



# *SPRING 2022 BLUEPRINT*



## *COVID-19 OPERATING PLAN*



DELAWARE VALLEY UNIVERSITY



**UPDATED January 12, 2022**

**Note Changes:**

**Updated testing protocols for non-vaccinated students on page 5.**

**Updated isolation, quarantine and masking guidelines on page 6.**

**December 13, 2021**

## **Spring 2022 Operating Plans for Delaware Valley University**

We have successfully navigated another semester despite the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This is due to the careful planning we put in place, the vigilance of our COVID Response Team and the DelVal community working together to stay safe.

While we are all tired of wearing masks, our continued adherence to masking indoors and following the other COVID protocols have kept the spread of this disease out of our classrooms and laboratories. We have been able to proceed with the kind of campus experience that DelVal does best and that students value most: an in-person and experiential academic environment, complemented by out-of-class experiences that engage and involve you through athletics and sport, clubs, activities and events.

As we approach the Spring 2022 semester, we must all re-commit to the shared responsibility for keeping our campus and its members safe and focused on what matters most: our students' education both in and out of the classroom.

Vaccinations continue to be the most important thing we can do as a community to mitigate the impact of this disease on our lives. While most of our community is vaccinated, we encourage anyone who has not yet received the vaccine to do so now. The Centers for Disease Control is recommending that anyone over 18 receive a booster vaccine in the prescribed time period for your specific vaccine.

For those who have requested exemption from vaccination, your responsibility is even more important. You will be asked and expected to comply with a different mitigation pathway related to COVID-19, including regular testing through the Health Center. Ultimately, a shared responsibility is just that – we accept the responsibility to take care of ourselves and to prioritize the welfare of our campus. One of our core values says it best:

***Act as one learning community with one purpose.***

At the time of this writing, a new variant of concern has been identified. The health experts agree that the most important thing we can do is to get vaccinated and continue to follow the protocols that, to date, have allowed us to manage this disease at a low rate within our community.

We will continue to live our lives as fully as we can while observing the protocols in this document which are essential to keep our community safe. Please review this plan to ensure that you understand our intentions and are able to honor them.

If you have any questions, please [click here](#). Be well, and I look forward to a successful Spring semester.

With Regards,

Dr. Benjamin E. Rusiloski  
President

## **About the Plan**

This document summarizes the operating conditions for campus in Spring 2022. It applies to all students and employees at all campus locations. It may be necessary to update portions of this blueprint as local, state and federal guidance are adjusted.

*Campus email* will be the primary mode of communication about the plan for all students, faculty and staff and revisions will be communicated through email. Information, including this plan, will also be posted on the campus web site at [delval.edu/healthy](http://delval.edu/healthy).

### **Authority and guidance**

The University's plans are informed by directives and recommendations of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Bucks County Department of Health and monitoring of local conditions, the American College Health Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American College Health Association, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the NCAA Sport Science Institute regarding student-athletes.

### **Guiding principle of shared responsibility**

This plan operates under the **assumption of shared responsibility** with each community member committing to safeguard their own health and that of others by abiding by the directives of this plan.

### **Accountability and compliance**

Our **principle of shared responsibility** presumes that community members will adhere to our [vaccination policy](#) and submit any and all documentation required.

Fully vaccinated individuals who do not submit vaccination cards will not be exempt from continued mitigation practices, including daily Mediat screening and periodic COVID testing.

Under the **principle of shared responsibility** all students, staff and faculty are expected to adhere to our community norms and calls for good citizenship. If these are disregarded, the University will seek adherence to our expectations through the Student Code of Conduct and relevant Human Resources and employment procedures established to address non-compliance.

A [COVID Compliance Concerns](#) form is available to report observations of non-compliance by *any* member of our campus community. These reports are routed to the Dean of Students and Director of Human Resources for resolution through the appropriate University procedures for students and employees.

This form is also for use by faculty members to report classroom non-compliance with health and safety directives.

## **Personal health and safety practices for Spring 2022**

**Mask wearing required indoors at all time:** ALL students, faculty and staff (regardless of vaccination status) are required to wear face masks indoors at all times.

