

COVID-19: Student Guidelines

August 2021

Overview and Student Conduct Expectations

The health and safety of our faculty, staff and students is our number one priority as we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Millsaps will comply with state, local, and federal government guidelines as we strive to balance health concerns with the needs of our institution.

This guide outlines the protocols to support the student experience while taking steps to minimize the risk associated with COVID-19. As a reminder, students are always responsible to the rules and expectations outlined in Major Facts. On campus residents are also responsible to the standards set in the housing contract.

Refusal of a student to follow the safety guidelines will result in disciplinary action up to and including fines, removal from campus housing, suspension or expulsion from campus in accordance with the student conduct process.

Millsaps reserves the right to alter or amend these guidelines as new information and guidance is issued at the federal, state and local level. For information on campus policies and to view the COVID-19 Dashboard, please visit [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Community Updates and Resources \(millsaps.edu\)](https://millsaps.edu/coronavirus).

Vaccinations

Students are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated. COVID-19 vaccines can help protect you from COVID-19 and getting vaccinated prevents severe illness, hospitalizations, and death.

Students are considered fully vaccinated:

- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine

Students should email a photo of their vaccination card to health@millsaps.edu. Please list "Vaccine Card" in the subject line.

For more information about COVID-19 vaccines, please visit the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov).

Face Masks and Face Coverings

Face masks/coverings must be worn by all students, regardless of vaccination status, while indoors on campus. Face Masks/coverings are required to be worn in residence halls except in individual rooms. This includes hallways, restrooms, and common spaces within your building.

Face masks/coverings are currently not required outdoors when social distancing can be maintained.

Social Distancing Protocols

Students should maintain physical distance between one another in all public campus spaces, including classrooms. A *minimum* of three feet of physical distance between individuals is preferred whenever practical. In classrooms or other spaces with fixed seating, individuals should skip a seat between one another to increase physical distance.

As a reminder, the [current definition](#) of exposure to COVID19 remains 15 minutes of cumulative contact over a 24-hour period at <6 feet. An infected person can spread COVID-19 up to 2 days before they have symptoms or 2 days prior to positive test if they have no symptoms, therefore,

contacts should be identified who were exposed up to 2 days prior to onset or test date accordingly.

Handwashing/Hand Sanitizing

Regular hand washing/sanitizing is one of the most important steps students can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs. The college will continue to offer sanitizing supplies in all buildings. If soap and water are not readily available use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Academic Continuity

If a student becomes ill or needs to be quarantined/isolated during the semester, they should use the [student reporting form](#). Student Life staff will work with the Care Team to notify your instructors that you require remote support. Faculty stand ready to support students remotely when they are ill or in quarantine/isolation, but we have left the details of how that support will happen to individual instructors. Please contact your faculty members and care@millsaps.edu directly if you need additional support or technology while you are ill or in quarantine/isolation. Once you have been cleared as fit for class by the Wesson Health Center, the Care Team will notify class instructors that you can return to in-person instruction.

Faculty and students will be asked to employ seating charts and assigned seating for the purposes of contact tracing.

Residence Life

Masks are required to be worn in residence halls except in individual rooms. This includes hallways, restrooms, and common spaces within your building. The current resident to guest ratio for individual rooms is 1:1. For example, single occupancy rooms may have no more than 2 people in the room at one time. Double occupancy rooms may have no more than 4 people in the room at one time. Exceptions will be allowed for the move in/move out process and emergency situations. If guests are present in a residence hall room, masks must be worn. All students with roommates and suitemates should treat their respective rooms and suites as a family would treat their household during the COVID-19 pandemic. Roommates/suitemates should engage in shared cleaning practices; keep furniture arranged to maintain as much physical distance as possible; remind each other of symptom checks and tracking; and communicate with each other regularly about these expectations. For more information, please email housing@millsaps.edu.

Campus Dining

Our partners at Aramark are committed to the safety and health of Millsaps College students and faculty, our associates, and the surrounding community? Aramark will continue their efforts to achieve the highest levels of workplace and food safety as we navigate our new normal in delivering experiences that enrich and nourish lives. Here are some of the initiatives being taken to ensure a safe dining environment for all:

- To-Go Boxes Offered
- Pre-packaged “grab & go” options
- Increased sanitation measures
- Personal protective equipment for dining staff
- Emphasis on repeated cleaning of high-touch areas (door handles, tables, trays)
- Adapting service as needed
- Social Distancing Techniques and Signage

- Contact-less meal swipe
- Plexiglass barriers

Details and hours of operations for the Caf, EcoGrounds, and Reuben's are available at www.millsaps.campusdish.com.

Aramark has also adjusted its procedures to provide students in quarantine and isolation on campus with more food options.

When dining indoors, you should wear your mask or face covering until you are ready to eat and then replace it afterward.

