated Community Members**

- Will need to arrive with a negative test result 72 hours prior to arrival on campus.
- A baseline PCR test will be performed upon your arrival to campus.
- You will need to quarantine until the results of your baseline test is received which is generally 24 hours. Resident students will quarantine in a designated space on campus while commuters and employees will quarantine at home to await results.
- Unvaccinated community members will need to get a PCR test weekly via health services at a cost of \$25.00 per test. This cost will be billed to students accounts on a monthly basis.
- Other restrictions may be imposed on unvaccinated individuals which could limit participation in events and athletics.
- If an unvaccinated individual tests positive for COVID-19 depending upon isolation room availability on campus costs to isolate off campus may be charged to the student.
- Unvaccinated Community members who do not comply with their required scheduled testing may have their card access to buildings turned off, escorted off campus and may be referred to the student conduct process or human resources.

### **Vaccinated Community Members**

- Vaccinated members of the community will need to provide proof of vaccination prior to 9/6/21.
- Returning students and employees should upload their vaccination card in CoVerified.
- New students should email a copy of their vaccination card to [healthservices@fisher.edu](mailto:healthservices@fisher.edu) or fax to 617-670-4425.
- Vaccinated community members do not need to test weekly but will monitor for symptoms daily and will need to test if they experience symptoms or if they are considered a close contact of a positive case.



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### General

- The College will provide free baseline testing for all community members regardless of vaccination status upon arrival to campus for the fall 2021 semester.
- After the baseline test the College will not require fully vaccinated community members to test unless they experience symptoms or have been notified, they are a close contact of a positive case.
- Students/staff/faculty who will not be on campus at all, do not need to be tested. *If these individuals want to come to campus to use the computer lab or to use another on campus facility, they will be required to be tested and show a negative test taken within 72 hours prior to coming on campus.*
- Any contractors with long term assignments on campus will be treated as staff members.
- All faculty, staff, and students will be required to do daily symptom tracking through the CoVerified App.
- Students will not be permitted to attend classes on campus until they receive their baseline test results. If students must miss a class because they are awaiting their baseline testing results, they will contact their instructor to make any necessary arrangements.
- No student will be admitted to campus daily without being clear in the CoVerified app.
- The College has designated a certain number of rooms for resident students to isolate or quarantine. Students will not be able to leave these rooms or have visitors during the isolation or quarantine period. Fisher College will deliver meals and items (such as course materials) to students. The Fisher College Nurse will provide clinical support to isolated/quarantined students. Fisher will follow CDC, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and Boston Public Health Commission guidance on protocols to permit students to leave the isolation or quarantine.

### Face Coverings

All students and staff are required to wear face coverings that cover their mouth and nose at all times inside campus buildings. 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.

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.

### **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 unvaccinated student identified through contact tracing to have been in close contact with a diagnosed COVID-19 patient, must go into quarantine. Any vaccinated student identified through contact tracing as a close contact must test and monitor for symptoms but they do not need to 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.*

Should you test positive isolation housing will be provided by the College for residential students. You will need to remain in isolation until a member of BPHC/CTC has deemed you clear to return to the campus community.



# Hygiene Protocols

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## **Cleaning and Disinfecting**

The College cleaning and disinfecting protocols are based on best practices and air quality management.

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.

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 are critical to our safety plan. Outside each classroom hand sanitizers are installed. Additionally, hand sanitizing stations are installed in the hallways of all buildings. Signage encouraging frequent hand washing and or sanitizing has been placed throughout the campus buildings and common spaces.





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## Life on Campus

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### **Student Housing Assignments**

Housing options will be offered to all interested students planning to reside on campus for Fall 2021. The College will assign rooms to full capacity (double (2 students), triple (3 students), quad (4 students)).

The College reserves the right to change a room assignment at any time. The College can also reassign 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.