**Mask wearing and transportation and travel:** All community members, regardless of vaccination status, must wear masks on vans, buses, planes or forms of public transit that may be taken for University trips and travel which include but are not limited to field trips, club activities, events, and athletic team travel. Employees and students travelling in motor vehicles on campus must mask unless they are alone in the vehicle.

**COVID testing:** Testing will remain an important strategy to keep our community safe and fully operational. Fully vaccinated students who submit documentation will be waived from this requirement. Non-vaccinated students or those who have not submitted vaccination cards, or taken action for an exemption, will continue to operate under testing protocols in place during the 2021-2022 academic year.

**Specifically, resident students who are not vaccinated will need to show evidence of a negative COVID test prior to move-in for the spring semester. During the course of the semester, all non-vaccinated students will be tested on a weekly basis at the Health Center. These students' accounts will be charged for the test based on net-cost for the test to the University, which is currently \$13/test. If the price for purchasing the tests goes down or up, the charge to these students will be adjusted to match the actual cost of the test.**

**There will be a charge of \$20 for students who do not show up for the required tests. Failure to comply with required testing will result in conduct action for resolution.**

Student-athletes who are not vaccinated would be aware that guidance from the NCAA and the Middle Atlantic Conference may require more frequent testing for non-vaccinated students and you should anticipate that you may have to take the responsibility to be tested up to three times per week at the Health Center, depending on the nature of your sport.

**Diagnostic testing for symptomatic students remains an important part of our community health protocols and will be available through the Health Center. Testing of any kind, including for COVID, is based on a conversation between the individual and a clinician at the Health Center.**

**Medicat health screening:** Non-vaccinated students, faculty and staff must continue to use the daily Mediat health screener. A green badge is required for non-vaccinated individuals to be on campus. Instructions for use may be found here: <https://delval.edu/sites/default/files/2020-08/Mediat-Screening-Instructions.pdf>

**COVID-19 Symptoms:** The following link will provide the latest information from the CDC regarding COVID-19 symptoms for your reference. [CDC Information](#).

**Illness and reporting symptoms:** Regardless of vaccination status, students who develop symptoms consistent with COVID must report to the Health Center at 215.489.2252 during normal business hours, or Public Safety at 215.489.4444 when the Health Center is closed. The decision to conduct a COVID-19 test is at the sole discretion of the Health Center Professionals.

Employees should seek guidance from their primary physician and communicate with Human Resources. Staying home when ill is an essential community health practice.

## **Isolation and Quarantine Information Updated 1.12.22**

### **Positive for COVID-19**

- Isolate for 5 days off campus regardless of vaccination status.
- If symptom-free or your symptoms are improving and you have been fever-free for 24 hours can return to campus after clearance from the student health center.
- Strict masking for 5 additional days. Strict masking means mask around others, including roommates, unless you are sleeping. After 5 days return to regular masking policy.

### **Exposure to COVID-19**

- Close contact defined as 6 ft or closer for 15 minutes or more (in a 24-hour period).
- **If you have received a booster vaccine or have completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna within the last 6 months or completed the primary series of J&J within the last 2 months or if you have had a positive COVID test within the last 90 days.**
  - Wear a *well-fitting mask* around others for the next 10 days. After 10 days, return to regular masking policy.
  - Test on day 5, *if possible (students test at the HC)*.
  - If you develop symptoms seek medical care and testing.
- **If you have NOT received a booster vaccine and have completed the primary series of Pfizer (greater than 6 months ago), or Moderna (greater than 5 months ago) or completed the primary series of J&J greater than 2 months ago.**
  - Wear an *N95 mask* around others for the next 10 days. After 10 days, return to regular masking policy.
  - Test on day 5, *if possible (students test at the HC)*.
  - If you develop symptoms seek medical care and testing.
- **If you are unvaccinated.**
  - Quarantine for 5 days off campus.
  - Test on day 5, if negative can return to campus
  - Wear an *N95 mask* for 5 days after that. After 5 days, return to regular masking policy.

**If you develop symptoms seek medical care and testing.**

Student-athletes who are not vaccinated and who are exposed are reminded that their personal participation with their team (practice, interaction, competition) will cease during any period of quarantine.

**Hand and respiratory hygiene:** For all community members, good health hygiene through hand-washing, and covering nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing remains essential practice.

