

2021 - 2022



WALNUT HILL
SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

COVID-19

UPDATED
POLICIES

COVID-19 UPDATES

** Walnut Hill retains the right to change and update these guidelines per information from local, state and federal health authorities.*

UPDATES FOR ALL STUDENTS

Attendance

Students who are not cleared to attend school may not attend any classes or obligations or be in any public spaces on campus (including the dining hall). We encourage students and families to be conservative in their desire to come to campus, ensuring everyone's health and safety is the first priority.

Community Commitment Statement

All community members will be asked to sign a Community Commitment Statement that includes information and expectations for our behaviors to keep our community healthy and safe.

Contact Tracing

All students are required to sign in to every location on campus in real time through Reach.

Dining Hall and Eating

All meals will be buffet style from the dining hall. Community members may eat in the dining hall or use our re-usable green to-go containers to take food out of the dining hall to their dormitories or outdoor tables. All containers must be returned to marked bins or the dining hall dish room.

Masks must be worn by all at all times, except when sitting and actively eating.

Drinking on Campus

During events on campus when you are masked you can still drink liquids but must do so with a straw under your mask.

Lost and Found

All students should label their personal belongings. Belongings that are found around campus and are not labeled will be disposed of 24 hours after being turned in to the Student Life Office.

Off-Campus Visitors

After September 10, off-campus visitors (including family members) are welcome to come to campus and follow these protocols:

- Sign in at Stowe Building
- Visit only if feeling well
- Wear masks at all times
- Visit outside only
- Use the bathrooms in Stowe Basement only.

Trainings

All community members are required to fully participate in all training sessions and to follow all expectations related to health and safety including but not limited to things like handwashing, hand sanitizing, face coverings, contact tracing, daily health screenings.

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATES

Daily Health Screenings

All community members are required to complete a daily health screen by 9 AM through the app My Med Bot. Day students may not come to campus without completing their daily health screenings and being cleared. Boarding students must complete their daily health screening prior to leaving their dormitory.

Face Covering Policy

All community members must wear face coverings inside except when alone in their own room or office. Boarding students may remove them to brush their teeth and use the shower.

At the start of the year, vaccinated people may be unmasked outside, unvaccinated people must be masked.

We will update this policy as needed.

Health Center Layout

The Health Center will have both “sick” and “well” waiting areas. Students must stay in the area assigned to them by the nurse on duty until they are seen/treated.

Health Screenings

Students will be screened upon arrival by our school nurses.

Medication Pick Up

Students must pick up their medications from the Medication Window between 7:30-9:00 am unless otherwise directed by the school nurses. Students will not enter the health center. This will lessen the likelihood of exposure to students who are feeling ill.

Positive or Suspected Positive COVID-19 Cases

Any positive or suspected positive case will trigger our quarantine protocol for either day or boarding students. Boarding students who test positive must be picked up by a parent or guardian within 36 hours of diagnosis.

Sick Visits

If a student feels ill they are instructed to go to their room and call the Health Center during regular operating hours. If the Health Center is closed students should immediately call an adult (dorm parent or AOC) who will consult with the nurse on call. “Sick Visits” will be scheduled to minimize exposure time in the Health Center. Additionally, the school nurses will see students in dormitories if the situation is needed.

Testing

We will be testing all community members weekly once they arrive on campus on Tuesdays, starting on August 31st.

RESIDENTIAL LIFE UPDATES

Dormitory Room Checks

To assist in a clean, healthy and safe environment boarding student rooms will be checked daily by dorm parents during student check-in. Students are expected to keep their rooms neat and tidy, laundry should be done during the scheduled period and kept contained, trash emptied and food stored appropriately.

Food Delivery

Food delivery is not allowed until September 10, 2021. Non-contact delivery through things like Uber-eats is allowed and must be delivered to the box

Permissions

All boarding students will be restricted to campus until September 10, 2021 when regular permissions will be allowed.

Practicing

- All musicians will wear masks in lessons and classes. For wind/brass players, this will mean a mask with a slit and a bell cover. We will also discuss appropriate hygiene for condensation with brass players.
- Outdoor singing/playing will be permitted without masks, socially distanced,
- Unmasked playing and singing will be permitted when alone in practice rooms. HEPA filter machines should be used.

Singing on Campus

- Vaccination is required of all students and faculty, except for properly documented exemptions.
- Classes and rehearsals involving singing, including lessons and coachings will all be conducted in person, in a large space with proper HEPA ventilation.
- Students and faculty will remain properly masked at all times. "Singer's masks" are an option that allow full articulation of the mouth and jaw without muffling the sound.
- If upon completion of My Med Bot, students or teachers are told not to come to campus/ leave their dorm room, they should not have a lesson in person. Communication is expected directly between the teacher and the student to determine if the lesson should be rescheduled, or if you wish to have a virtual lesson that day. A virtual lesson will be an infrequent exception this year.
- Students may have the opportunity to sing outside without masks for some classes and rehearsals, still maintaining appropriate distance.

Visitation and Dorm Sleepovers

Sleepovers (both inter- and intra-dorm) will not be allowed. Visitation has returned to the regular rules (see student handbook)

HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATION CONSEQUENCES

We must all accept responsibility for keeping each other healthy and safe. As part of the Community Commitment Statement we all signed we agreed to abide by policies and procedures put in place for health and safety. Violations will be taken seriously with consequences as needed determined by the Head of School, Assistant Head of School and Dean of Students.