



Updated January 2, 2022

The Return to Campus Task Force strives to answer your questions regarding our gradual return to in-person instruction and activities at CCC. This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) will be updated periodically to ensure you have the answers to on-going questions. This document includes all questions submitted during the two CCC hosted webinars.

Additionally, the College has compiled a number of resources related to returning to campus and COVID-19. You can find these on the college web site: <https://www.clackamas.edu/return-to-campus>. You can always reach these resources by typing into the search function on the web site “return to campus.”

CCC employees have met twice with representatives from the Clackamas County Health Department. Questions and responses from those sessions are noted with a *CCHD* in parentheses after each question. Links to the recordings of those sessions are located in the Resources section of this FAQ.

To quickly access a particular section of this FAQ, click on the “view” tab above, then click on the box next to “Navigation Pane”.

Employee Information

Accessing Campus

I want to teach or work (or both) on campus for winter or spring terms. I can’t remember what I have to do.

The following require the *Return to Campus Application* which is found at www.clackamas.edu/return-to-campus, click on the orange box labeled “Return to Campus Application”:

- Any in-person class(es)
- Contracted class(es)
- Anything tied to instruction or student related activities (e.g., field trips, athletics, choir concerts/travel)
- On-campus retreats, department meetings, student activities, or events

The following requires the “*Employee Request for a Short-Term Visit to CCC*” (note that these requests are to be assumed approved unless you hear otherwise):

- One-time visit to your office or another department at CCC
- Sporadic visits to campus

The following requires a *conversation* with your supervisor who will complete the required form that alerts the Return to Campus team of your presence on campus:

- On-going on-campus work that isn't bracketed around your teaching time (before and after class time on campus is captured in the Return to Campus application).
- On-going on-campus work as part of your job function.

The following DO NOT require action on your part:

- Events that are held off-campus unless they are tied to instruction or student activity (e.g., field trips, athletic events, choir concerts)
- CWE
- Retreats or meetings that occur off-campus

Existing, approved Return to Campus requests that have minor changes do not need to be resubmitted; email your dean with the changes.

Reporting a Positive Case/Testing

What is the policy when a student and or faculty member tests positive in an in-person class. Will the whole class be quarantined? What is the expectation of the students and faculty during that time if a quarantine is implemented? How will folks be notified? If no quarantines are students/faculty in the class who were exposed directly notified or asked to test? Does class just continue like normal, potentially spreading to other in person classes the students/faculty have? What if it is a staff member in a shared office space who tests positive? Will the other employees in their shared office need to quarantine/test? What are the expectations of the other staff members who were exposed/ or are quarantining?

It depends on when the student was last in class / in contact with others. Every in-person class should have a contingency plan (as part of the return to campus request) if the class needs to move to remote temporarily or for the remainder of the term. While a 14-day quarantine is the default for an exposure or positive case, if an individual is fully vaccinated (i.e., two weeks after completion of the two dose vaccines or the single dose vaccine), there may be options depending on circumstances and vaccination status.

All positive cases are reported to College Safety who will make a determination about quarantine expectations. Those expectations will be clearly communicated to anyone with previous interactions with a positive case (including shared office spaces and classrooms).

As part of contact tracing, all individuals are notified by the College as warranted. If it is unclear how many individuals may have been exposed, an all staff email is sent alerting the campus community of a positive case.

How do we handle high school students who test positive or were exposed and are quarantined from their high school classes? Are they also quarantined from their in person on

campus college classes? How do they "make up" the work if they are the only ones quarantined and what are the expectations?

High school students who test positive should be treated the same as any CCC student. If they are quarantined from the high school classes, and the case has been reported to College Safety, our process will be to determine whether quarantine is required for CCC as well.

Like with any student who is ill, a discussion should occur between the instructor and the student as to how they make up work. In the faculty peer training this morning, Sarah Hoover reminded the participants to be flexible. Consider an online assignment or make up the class in another section that isn't filled.

Do we have a requirement for students to tell us when/if they test positive? How do they do that? Is that information clearly communicated and accessible to students?

