



ASL Spring 2022 COVID-19

Mitigation Plan, Policies, and Procedures

Memorandum

To: ASL Community

From: Law School Administration

Re: COVID-19 Mitigation Plan, Policies, and Procedures

Date: January 21, 2022

Dear ASL Community:

Welcome back! Since we parted in December, the COVID-19 pandemic has thrown us yet another curve ball. In order to address the myriad concerns caused by the Omicron variant's ease of transmission, ASL administration has been meeting and evaluating options for several weeks now. We have been in contact with our sister schools in the region, and we have developed a plan of action consistent with the plans being implemented in Southwest Virginia.

Like our sister schools, we are welcoming you back following a short period of online instruction. Additionally, we are trying to minimize additional requirements for your return, but at the same time work to ensure the safest return environment possible.

As we informed you before our return to online instruction last week, we are requiring all unvaccinated students to provide proof of a negative COVID test before return. Additionally, should a student have an antibody test result that will serve as an acceptable equivalent to a COVID test result. We are aware that vaccination or the fact that you have contracted COVID and have antibodies does not immunize you from the virus and that a vaccinated person or someone who has had a recent COVID illness could be infected. However, consistent with our sister schools, instead of testing everyone at a time when tests are scarce, we have tried to identify a population that may be most susceptible to the virus. We acknowledge that this approach is not perfect, but please know that it is not intended in any way to punish. It is an attempt to provide some protection to our community, even if it may be a limited protection.

We have three goals as school reopens: (1) maintain a safe learning environment for students, faculty, and staff; (2) sustain in-person learning five days a week, and (3) offer robust co/extra-curricular programming in a responsible manner.

In order to accomplish these goals, we must recognize that this is a shared responsibility. So, upon our return to campus on January 24, 2022, the following policies/requirements will be in place:

1. While on ASL campus, all staff, faculty, and students are asked to practice the following:
 - a. Wear a face covering in all indoor common areas and classrooms. I know that this is an inconvenience, but due to the significant ease of transmission of this variant, it is in the best interest of our community to fully employ this mitigation technique.
 - b. Maintain, whenever possible, appropriate social distance.
 - c. Sanitize/wash your hands frequently throughout the day. We will continue to have hand sanitizer and wipes available across campus.
 - d. All meetings to be held virtually via Zoom unless all parties agree to meet in person (example: faculty/students, faculty/staff, staff/students)
2. A moratorium on in-person campus events is in effect until February 15th.

It is our sincere hope that the impact of this variant peaks and begins to lose its grip on Virginia in the coming weeks. Some regions in Virginia believe that they have peaked, and they report that cases are decreasing in their areas. This is not the case for our county so far. However, we will evaluate where we are on February 15, and if appropriate adjust our mitigation efforts based on the facts as they exist at that time.

Below, you will find an updated, “What Do I Do If” set of procedures. Please note that the quarantine times have been lowered to more closely reflect the recommended periods the CDC recommends while still maintaining consistency with our many of our sister school’s slightly more conservative approach. The main takeaway is if you are experiencing COVID symptoms – DO NOT COME TO CAMPUS! Do not assume that it is merely a cold, sinus infection, allergy, or other condition.

Assume it is COVID until proven otherwise. This is critical for us to achieve our goals above, as again this variant is highly contagious and easily spread. Please note – as has proven out in recent months as this virus moves from the pandemic to an endemic phase, the likelihood of a COVID free community has really passed. Even with the best advances in medicine, the virus continues to exist and spread with relative ease between the vaccinated, boosted, natural immunity, and unvaccinated populations with remarkable efficiency.

That said however, it is proving out daily that securing a vaccination and booster dramatically reduces your chances of becoming seriously ill resulting in hospitalization or death. I strongly encourage everyone in our community to get vaccinated and boosted for your protection.

ASL's COVID Procedure

What Do I Do If?

I have **tested positive for COVID-19**. What do I do?