### **Move-In Logistics**

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

- Anyone assisting students with move in must always wear a mask.
- Any residential student who is unvaccinated will be required to arrive with proof of a negative test administered 72 hours (about 3 days) prior to arrival.
- Vaccinated students must submit proof of vaccination by 9/6/21.
- Regardless of vaccination status the College will conduct a baseline COVID-19 test upon students' arrival. Unvaccinated students will need to quarantine while they await results. Results typically are returned within 24 hours. Vaccinated individuals will not need to quarantine while they await results.
- Students and families will need a move-out plan in place for an emergency move-out in the event of a viral outbreak. *More details will follow.*

### **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.

Students may 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.



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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.

### **Guests**

In order to limit the spread of COVID-19, it is necessary to limit contact between people, particularly in the residence halls. Resident students will be allowed vaccinated Fisher College Day guests only. This means a currently enrolled Fisher College commuter or Fisher College resident of another building can visit your room as a day guest from 6am-10pm. All guests must leave your room by 10pm. Failure to abide by the guest policy will result in a referral to student conduct and could result in loss of all guest privileges including additional sanctions.

### **Events & Gatherings**

Gatherings in indoor and outdoor spaces will be held and approved on a case-by-case basis.

### **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.

### **Identification**

During this period of face covering and 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

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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 in person whenever possible this fall. Virtual access will be made available for some events to accommodate the fully online students.



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### **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 they will connect with during the first part of the fall semester. Advising sessions will be available using Collaborate (video and audio) or in person.

The library will be open with typical office hours. 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.

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 in person or online (video and audio) using several technology resources. Appointments will be required, and links will be provided for the online sessions. *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 80% of classes will have some in-person component either through a blended or fully face-to-face modality. The remainder will be delivered through remote learning. Face coverings will be required in classrooms for all community members. Seating capacity has been reduced.

With 20% of courses fully online, it is anticipated that many students will have at least one fully online class. However, students who reside on campus or participate in athletics, are required to have a minimum of 4 in person classes. A fully remote schedule is not permitted without special permission and circumstances.

New students will receive a schedule during their summer orientation. Returning students may login to MyFisher at any time to review their current schedule.

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](mailto: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

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Fisher College offers 10 varsity sports totaling over 175 student-athletes. Fisher College competes in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). In accordance with the NAIA <https://www.naia.org/covid19/index> there are currently no participation restrictions for athletes. The Director of Athletics will continue to monitor the ever-changing restrictions due to the pandemic.

Currently, the NAIA has allowed colleges to fully participate in all sports. Practice will be held, and games will be played. The College will continue to follow any changing guidance and restrictions for participation in varsity athletics.

### **- General**

- If inter-team competition does occur overnight trips would be dependent on state guidelines combined with monitoring the COVID-19 numbers for 12 days prior to the game, in the area of stay, and at the host institution.
- Fans will be allowed at all games but for indoor sports must wear masks.

### **- Testing for Fisher College Athletics**

1. While in season (official practice and competition considered as part of the NAIA 24-week standard), all unvaccinated student-athlete participants, coaching staff members and sports medicine personnel that work in close contact with teams, at a minimum, will have scheduled weekly testing.

### **- Screening**

- As per Fisher College protocol, all student-athletes, coaching staff members and support staff, should use the CoVerified app for daily symptom screenings.

### **- Contact Tracing:**

- There will be seating assignments for every time anyone is transported in a van, a school bus or a coach bus for any athletics related practice, workout or competition. Daily logs will be submitted to the Fisher College Athletics Trainer as part of the daily screening process. Masks will be worn in all busses and vans.





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## Campus Police

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### **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, 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: letters, websites, President's Cabinet Briefings, and other means.

Faculty and staff will be encouraged to respond to and address students who are not cooperating with policies. A graduated approach should be used from proactive expectation settings, reminders, and documentation of repeated non-compliance for review. The Dean of Students Office can be contacted at 617-670-4421 and/or Fisher College Police at 617-236-8880 for any defiant or disruptive community members.



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## Risk and Options

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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 2021–22. 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.

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 2021 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!

***Published on August 4th, 2021***