Yes. Students are required to notify their instructor if they have tested positive for COVID-19. This requirement and process is provided to all full-time and associate faculty to link in their syllabus. This information is also available on CCC's Return to Campus website.

Instructors are really helpful in this effort. Students will likely let an instructor know first. The instructor should get all the specifics from the student as to where/when/how long the exposure. Have them stay home and contact Tom Sonoff immediately with the details. He will help you with the next steps. Let students know that they will likely hear directly from College Safety. Try to help remove the anxiety students might have about that interaction. Tom will take care of the rest.

Will home test results be accepted for a negative test requirement if implemented for returning to campus, ending a quarantine, and or coming into work for non-vaccinated? If so, how?

As testing requirements have not been established for CCC, home test results have not been discussed. If a test requirement is implemented, the Return to Campus Task Force will determine whether home test results will be accepted.

If a negative testing requirement is implemented for non-vaccinated and/or exposed employees like in K-12 what constitutes a negative test? How will folks be able to access the tests/facilities? Will the tests be free? Will results be quick enough to be relevant to show up to work same day? 5-7 day waiting period seems like a waste of a test since the test subject could have been exposed in that 5-7 day waiting period but still get a "negative" result back from earlier.

As testing requirements have not been established for CCC, discussions about what constitutes a negative test, access to testing and results/waiting periods, have not been discussed. If a testing requirement is needed at CCC, these questions will be considered and addressed.

General Information

What is CCC's approach to returning to campus?

CCC is taking a gradual approach to returning to campus. Except for those employees who have been working on campus since 2020, no faculty or staff were required to work on campus fall term. It is anticipated additional staff will be asked to return to campus beginning winter term to better meet the in-person needs of students and strong encouragement to add more in-person course sections, activities and student support in spring term, than has previously been offered.

With confirmed cases of Covid at CCC how can we really return back to campus and ensure our students and our staff are safe? Will students be required to be vaccinated, or do we need to ask for vaccination cards? And what happens if staff contract Covid, will CCC be liable?

CCC continues a cautious approach to returning to campus by scaling up in-person instruction and activities with layered health hygiene policies (e.g. masks, physical distance) in place to ensure the health of our students and employees. Much like K-12, we must provide some in-person instruction and activities to ensure our students are meeting their educational goals. Currently, the CCC Board of Education has determined that vaccines will not be required of employees or students, nor will we ask for vaccination cards.

Several court cases have determined that organizations will not be held responsible for an individual who contracts COVID as it is very difficult to accurately determine where a person contracts COVID.

Are we adjusting any of our goals/procedures in response to Omicron?

The Return to Campus Task Force and the Executive Team continue to monitor Omicron. There isn't enough information known at this time to warrant changes to our current practices. If that changes, the college will respond as recommended by local and state health authorities.

In terms of offering in-person instruction, how does Clackamas compare to other Oregon community colleges?

Clackamas has been and continues to be on the cautious side of how much in-person instruction we offer compared to our peer colleges. We will continue to offer limited in-person instruction and activities as approved through the Return to Campus request process.

When will the weight room reopen? When will the library reopen? When will student services representatives be on staff in Wachen?

The weight room does not plan to reopen until we can safely reduce or eliminate the physical distance requirement.

The library is partially re-open. Staff are on hand (weekdays) to meet people at the circulation desk and to retrieve materials from the print and reserves collection. Reference services continue to be available online (as does library instruction). We do not yet have a timeline for opening the floor or study rooms.

Student services at all three campus locations (including Wacheno Welcome Center) will be open for limited hours beginning January 3. We encourage all interested members of the community to refer to the CCC website for specific hours.

Why are athletes allowed to compete without masks while on stage performers are not?

CCC athletics are governed by the Northwest Athletic Conference (NWAC). Protocols mandated by NWAC are more stringent than CCC policies and if not followed by athletes, they are unable to participate. A similar situation exists in our Allied Health programs where students must meet a different standard to participate in clinicals, than the general student population.