**Accommodation of medical or disability concerns:** Certain individuals may have pre-existing medical or disability issues which might pose difficulties in a face-to-face academic or workplace environment. Students may [request reasonable accommodations](#) for themselves for [certain disabling or medical conditions](#) that, per the CDC, put them at an increased risk of severe illness due to COVID-19. Employees seeking an accommodation request under the Americans with Disabilities Act should [complete a request form](#). Examples of accommodations that may be needed are working from home. Contact Human Resources with any questions about accommodation requests.

### **Key University Operations and Practices for Spring 2022**

#### **Academics**

- With rare exception, courses will be taught in-person this spring.
- Most classes will utilize 3-foot social distancing parameters.
- Some large classes may be taught remotely only if a suitable venue is not available; others may be held in larger spaces to allow for appropriate distancing.
- The following references will be incorporated into course syllabi for the upcoming semester: per University policy, masks are required to be worn indoors by all students, faculty, and staff and compliance is expected.
- Faculty will prepare seating charts to facilitate any COVID contact tracing that should be required over the course of the semester
- Students who are experiencing symptoms of illness should not attend in-person classes. However, students should notify their instructors in a timely manner of their absence from class, due to symptoms of illness.
- Students are responsible for all quizzes, exams, labs, projects, and assignments missed due to absence in each class for which they are enrolled. This should be coordinated through their instructor. Special accommodations for remote/Zoom class participation for non-vaccinated individuals is not planned at this time.
- Faculty may report concerns about classroom non-compliance through the [COVID concerns form](#) is available.
- Faculty members, by policy, will have the right to ask a student to leave the classroom for failure to comply with health and safety expectations around wearing face coverings
- Should circumstances and campus conditions warrant, faculty will be prepared for a transition to remote instruction.
- Off campus internships, placements or clinical experiences are anticipated to proceed normally. Regardless of regulations that may be in place at a particular site, the University maintains an expectation that all individuals will continue the practice of mask-wearing at these sites when indoors.

- Faculty members will be provided with standard language to include in course syllabi which will address issues associated with masking, attendance, seating and reporting of illness.

## **Athletics**

As of the issuing date of this plan, it is anticipated that athletics will proceed with a complete competitive schedule for the spring semester, subject to health mitigation practices as defined by the NCAA and the Middle Atlantic Conference. Such practices are likely to include required masking, testing and quarantine if exposed for non-vaccinated student athletes. Detailed guidance as it emerges will be communicated through the Athletics Department.

## **Cleaning and Sanitation**

Given our enhanced knowledge of the low risk of transmissibility from contact with surfaces, cleaning will resume a normal operating schedule subject to changes in conditions or service requirements for areas with suspected COVID-19 exposure. Individuals are encouraged to maintain the highest levels of personal hand hygiene.

Classrooms and laboratories will be stocked with cleaning products. Students and faculty should wipe down surfaces (desktops) and high-touch areas prior to the start of class/instruction. Please contact the [maintenance](#) department with questions, concerns or requests for additional supplies at [maintdep@delval.edu](mailto:maintdep@delval.edu).

## **Contact Tracing**

If required, the community is reminded that County Departments of Health have predominant authority and legal responsibility for contact tracing and notifications of communicable diseases. When contact tracing is warranted, the DVU Health Center staff, who have been trained in contact tracing by Johns Hopkins University, will begin gathering information in support of contact tracing efforts. They will report directly to the Department of Health. Procedures for evaluating, isolating and quarantining close contacts will be issued through our Health Center, in collaboration with the local department of health.

## **Contractors and Vendors**

Contractors and vendors operating or delivering on University property are expected to comply with the same health and safety guidelines as those on campus. Contractors and vendors must be free of illness before coming onto campus and **face coverings are required indoor for all vendors regardless of vaccination status.**

## **Dining and Food Service**

Through our corporate partner Parkhurst Dining, normal dining operations in Levin Dining Hall and the PUB are in place. Masks must be worn while entering and obtaining food in the dining hall. Masks may

be removed while eating but you must put your mask on when you leave your table and keep it on until you are outside of the building.

