

AU FORWARD

AMENDED FALL 2020 HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN



JANUARY 14, 2021

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Introduction

On July 8, 2020, American University submitted the final version of our AU Forward Fall 2020 Health and Safety Plan to the DC Department of Health (DCDOH) and the Office of Planning (OP) in accordance with ReOpen DC guidelines. This plan was the culmination of a collaborative process between our respective organizations. However, pending the final approval of the plan, several key national and local public health metrics began to shift which led Mayor Bowser to implement additional precautions, to include the requirement of those entering the city from “hotspot” locations to quarantine for fourteen days. These additional precautions by the city and similar decisions by surrounding jurisdictions prompted American University to reconsider its operating status for the fall 2020 semester. On July 30, President Burwell announced that American University would remain in the Remote Operations Mode for the entirety of the fall semester.

Therefore, American University has made the following amendments to supplement the Fall 2020 Health and Safety Plan:



University Operating Status

The university will continue to operate in the Remote Operations Mode that was first implemented on March 16, 2020. Regarding the fall semester, the following strategies will support the Remote Operations Mode:

- AU will maintain the fall 2020 academic calendar for the university and the Washington College of Law.
- AU will provide online instruction for all undergraduate, graduate, and law students. Very limited face-to-face instruction will be offered for research that requires the use of a laboratory.
- The residence halls will remain closed and vacated. Only students who are approved for emergency housing will remain on campus. We anticipate fewer than 100 students will meet this criteria. Students in emergency housing will be assigned to single rooms that have their own bathrooms.
- Faculty and staff will continue to telework with minimal exceptions required to support university operations or research. Those needing to access campus for short periods of time must notify their supervisor.
- All academic, administrative, and athletic buildings will remain closed with authorized access only.
- AU Athletics has suspended training, practice, and competition. Resumption of training will be re-evaluated based on the conditions in the city per the ReOpen DC protocols.
- All official university travel outside of the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area will remain suspended with limited exceptions for grant-related research.
- The shuttle program will continue to operate on a modified schedule.
- All food service is suspended, and convenience stores will remain closed.

Risk Mitigation

The risk mitigation measures regarding face coverings/PPE, physical distancing, density management, cleaning, air/water quality, and mandatory training that are discussed in the AU Forward: Fall 2020 Health and Safety Plan will remain in effect where applicable.

Based on the new guidance from the city and the new university operating status, the university will take the following additional/modified precautions:

- **Communications Plan:** the university will maintain a robust communications protocols to keep our community informed about current and emerging public health directives issued by the city. These protocols include emails, text alerts, and a website dedicated to COVID-19 announcements, information, and links to ReOpen DC, DCDOH, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- **DC Imposed Quarantine:** the university has issued a Directive that all students, faculty, and staff must comply with the quarantine requirements for those entering the city from designated “hotspot” locations. In addition, the university has advised students and their families to reconsider moving to Washington, DC for the semester. The university will communicate to students who may have travelled to the states listed for quarantine the requirements and will maintain a list of those students.
- **Positive Test Reporting/Quarantine:** the university has issued a Directive requiring those who test positive for COVID-19 to notify the university and to follow DCDOH guidance regarding quarantine. Students in university emergency housing will quarantine in their assigned rooms and the university will attend to their essential care needs. All other members of the AU community will quarantine in their personal residence.
- **Physical Distancing:** All members of the AU community and any authorized contractors or visitors are expected to maintain a distance of six feet while on campus. The university has taken active steps to proactively establish conditions, wherever possible, to facilitate maintaining a distance of six feet.
- **Face Coverings/Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** All members of the AU community will be required to wear face coverings that cover the mouth and nose at all times while on campus, with the exception of alone inside private offices. The university will order a supply of reusable face coverings that will be available to community members upon request. The university will provide PPE to employees whose job function limits their ability to maintain physical distancing requirements in the following departments: Office of Information Technology, Facility Management, American University Police Department, Housing, Resident Life, Audio Visual, and the Student Health Center.

- **Cleaning:** the level and frequency of cleaning will remain in effect for the limited number of locations on campus that will have a reduced level of occupancy.
- **Contact Tracing:** the university has issued a Directive that all students, faculty, and staff must cooperate with the DC Department of Health contact tracing efforts should they be contacted to provide information. The AU contacts for tracing remain the same as designated in the July 8 plan. To assist with contact tracing efforts, authorized individuals must use their AUID to swipe into locked buildings thereby creating an electronic access record. The following members of the AU leadership team have been appointed to liaison with DCDOH regarding contact tracing:

Student Tracing	Student, Faculty, and Staff Tracing	Faculty and Staff Tracing
Dr. David Reitman Director, Student Health Center reitman@american.edu 202-885-3598	Leanne Wright Assistant Director, EH&S pina@american.edu 202-885-2007	Dan Nichols Assistant Vice President, Risk Management dnichols@american.edu 202-885-2534

- **Training:** the university has issued a Directive and all members of the AU community are required to take mandatory online health and safety training.
- **Testing:** As we work to ramp up on-campus activities safely during spring semester 2021, American University will require regular COVID-19 (PCR) screening for students, faculty and staff with a presence on campus. We will integrate testing into a comprehensive approach based on current scientific evidence and designed to identify asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic students and employees and mitigate health risks to our community.

This test will be provided free of charge. The mandatory requirements of the testing plan, and how it applies to different members of our community, are in the [Health and Safety Directives: Mandatory COVID-19 Testing](#) and summarized [online](#) (updated January 14, 2021).
- **Health and Safety Pledge:** all students will be required to sign a pledge that they will abide all health and safety regulations imposed by the university and the city and practice appropriate health precautions.
- **Personal Health Screening App:** all students, faculty, and staff needing to access campus, or any other AU controlled facility, must first complete a personal health screening app hosted by the university to ensure they are not symptomatic.

Coordination with the District of Columbia

The university will continue to cooperate and coordinate with the District of Columbia governmental agencies tasked with planning for, responding to, and managing the effects of COVID-19 and we stand ready to establish regular meetings to discuss matters of mutual concern. Specifically, American University will follow the guidance developed by the DC Department of Health and the Office of Planning and will continue to align our policies and directives with issued public health protocols.

The following members of the AU leadership were previously designated to serve as points of contact to liaison with the city.

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Beyond Fall 2020

This plan will continue be enhanced and updated in the months ahead based on the trajectory and velocity of COVID-19 transmission in the District, Maryland, and Virginia; national trends; direction from government officials; and expert advice on how to mitigate risks to keep our students, faculty, staff, and contractors safe. It relies on the full understanding, support, and cooperation of every member of the AU community. We must each make a personal commitment to our shared physical responsibility and recognize that our individual support of the plan and adherence to its standards will serve to enhance the safety of the entire community and create an environment of community care.