The Return to Campus Task Force will examine all of the protocols related to stage performers to determine if any changes can be made for winter term performances.

If community college employees work/visit on campus at K-12 schools do those employees need to meet/follow the K-12 state guidelines that differ from the community college/higher education?

Yes. CCC employees assigned work in K-12 schools must meet those guidelines or they will not be able to work in that environment. Visitors to K-12 schools are exempt from those guidelines.

Are we adjusting any of our goals/procedures in response to Omicron?

The Return to Campus Task Force and the Executive Team continue to monitor Omicron. There isn't enough information known at this time to warrant changes to our current practices. If that changes, the college will respond as recommended by local and state health authorities.

Will the projected number of students per classroom change and so by how much?

At this point we continue to require 6' physical distancing and then determine classroom capacity based on this requirement. The Return to Campus Taskforce has created a process for departments to request an exception. The criteria for providing that exception are:

Programs where the space limitation is preventing students who want to enter or continue from benefiting from the curriculum.

Classes where it is difficult for students to do work in class or meet program outcomes with 6' distancing.

Classes that are prohibitively expensive with 6' distancing, e.g. science labs.

We are particularly focused on the criterion related to benefitting new or existing students.

I have been hearing that people won't be "required" to return to campus until they are ready. Is that true?

That is not accurate. We have had a number of employees working on campus throughout the pandemic. We are requiring additional employees to work at least part of the time to serve in-person students. The college is doing its best to balance the needs of students with the health and well-being of our community.

For those of us in a high-risk age group, will there be different expectations or restrictions on returning to campus?

We are grounding our decisions on which teams return to campus based on the work that the teams/individuals perform. Within that framework, there is space for folks to have conversations about individual needs. We are not going to make decisions about returning to work based specifically on an employee's age.

Has there been any discussion surrounding staff having flexible schedules (not just standard 8-5) and combination of remote and in person work?

Yes! Currently we are piloting some more flexible schedules as we bring more student services onto our campuses. We intend to have more robust discussions in winter and spring about ongoing policies and procedures related to hybrid / flexible work schedules, in order to set a direction for the long term at the college.

Reopening/In person Activity

Health and Safety Planning and Responses

What measures do you have in place to support/protect your staff from visitors to campus who may not be aware of our mask or social distancing requirements?

All building entrances have signage signaling our campus requirements. As we prepare for more potential visitors and more staff on campus, we will increase signage and communication on campus. We are also providing ongoing training.

What are recommendations regarding types of masks, how to take them off properly, wear them correctly, etc.? (*CCHD*)

This [CDC website](#) offers great information on recommended types of masks, how to take them off properly, and how to wear/not wear masks correctly. [Clackamas County's mask website](#) is a good resource too.

Also, what measures are in place to help staff members comply when they are unwilling to follow the guidelines that are in place? If we have a mask indoors requirement how will it be enforced? Who/Where/What do we do if someone is not following the requirements?

We will provide training during the week of December 13 focused on staff members in preparation for winter term. We will share information on how to handle a variety of situations, including noncompliance by visitors or students. Additionally, as the Return to Campus Plan states:

Students, employees and visitors are all equally responsible for compliance with provisions of the Return to Campus Plan. The health and wellbeing of the College community is dependent on the cooperation of each individual. In a case of non-compliance, individual(s) may be referred to Human Resources or Student Conduct as appropriate.

To report incidents of non-compliance, please contact your immediate supervisor, Human Resources, or College Safety. Questions regarding implementation or enforcement of the Return

to Campus plan may be directed to Tom Sonoff, Director of College Safety
(thomas.sonoff@clackamas.edu or 503-594-1698) p. 13.

The rules and regulations are great and I have no doubt would be effective but if we are not following them it's pretty ineffective and with no plan to enforce them I fear it will stay that way.