### **Events and Meetings**

The University will continue to monitor the evolving COVID-19 situation, and reserves the right to alter this guidance to ensure the health and safety of event and meeting attendees. All meetings and activities will adhere to CDC, state and University guidelines for health and safety. The University will comply with public health orders, including occupancy adjustments for the number of participants or attendees.

Currently, the University plans to allow in-person meetings and events during the upcoming semester. Capacity of our meeting and event space will follow Pennsylvania guidance, which currently allows for use of meeting and event space at full-capacity.

**All individuals must wear a mask indoors while attending events or meetings (regardless of vaccination status) based on current COVID variant trends.** If food and/or drink are served, individuals may remove masks while eating/drinking, but must re-mask when not actively engaged in consuming food or beverage.

Masks are not required for any attendee at an event or meeting held outside. External meeting or event hosts are expected to communicate this requirement to all attendees.

### **Guest and visitor policy**

Guests and visitors may visit campus provided they follow all COVID-19 protocols. **Any guest or visitor must wear a mask indoors at all times.**

Resident students must be aware that the presence of guests in a room is with the mutual agreement of roommates. This agreement process occurs at the beginning of the term. Residents are advised that given the potential health and safety concerns, the expectation for mutual agreement will be heightened.

Guests and visitors to campus are expected to be free of illness. The host individual or sponsoring department is responsible for communicating this expectation to guests. Visitors must be denied access to campus if symptoms are detected.

### **Off-Campus Students**

Off-campus students are still responsible for adhering to the health and safety guidelines contained within this plan and for good citizenship to protect the campus community. Off-campus residents are urged to require that **all guests** or friends in the house or apartment wear a mask for the protection of all, **regardless of vaccination status.**

## **Office Hours and Appointments**

During the upcoming semester, office operations and appointments are anticipated to follow normal, in-person operations.

## **Recreational Facilities**

Outdoor recreation and activity is encouraged and supported! Students may consult with Student Involvement to explore both formal and informal recreational opportunities that comply with any health mandates.

Guidelines will be established for indoor informal recreational activities for spring 2022 and will be updated in this plan.

Outdoor club sports may proceed as normal. Club sports that occur indoors may occur with appropriate health provisions related to mask wearing and other mitigation. Students involved in indoor club sport will be asked to work directly with Student Involvement staff before beginning activity in the spring.

## **Social Distancing Standards**

The University is observing the distancing standard of 3 feet (about 2 arm's length) of separation in every feasible venue, consistent with local department of health guidelines being implemented in the public-school system.

## **Student Activities and Extracurricular Programs**

Being involved and having the opportunity to be part of clubs and organizations is an important dimension of DelVal's campus life and clubs and organizations are encouraged to identify creative ways for students to interact and engage with each other.

The Student Involvement team will provide guidance and support for student leaders on ways to host meetings and events in a way that aligns with expectations for universal mask-wearing while indoors.

## **Travel and Transportation**

International travel – both outgoing (DelVal community members traveling) and incoming (international visitors and guests coming to DelVal) remains suspended through the Spring 2022 semester.

All community members, regardless of vaccination status, must wear masks on vans, busses, planes or forms of public transit that may be taken for University trips and travel which include but are not limited to field trips, club activities, events, and athletic team travel.

Academic field trips and club and organization travel are permitted to resume with the expectation that all travelers within a vehicle will be masked.

The [Pennsylvania Department of Health COVID-19 Information for Travelers](#) remains an active site and community members are encouraged to use it as a resource for information about restrictions and guidance on travel inside and outside of the Commonwealth.

Similarly, the CDC continues to maintain [useful information about travel](#).

### **Vaccine availability and education**

Students having difficulty finding the vaccine in their local community may reach out to student health at [healthcenter@delval.edu](mailto:healthcenter@delval.edu) for assistance.

Those seeking more information about vaccination may wish to view the [Vaccine Information Zoom Presentation](#) created by Meredyth VanVreede, our Director of Health Services.

The short [vaccine safety video from the CDC](#) may be helpful to those interested in this issue as it addresses concerns about the speed with which the vaccines have been developed.

Information about booster vaccines is available on the [CDC website](#) and individuals are encouraged to contact their healthcare provider to determine if a booster vaccine is appropriate for them.