Wesson Health Center

In addition to providing and maintaining its standard menu of services for eligible students, the Wesson Health Center has developed clinical protocols for caring for students exhibiting COVID-like symptoms. The Wesson Health Center will not permit walk-in visits for students with respiratory illnesses or potential COVID-19 symptoms. Students will be asked pre-screening questions via phone or email. For more information, please call 601-974-1207 or email health@millsaps.edu

Counseling Center and Mental Health

Mental health is an important part of overall health and wellbeing. It affects how we think, feel and act. It may also affect how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices during an emergency. The Millsaps Counseling Center will continue to offer a wide range of mental health services to currently enrolled, full-time, degree-seeking students. To promote physical distancing and health and safety, the Counseling Center will offer services in-person and through tele-counseling. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please email counseling@millsaps.edu.

Hall Activities Center

The Hall Activities Center (HAC) will be open to staff, students and faculty without capacity restrictions beginning August 23, 2021. All HAC users must provide their Millsaps ID card upon entry to the facility and visitors will not be allowed into the HAC at this time. All HAC users must follow current college COVID protocols which includes universal masking while in an indoor space. Current hours of operation are as follows: Monday–Friday, 10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. and 6:30 –9:30 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday 12:00-6:00 p.m. Because of the unpredictable nature of the pandemic, policies concerning the usage of the HAC are subject to change.

Student Organization Event Information

Any student event (meetings, general events, tabling events, etc.) must be registered using the [Event Registration Application](#) at least 14 days in advance of the event. Additional room/equipment requests may be made within 14 days but will not be guaranteed.

Convening in groups increases the risk of viral transmissions. Consider conducting meetings in whole or part using alternative meeting platforms such as WebEx, Microsoft Teams or Zoom. When virtual meetings are not possible, attendees must adhere to occupancy, face masks and social distancing protocols.

Fraternities and Sororities

Fraternities and Sororities will follow the same policies and procedures as all other student organizations for meetings and events, including events in houses and lodges. Events can only be held in these spaces if they follow all issued on-campus guidelines, including occupancy maximums, social distancing, mask wearing, and frequent sanitization. All social gatherings should be submitted with the [Greek Life Social Event Registration Form](#) the at least 14 days prior to the event. Recruitment guidelines will mirror the above event guidelines in collaboration with the college's fraternity and sorority governing councils and inter/national organizations. Please refer to the website of your chapter's inter/national office or your chapter's governing council (NPC, NIC, NPHC) for additional resources.

Student Requirements if Experiencing Symptoms, Tested Positive for Covid-19, or Identified as a Close Contact of Someone Who Has Been Diagnosed with Covid-19. Any student who:

- is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms;
- has tested positive for COVID-19; or
- has been identified as a close contact to someone who has been diagnosed with or tested positive for COVID-19,

should follow the [Millsaps Health Decision Tree](#) and complete the necessary forms. A Student Life staff member will conduct appropriate follow-up with the student upon receipt of the Notification Form or any type of notification.

Guidelines for Students Who Are Experiencing Symptoms of COVID-19

- Stay in your residence hall room.
- Immediately separate yourself from others.
- Report your symptoms via the [student online reporting form](#).
- Follow instructions from Student Life staff regarding testing and next steps.

Guidelines for Students Who Have Tested Positive for COVID-19

- Return to your residence hall room and avoid contact with other people.
- Report your test results via the online student reporting form.
- The campus nurse or authorized Student Life staff member will contact you via phone to provide further instructions.
- Students who have reported a positive test result will be required to isolate. This is regardless of vaccination status or a previous positive COVID test.
- On campus students required to isolate should return to their primary (home) residence. Students who wish to request an exception to stay on campus to isolate must receive approval from Student Life staff.
- The student will receive further isolation instructions **via email**. This email will have a series of guidelines, instructions, and forms – all of which must be read thoroughly and responded to promptly.
- Be prepared to leave your room assignment within two hours of a positive test result and to report your close contacts.

Students who tested positive for COVID-19 and HAVE SYMPTOMS may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared **and**
- 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications have passed **and**
- Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving. Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recover and need not delay the end of isolation.

Students who tested positive for COVID-19 but HAD NO SYMPTOMS may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:

- If no symptoms develop, you may discontinue isolation once 10 days have passed since you had a positive viral test for COVID-19.

Guidelines for Students Identified as a Close Contact of Someone Who Tested Positive for COVID-19 (3 possible scenarios)

COVID-19 Close Contact Exposure Definition: The current definition of exposure to COVID19 remains 15 minutes of cumulative contact over a 24-hour period at <6 feet. An infected person can spread COVID-19 up to 2 days before they have symptoms or 2 days prior to positive test if they have no symptoms, therefore, contacts should be identified who were exposed up to 2 days prior to onset or test date accordingly.

1. Students who are Fully Vaccinated (proof of vaccination will be required):

Students who have been identified as being in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 but are fully vaccinated, with no symptoms, are not required to quarantine and should follow the guidelines below:

- Monitor for symptoms.
- Get tested 3-5 days after your exposure, even if you don't have symptoms. Test results should be submitted using the [student reporting form](#).
- If you receive a positive test result, refer to the "Guidelines for Students who have Tested Positive for COVID-19" above and begin isolation protocol.