As stated above, we intend to increase signage and communication to students and employees to ensure clarity about physical distancing and mask requirements. Please do connect to your immediate supervisor, Human Resources, or College Safety if there are compliance concerns, particularly with maintaining physical distancing and mask wearing. We do ask all employees to conduct the daily self-health check, and stay home if they have symptoms of COVID-19. In particular, individuals who have a chronic or baseline cough that has worsened or is not well-controlled with medication should stay home. We ask that you contact your health-care provider.

If you have a negative COVID-19 test you can return to work if you have been fever-free without fever-reducing medicine for 24 hours after that result. If you have not been tested, you can return to campus when your symptoms abate and you are fever-free without fever-reducing medicine for 24 hours.

Should CCC install plexiglass as an additional barrier between individuals? (*CCHD*)

No. Plexiglass creates a barrier that disrupts the airflow of a building. This can redirect airborne germs to other individuals. Installing plexiglass will also disperse the virus droplets around the plexiglass making it more dangerous for the person on the other side as well as creating "dead zones" in pockets of the office/classroom/space. An individual could end up sitting in a "dead zone" putting them at a higher risk of getting COVID.

If the governor relaxes the mask mandate, what metrics should CCC use to determine relaxing the current restrictions it has in place (mask mandates and physical distancing)? (*CCHD*)

The Clackamas County Public Health Division recommends loosening these restrictions when there are 50 new cases per 100,000 people in Clackamas County over a seven-day period. Currently (November 2021), there are 97 cases per 100,000 people. Kamryn was asked "if you had a crystal ball, when do you anticipate Clackamas County getting to 50 cases per 100,000 people?" Based on projections and barring any additional surges or new variants, that could be March.

For CCC, we will revisit current restrictions of physical distance (e.g., moving from 6 to 3 feet and/or removing the mask mandate) when we reach the 50 cases threshold.

The Clackamas County Public Health Division and CCC will monitor the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) dashboard as we track this metric. This is the only dashboard we will use. It can be found [here](#).

In a follow-up question related to 6 feet vs. 3 feet, Kamryn reiterated that a person is considered exposed if they are within 6 feet of a confirmed positive case for 15 minutes or longer, so 6 feet is the preferred recommendation. However, health authorities recognize that this isn't always realistic (e.g., school settings), so 3 feet can be used, especially if masks are worn and air circulation/ventilation is good.

It was also asked whether CCC should look at data based on ZIP code (e.g., Oregon City). Kamryn recommends using county-wide data rather than ZIP code.

I'm glad the college is putting concrete numerical standards in place to guide its COVID policies. However, I'm concerned about the use of a case-based metric. It seems like, if the goal is to protect public health, an outcome-based metric like hospitalizations or ICU capacity would be more appropriate. Why was a case-based metric chosen?

This metric was recommended to us by the Clackamas County Health Department. It is the metric they are using to make informed decisions regarding which strategies (e.g. masks, physical distancing) are put into place to mitigate risk, and when they might be eliminated. Additionally, the Director of the Clackamas County Health Department told us that this particular metric is a leading indicator of future hospitalizations and ICU capacity, i.e. predictive of outcome-based metrics. He mentioned that using outcome-based metrics might put decision-makers in a situation where they have waited too long to act.

Can the virus be transmitted by touching surfaces, and what should our cleaning protocols be? (*CCHD*)

The most prevalent method of transmission of COVID-19 is through exposure to respiratory droplets. It is possible for people to be infected by touching surfaces and then touching a mucous membrane, though the risk of this kind of transmission is considered low (less than one in 10,000). The Clackamas County Public Health Division recommends that for those individuals touching surfaces for lengthy periods of time or frequently, they practice good handwashing hygiene. Kamryn Brown also recommends that surfaces be cleaned once a day. When asked about cleaning materials, she said Clorox Wipes are good for cleaning surfaces throughout the workplace except for spaces in which there has been known to be a positive case. Campus Services has appropriate cleaning supplies based on the available guidance.

Overall message from Kamryn Brown (*CCHD*):

The most effective way to treat this virus is vaccinations. In addition to vaccines, wearing masks, physical distancing, reinforcing proper handwashing hygiene, and good coughing or sneezing etiquette - making sure that that's done into the elbow, all help lower the risk of transmission of the virus.

