COVID-19 Visitor Protocol

Pursuant to the university’s Health and Safety Directive: Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination, all visitors to American University, including the AU campus or university-owned/managed properties, must be fully vaccinated. The university also requires that all visitors to AU-sponsored events held off campus must be fully vaccinated.

The university has established the following protocols that all visitors (except visitors under five years of age) must follow to verify their vaccination upon their arrivals on campus, at a university-managed/operated building, or at an AU-sponsored event held off campus.

This visitor protocol applies to anyone visiting American University, on the AU campus, at university-owned/managed properties, and at AU-sponsored events held off campus, for an event, meeting, or class. More specifically, the protocol applies to those not already subject to the university’s COVID vaccination requirements for students, faculty, staff, and contractors who work regularly on campus.

Examples of visitors who fall under this Visitor Protocol include but are not limited to:

- Family members and friends of American University community members,
- Prospective students and their families,
- Event/meeting attendees,
- Guest speakers or panelists in academic classes or programs or other events,
- Visiting research scholars and research lab volunteers who are not AU employees,
- Alumni, and
- Contractors and vendors who do not work regularly on campus.

Important Note on Residence Hall Visitors

The university will continue to prohibit visitors within residence halls for spring 2022.

Responsibilities of AU Event Hosts for Events/Meetings/Classes with Visitors

- AU hosts must be present throughout the event/meeting/class.
- AU hosts must communicate with visitors that American University requires all visitors over the age of 12 to be fully vaccinated or, for those unvaccinated because of medical/religious reasons, have a COVID-19 PCR test within 72 hours of the event/meeting/class.
- **AU hosts must check visitors proof of vaccination.** Visitors must present their vaccination record card or a digital copy to the AU host upon arrival on the AU campus, at university-owned/managed properties, or at AU-sponsored events held off campus.
• **AU hosts must check non-vaccinated visitors PCR tests.** They must have all visitors who are unvaccinated because of religious/medical reasons present a negative COVID-19 PCR test result from within 72 hours of the event prior to being admitted to event.

• **Updated Masking Requirements:** Beginning on Monday, March 21, masks will be optional in most campus locations, including classrooms, labs, office spaces, residence halls, dining facilities, event spaces, libraries, and fitness centers.

• **Masks will remain required in campus medical facilities,** including the Student Health Center, Counseling Center, and COVID-19 testing sites; on the AU shuttle; and inside any **AU vehicle used for public transportation**, in alignment with the extended TSA mask requirement for public transportation systems. Further updates for these specific environments will be provided as needed.

• Community members can choose to continue wearing a high-quality mask in any setting or location based on their individual preferences, and the campus mask distribution sites will remain in operation. KN95, N95, and KF94 masks offer the best protection against transmission. Masks should cover both the nose and mouth and fit tightly to assure the best protection. If attendees do not have these masks, double masking is the next best option.

**Responsibilities of AU Visitors**

• All visitors must comply with all applicable Health and Safety Directives issued by the university, including but not limited to the Health and Safety Directive: Face Coverings; Health and Safety Directive: Requirements Following COVID-19 Exposure, Positive Test, or Suspected Infection; and Health and Safety Directive: Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination.

• We will return to full capacity attendance for events in Bender Arena and our performing arts spaces with masks optional for most events. All external visitors must continue to comply with our vaccine requirements. For off-campus events, we will follow the COVID guidelines for the jurisdiction where the event is taking place.

• Visitors must be prepared to present their vaccination record card or a digital copy upon arrival on the AU campus, at university-owned/managed properties, or at AU-sponsored events held off campus.

• Visitors who are not vaccinated because of medical or religious reasons **must obtain a negative COVID-19 PCR test** within 72 hours prior to the event/meeting/class. Unvaccinated visitors must be prepared to present a copy of a negative COVID-PCR test result upon arrival on the AU campus, a university-owned/managed building, or at an AU-sponsored event off campus.

• **No visitors may attend an event/meeting/class** on the AU campus and university-owned/managed properties or AU-sponsored events held off campus if they have COVID-19 or are experiencing symptoms consistent with a COVID-19 infection, flu, or cold-like infection. Symptoms may
include fever of 100.4 degrees or above, cough, sniffles, sore throat, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, muscle aches, or new loss of taste or smell.

- All visitors must comply with any applicable DC or local travel and testing requirements regarding COVID-19. (Information regarding DC travel and testing requirements regarding COVID-19 are available at https://washington.org/dc-information/coronavirus-travel-update-washington-dc.)

- All visitors must practice good hygiene and infection control precautions, such as frequent and thorough handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, and staying home if feeling unwell.

- All visitors must comply with all American University posted signage regarding health and safety guidelines.

Be advised that event scheduling guidelines may be revised at any time to meet health and safety needs if case counts in the region or at AU are increasing or if DC Health or the CDC guidelines around COVID-19 change.