2. Students who have had a confirmed COVID-19 illness within the previous 3 months (proof of positive test will be required):

Students who have been identified as being in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 but have had a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the past 3 months, have recovered and remain without COVID-19 symptoms are not required to quarantine and should follow the guidelines below:

- Submit a copy of your positive test results using the [student reporting form](#).
- Monitor for symptoms. Refer to the "Guidelines for Students Who Are Experiencing Symptoms of COVID-19," if you begin to experience symptoms.

3. Students who are NOT Fully Vaccinated:

Students who have been identified as being in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and are not FULLY vaccinated must quarantine.

- Students who have been identified as close contacts of individuals who have tested positive will be contacted by the campus nurse or authorized Student Life staff member.

- Students required to quarantine should return to their primary (home) residence. Students who wish to request an exception to stay on campus to quarantine must receive approval from Student Life staff.
- The student will be asked a series of wellness questions and then will receive quarantine instructions, guidelines and forms via email. These items must be read thoroughly and responded to promptly.
- Students should be prepared to leave campus or enter your quarantine space on campus (if approved) within two hours.
- Quarantine may end after 10 days if the individual has no symptoms.
- If a student has no symptoms for 7 days and has a negative COVID019 test (molecular or antigen) collected on day 5, 6, or 7 of the quarantine period, the quarantine can be discontinued after day 7.

On Campus Quarantine and Isolation

Any student who utilizes a community bathroom or who shares a room/suite with individuals who do not have to quarantine **and** received approval to remain on campus must move to Goodman for the quarantine period. Students who are permitted to remain in their own residence hall room will not have access to common areas (such as laundry facilities) or outdoor spaces.

The only on campus isolation option for students who test positive for COVID is Goodman.

Students who quarantine/isolate in Goodman will have access to:

- Temperature controlled rooms with individual control
- A refrigerator with water
- Access to outdoor space via available 2nd floor terraces only
- Laundry facilities

Students who forgot essential items in their residence hall room or need essential items/medicine should contact studentlife@millsaps.edu

Campus Dining Food Delivery

- All individuals who are approved for an on-campus quarantine or isolation option will have food delivered to their quarantine or isolation space by Aramark.
- Students will be able to select a variety of food preferences.
- Additional water and snacks will be provided when a student enters quarantine or isolation.
- Questions about meal delivery should be directed to Amy Abbott, Director of Dining Services (abbotas@millsaps.edu).

Monitored Exercise Initiative

- All students completing a quarantine in Goodman who have tested on day 5 of their quarantine and received a negative result are eligible to participate in outdoor physical activity, in collaboration with the Department of Athletics.
- Upon request, students will be escorted from Goodman to the athletics fields for supervised return to play activity (athletes) or leisurely activity/casual exercise (all students).

- Students are required to use a mask and remain 6 feet from any personnel or students when participating in this program.
- Students who have completed the first 5 days of their quarantine off-campus or in-place are eligible to participate only if they complete the remaining days of quarantine in Goodman.
- Students who violate any portion of the Quarantine/Isolation agreement will not be eligible to participate in this program.
- The COVID Response Committee reserves the right to discontinue this program temporarily or permanently for any reason.

Sanitization of On-Campus Room Assignments and Quarantine/Isolation Spaces

- Residence hall and college-managed fraternity house rooms that were occupied by a student in isolation are sanitized by SEJ Services.
- Goodman rooms (both quarantine and isolation spaces) are sanitized by SEJ services between occupants. Housekeeping services are also performed.

Expectations while in Quarantine or Isolation

On Campus

- Stay in your room except to get necessary medical care, do laundry at preapproved facilities, or get COVID testing.
- Do not allow visitors in your room.
- Do not attend in-person class.
- Do not congregate in public areas.
- Separate yourself from others.
- Monitor your symptoms with the symptom-reporting form.
- Respond in a timely manner to all communications from campus staff.
- Notify the college nurse if you need to leave campus for a medical appointment or testing.
- Call Campus Safety 601-974-1234 if you have a medical emergency (including trouble breathing).
- Wait for clearance from Student Life staff before moving out of quarantine/isolation.

Off Campus

- Acknowledge that you are responsible for monitoring your symptoms and getting appropriate medical care.
- Stay in your residence except to get necessary medical care or get testing.
- Do not return to campus for any reason, including to obtain items from your residence hall assignment nor to attend in-person class.
- Monitor your symptoms daily.
- Use proper hygiene and sanitization methods.
- Respond in a timely fashion to all communications from campus staff.
- Failure to follow these and all other safety guidelines or instructions from campus staff will result in disciplinary action up to and including removal from campus housing, suspension or expulsion from Millsaps in accordance with the student conduct process.

The agreement that students are required to complete upon entering quarantine or isolation can be found here: [Quarantine/Isolation Agreement](#).

Obtaining Clearance for Regular Campus Access

After meeting all quarantine or isolation procedures (including having no violations of the Quarantine/Isolation Agreement), students can request clearance for regular campus access.

The student will receive a Release from Quarantine/Isolation notice once being cleared by the campus nurse. This form will be sent to the student, campus nurse, Director of Athletics and the CARE team (for faculty notification). Students are not permitted on campus until the Release from Quarantine/Isolation notice is sent.