The health department supports boosters for all individuals who are eligible to receive one.

Do our buildings provide the appropriate level of air circulation to keep us safe?

We have installed MERV 13 filters (tighter filtering for COVID considering) in all our buildings and are using 100% fresh air (rather than recirculated air). This meets the guidelines listed under a professional HVAC organization (ASHRA).

Does the college have plans for regularly COVID testing students, staff, and faculty who will be on campus?

Not at this time.

Will vaccinations be required of students and staff in 2022? Do you see this happening even if not currently mandated?

The CCC Board of Education has determined that vaccines will not be required of employees or students. As with all aspects of the pandemic, new information, emerging recommendations, and changes in guidance will continue to inform our decision-making at CCC. If a change to the current decision is warranted, a discussion and decision will be made as needed.

Any update on a vaccine mandate at CCC?

For the moment, most vaccine mandate conversations are on pause as state organizations wait for federal litigation against the federal vaccine mandate to work its way through the courts. CCC continues to monitor this situation and will update the college as we learn more.

Instruction/On-Campus Activity

Will there be PPE available for my class or in my department? If I need PPE, who do I contact?

PPE and cleaning supplies will be provided as requested from Campus Services. Faculty should work with their departments to ensure they have the appropriate PPE available for their classes. Faculty or departments should complete a [facilities work order](#) via the Online Service Desk to make requests for PPE or cleaning supplies.

Can students share a table and work collaboratively? What does social distancing look like in the classroom?

Students can share a table and work collaboratively, if they can maintain 6 feet of physical distance. They cannot, for example, huddle together over a single computer.

Are some course sections allowed to operate with 3 feet distancing instead of 6 feet?

Yes. The Return to Campus Task Force developed criteria to support those course sections in which students are unable to complete their education because seat loads are at capacity and some departments lack space, equipment, or instructors to offer additional sections. The list of approved sections is less than 20 for winter term. The criteria used to determine the reduction to three (3) feet:

1. Programs where the space limitation is preventing students who want to enter from benefiting from the curriculum.
2. Classes where it is difficult for students to do work in class or meet program outcomes with 6' distancing.
3. Classes that are prohibitively expensive with 6' distancing, e.g. science labs.

We are particularly focused on the criterion related to benefitting new or existing students

If we are teaching in person, does that mean we are able to host office hours in our office? Or do we still need to host them via Zoom?

Faculty are able to host office hours in your office, but we discourage that. We strongly recommend that you hold office hours virtually. If you do host office hours in your office, both you and the student must wear a mask and stay 6 feet apart.

What access do we have to our offices in general before / after class for lesson prep, etc.?

You will have access to your office before or after class for lesson prep and other work. Your dean and department will assume you are on campus during days that you are scheduled to teach in-person. If you want to come to campus on a day you are not scheduled to teach, you should email your dean with those days and times you intend to come regularly to campus. If you want to make a one-time trip, fill out the [Employee Request for a Short-Term Visit to CCC](#).

What happens if one of my students has COVID? Will the class continue in person, or will it be moved online?

It depends on when the student was last in class / in contact with others. Every in-person class should have a contingency plan (as part of the return to campus request) if the class needs to move to remote temporarily or for the remainder of the term. While a 14-day quarantine is the default for an exposure or positive case, if an individual is fully vaccinated (i.e., two weeks after completion of the two dose vaccines or the single dose vaccine), there may be options depending on circumstances and vaccination status. All positive cases are reported to College Safety who will make a determination about quarantine expectations.

Will the college notify me and/or my students if someone in my class has COVID?

Yes.

According to the CCC website, students are to report to us if they get sick. Should we put this into our syllabus?

Yes. Here is a [link](#) to resources for faculty regarding Return to Campus, including boilerplate language for your syllabi.

If a student tells me they have been exposed or have tested positive for COVID, what should I do?