1. **Do not come to campus.**
2. Email [Abigail Wescott](#) stating that you have **tested positive for COVID-19**. This is critical as it starts the clock for your return to campus post illness.
3. Fill out the [Disclosure Google Form](#). This is important for your class attendance records.
4. Fill out the [Online Exception Google Form](#). This is important for your class attendance records.
5. Stay in Isolation for **seven days** starting the day after your **positive COVID-19 test** was administered.
6. You may return to ASL's campus at **day eight** if your COVID-19 symptoms have stopped or improved and you are feeling well enough to be back in-person for class or work. If you need to quarantine for longer than seven days, you must contact Abigail Wescott directly.

*If at any point in time you need anything during your isolation period, please contact [Glenna Owens](#), Student Services Coordinator.

****After you have completed the steps 1-4 above, it is not necessary to receive a response or confirmation to begin attending classes online. Same rules apply after contacting Ms. Wescott if a quarantine extension is needed.**

***Please review our [Quarantine/ Isolation Policy](#) for further information.

ASL's COVID Procedure

What Do I Do If?

I am **unvaccinated and have been exposed to COVID-19**. What do I do?

1. **Do not come to campus.**
2. Email [Abigail Wescott](#) stating that you are **unvaccinated and have been exposed to COVID-19**. This is critical as it starts the clock for your return to campus post exposure.
3. Fill out the [Disclosure Google Form](#). This is important for your class attendance records.
4. Fill out the [Online Exception Google Form](#). This is important for your class attendance records.
5. Quarantine for **seven days** starting the day after your last interaction with the positive COVID-19 individual.
6. You may return to ASL's campus at **day eight** as long as you are not experiencing any possible COVID-19 symptoms.

*If at any point in time you need anything during your quarantine period, please contact [Glenna Owens](#), Student Services Coordinator.

****After you have completed the steps 1-4 above, it is not necessary to receive a response or confirmation to begin attending classes online.**

***Please review our [Quarantine/ Isolation Policy](#) for further information.

ASL's COVID Procedure

What Do I Do If?

I am **vaccinated and have been exposed to COVID-19**. What do I do?

1. **Do not come to campus.**
2. Email [Abigail Wescott](#) stating that you are **vaccinated and have been exposed to COVID-19**. This is critical as it starts the clock for your return to campus post exposure.
3. Fill out the [Disclosure Google Form](#). This is important for your class attendance records.
4. Fill out the [Online Exception Google Form](#). This is important for your class attendance records.
5. Quarantine for **three days** starting the day after your last interaction with the positive COVID-19 individual.
6. On **day four**, you must have a COVID-19 test administered before returning to ASL's campus. Test results must be sent to Abigail Wescott. You do not need a response from Ms. Wescott before returning to campus on day four as long as your results were sent by email and you are not experiencing any possible COVID-19 symptoms. ASL will not cover the cost of the COVID-19 test.

*If at any point in time you need anything during your quarantine period, please contact [Glenna Owens](#), Student Services Coordinator.

****After you have completed the steps 1-4 above, it is not necessary to receive a response or confirmation to begin attending classes online.**

***Please review our [Quarantine/ Isolation Policy](#) for further information.

ASL's COVID Procedure

What Do I Do If?

I am **currently experiencing possible COVID-19 symptoms**. What do I do?

1. **Do not come to campus.**
2. Email [Abigail Wescott](#) stating that you are experiencing possible COVID-19 symptoms.
3. Fill out the [Online Exception Google Form](#). This form must be filled out daily in order to have attendance credit for the day.

4. You do not need to hear back from Ms. Wescott before moving yourself online if steps one and two have been completed.
5. If your symptoms continue for **three consecutive days, you must have a COVID-19 test** administered. ASL will not cover the cost of the test. If the test result comes back negative and you are no longer experiencing possible COVID-19 symptoms, you may return to in-person instruction on day four.
6. If your day three COVID-19 test comes back negative, but your symptoms continue to **five consecutive days, a second COVID-19 test must be administered**. If your day five test result comes back negative, you may return to in-person instruction on day six even if symptoms continue.

*If at any point in time you need anything during your isolation period, please contact [Glenna Owens](#), Student Services Coordinator.