

AU Forward: Fall 2021

Health and Safety Summary

For a safe and productive in-person semester, American University updated our health and safety protocols. Important measures that all community members must follow are outlined below and additional details can be found in the [AU Forward Fall 2021 Health and Safety Guide](#).

Key Protocols



Masking: All AU community members will wear masks while indoors in any campus facility or AU building. The only exceptions are when eating/drinking or alone in a private office. In residence halls, roommates in their rooms do not have to mask as it is considered a family dwelling. It is encouraged that roommates discuss masking upon move-in. In classrooms, students will wear masks and faculty have the option of teaching without a mask from a suitable distance. Masks are not required outdoors unless in groups of 25 people or more.



Vaccinations: American University [requires COVID-19 vaccinations](#) for all students, faculty, staff, and contractors with a presence on campus or on university-sanctioned study abroad or off-campus activities. Community members seeking an exemption for medical or religious reasons must complete the [form](#) and receive approval before an exemption is considered final.



COVID-19 Testing: Unvaccinated community members with approved exemptions will be tested twice per week. Vaccinated students, faculty, and staff will be [tested](#) if they are exposed to someone who has tested positive, if they exhibit COVID symptoms, or if they choose to be tested for safety precautions. Vaccinated community members in these groups can test on campus or with their personal health care provider, and any external positive test must be reported via the [AU Forward Self Reporting portal](#). Testing occurs [at Constitution Hall](#) on East Campus.



Events: In-person events will be limited to start of the semester, with advance approval required from the appropriate unit/department.

Major gatherings such as Convocation and the Sophomore Welcome will proceed with additional health and safety precautions in place. Recognized student organizations will work with the Center for Student Involvement to plan select in-person events. Additional measures have been instituted for the safe operation of university athletics programs.



Meetings: Most business meetings will continue online to preserve campus space for student-focused activities. Given the vaccine requirements, faculty, staff, and students can meet in small groups (e.g., 2-3 people) in offices if mask mandates are followed. Schools and units can use their conference rooms for team meetings with masking, using best judgments to ensure safety and support team members.



Guests and Visitors: All campus visitors will follow applicable university health and safety guidelines including checking for COVID-19 symptoms prior to coming to campus, not coming to campus if experiencing any symptoms, and abiding by any additional measures outlined by the event coordinator/host and all posted signage. Non-AU affiliated visitors are not allowed in residence halls, except during move-in when parents can assist.



Travel: Essential university-sponsored travel will be considered for approval to ensure continuity of our research and educational activities. Faculty and staff members will submit requests for essential travel at least two weeks in advance of the trip departure date. Requests can be submitted using the appropriate form found on the [COVID-19 Resources web page](#).

Resources

**AU Forward Fall 2021
Health and Safety Guide**

https://www.american.edu/corona-virus/upload/auforward_fall2021_healthandsafetyplan.pdf

**University Communicable
Disease Policy and Associated
Health Directives**

<https://www.american.edu/policies/safety-risk-management/communicable-diseases-policy.cfm>