You should tell the student to stay home/isolate. Ask the student where they were on campus, when, and for how long. Let them know that they will be contacted by College Safety to gather further information. Then you should immediately contact Tom Sonoff, Director of College Safety, (Thomas.sonoff@clackamas.edu) with the student's name and the information you have gathered.

What happens to my students if I end up having COVID (or not feeling well)? Should I transition the learning to remote?

If you do not feel well, per the daily health self-check, you should not come to work and should consult a health care practitioner. Please contact your department chair and administrative assistant, especially if you are unable to teach. Until you are not symptomatic and are assured you do not have COVID-19, you should teach your class remotely if you are able. Depending on the severity of your illness, the department may decide to engage a substitute.

Should I collect information from students about their daily self-health check?

No. College employees can't collect health data, due to privacy concerns. Please communicate to students through your syllabus and in other ways that the college asks all students and employees coming to campus to complete a daily self-health check. The [checklist](#) for that process is in the Return to Campus guide and is located on the Return to Campus [webpage](#).

Students or employees who answer “yes” to any of the questions on the checklist should stay home.

What is the best way to ensure students conduct the daily self-health check?

This can be difficult. Make sure you communicate this expectation early and often. Include the link to the daily self-health check in your syllabus and emphasize it in class, including why it is so important. Some faculty have spent time before or at the beginning of class directly asking students: “Have you completed the daily self-health check and did you say ‘no’ to all the questions?” What instructors should not do is note down or attempt to document responses.

Are we to wipe down surfaces before / after class?

Instructors are required to wipe down their own work areas (e.g., podium) before and after class. Some instructors have been wiping down other areas; many other instructors are asking each student to wipe down areas where they have been sitting or working.

Resources

Documents

- [Enforcing restrictions language](#)
- [Syllabi language](#)

Effectiveness Studies (*CCPH*)

- [Association Between K–12 School Mask Policies and School-Associated COVID-19 Outbreaks — Maricopa and Pima Counties, Arizona, July–August 2021](#)
 - In the crude analysis, the odds of a school-associated COVID-19 outbreak in schools with no mask requirement were 3.7 times higher than those in schools with an early mask requirement (odds ratio [OR] = 3.7; 95% CI = 2.2–6.5). After adjusting for potential described confounders, the odds of a school-associated COVID-19 outbreak in schools without a mask requirement were 3.5 times higher than those in schools with an early mask requirement (OR = 3.5; 95% CI = 1.8–6.9).
- [Low SARS-CoV-2 Transmission in Elementary Schools — Salt Lake County, Utah, December 3, 2020–January 31, 2021](#)

- A study of elementary schools in Utah who implemented layered prevention strategies, such as mask wearing and cohorting, found very low transmission (secondary attack rate 0.7%) in December 2020-January 2021.
- [Science Brief: Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs – Updated](#)
 - Not one study in particular, but there are some studies referenced at the bottom of the page. Most discuss the importance of layering prevention strategies, mostly masking and distancing.
- Here are a couple additional relevant papers that cover masking to prevent COVID-19 transmission in the college/university setting:
 - *Hamza Z. Masks limited COVID transmission in unvaxxed college kids. 10 Sep 2021. MedPage Today. Available from: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/94464>*
 - *Rebmann T, Loux TM, Arnold LD, et al. SARS-CoV-2 transmission to masked and unmasked close contacts of university students with COVID-19—St. Louis, Missouri, January–May 2021. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2021 Sep 10;70(36):1245-8*
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7036a3.htm>

Recordings

- October 25, 2021. Clackamas County Health Department [session](#) to discuss metrics with Kamryn Brown recording.
- Dec. 8, 2021. Clackamas County Health Department faculty focused [session](#) with Philip Mason-Joyner recording.
- Dec. 9, 2021. Clackamas County Health Department staff focuses session. Includes recording of Philip Mason-Joyner Dec. 8 [session](#) and question/answer session with co-chairs of Return to Campus Task Force.
- Dec. 16, 2021 [training](#) for staff returning to in-person student services support.