



COLLEGE OF THE  
**Holy Cross**

**PRELIMINARY GUIDE TO JANUARY AND  
SPRING TERMS 2021 FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES**





**PUBLISHED JANUARY 28, 2021**

**NOTE** The College will update the information contained in this Preliminary Spring 2021 Guide as new policies, regulations, guidance, and protocols are developed and established. You will find updated information on the [College's COVID-19 Response and Reopening](#) website. Please refer to this website to ensure you are viewing the most recent version.



Dear Holy Cross Students and Families,

In the midst of a year that no one would have predicted or expected, I am continuously edified by your resilience and determination. Although we would have preferred to be together for an in-person fall semester, you have chosen to rise above your disappointment and allow your commitment to one another, to your education, and to Holy Cross govern your attitude and approach. In the spirit of Elena Benassi's '21 2020 Fall Convocation address, you have answered the call and strengthened the powerful tether that connects the Holy Cross community, even while we have been far apart.

And now we turn a hopeful gaze to January 2021, when we will meet on Mount St. James again. As Fr. Borroughs announced in September, we are planning for an in-person spring semester, barring a significant downturn in health and safety conditions.

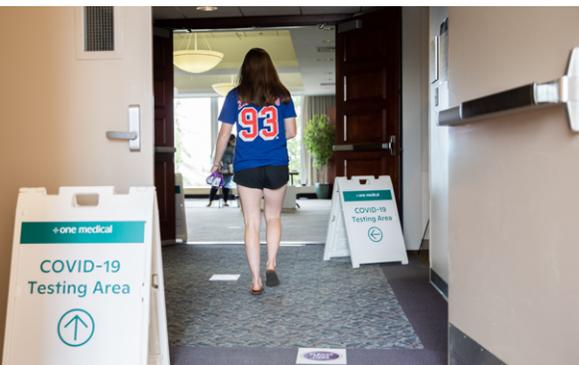
We've learned many lessons from hosting a limited number of students on campus during our remote fall semester. We also have learned from our peer institutions that opened for an in-person fall, and they, in turn, have learned from us. Our relationship with local and state authorities has grown. And, just as importantly, the students, faculty and staff accessing campus have learned to live within the new regulations and guidelines.

Perhaps most importantly, all of us have awakened to the realization that if we intend to be in person for the entire semester, all of us will have to abide by the protocols and the restrictions. Taking steps to minimize the risk of COVID-19 infections at the College is a shared responsibility. Consistent with the principle of being people for and with others, all members of our community must do their part and work together to protect the health and safety of those in our College and surrounding communities. Our obligations to one another and to our Jesuit Catholic ideals guide us in our response to the challenges we face.

Changing conditions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic have compelled us to reimagine every aspect of the Holy Cross experience — academic, social, and personal. Please know that we continue to work diligently to revise protocols, ready campus spaces for the return of students, faculty and staff, and prepare courses and appropriate activities for our students, whether they are present physically or participating remotely. We will be communicating with students and families regularly between now and February 1 when spring classes begin, and we will continue that communication throughout the semester.

Sincerely,

Michele C. Murray, Ph.D.  
*Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students*





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction **PAGE 5**
2. Holy Cross Metrics and Campus Dashboard **PAGE 5**
3. Pre-arrival **PAGE 5**
4.
  - a. At-home COVID-19 Testing
  - b. Precautionary Quarantine
5. Personal Health on Campus **PAGE 5**
  - a. Testing and Symptom Monitoring
  - b. Contact Tracing, Isolation, Self-Quarantine
  - c. Shelter in Place
  - d. Face Coverings
  - e. Physical Distancing
  - f. Personal Hygiene
  - g. Flu Vaccine
6. Academic Life **PAGE 7**
  - a. Academic Calendar and Coursework
  - b. Course Enrollment
  - c. Academic Resources and Support
  - d. Study Abroad and Semester Away
7. Living On Campus **PAGE 9**
  - a. Housing Selection
  - b. Housing Assignments
  - c. Move-In / Move-Out Logistics
  - d. Residence Hall Life
  - e. Guests
8. Living Off Campus **PAGE 10**
9. Campus Life **PAGE 10**
  - a. Dining
  - b. Events and Gatherings
  - c. Student Organizations
  - d. Campus Recreation
  - e. Athletics
  - f. Marching Band and Pep Band
  - g. Facilities
  - h. Guest Policy
  - i. Identification
10. Travel **PAGE 11**
11. Holy Cross Community Commitment **PAGE 12**
12. Conduct **PAGE 12**
13. Medical Concerns and Requesting Accommodations **PAGE 12**
14. Refund Policy **PAGE 13**
15. Risks and Options **PAGE 13**
16. Next Steps **PAGE 14**
  - a. Information Review and Spring 2021 Decision
  - b. Notification of Decision
  - c. Parents/Guardian Acknowledgment and Review
  - d. Housing Agreement
  - e. Immunization Compliance
  - f. Housing Selection Process

## INTRODUCTION

As of this time, we are inviting students to return in person to the College for the spring semester. Students participating in in-person classes for January term may also return to the College.

This guide summarizes the necessary adjustments to the academic enterprise and the student experience. It includes information on restrictions and requirements that will significantly impact your and your family's experience this year. Some of these guidelines are continuations from Fall 2020, and some are new or revised based on what the College has learned from our own experience and that of other institutions. As with the previous publication, this guide includes information on requests for reasonable accommodations and how the College tuition, room and board refund policy works. The guidance in this document applies to all students. Please read this guide carefully while making plans for the next semester and considering what is best for you and your family.

This guide is current as of the date of publication. Public health conditions or other considerations may prompt additional changes to the academic program, College events and activities, and campus life. Students will be notified of relevant updates to these guidelines through ongoing communication. The latest information can be found on the College's [COVID-19 Response and Reopening website](#).

Once you have had a chance to review this guide and consider your personal situation, you will have the opportunity to decide the best approach for you this spring: on campus participation, remote participation, or, alternatively, a leave of absence. All students are required to let us know their plans for Spring 2021 enrollment by **November 27** via the Acknowledgment and Election of Options Form. Steps for accessing this form are included at the end of this document.

## HOLY CROSS METRICS AND CAMPUS DASHBOARD

In order to help keep students, faculty and staff safe and healthy and to inform decisions about campus operations, it is important that everyone understand conditions on campus, locally and in the state. The College has developed a [dashboard](#) with local and state metrics to help determine if and when changes to our spring plans might be necessary for the health and safety of our college community. As we move into the spring semester, the dashboard will be updated to include additional metrics related to college testing, testing compliance, and capacity in quarantine and isolation spaces. College leadership, working with medical experts, will be reviewing all of these metrics on a regular basis to determine any implications for College operations.

## PRE-ARRIVAL

With rising rates of infection across the country, all students planning to access campus should plan for the following.

### At-home COVID-19 Testing

In preparation for a healthy start, all residential students and students who live local to campus will be required to submit a negative COVID-19 test 72 hours prior to returning to campus. Locally residing students will get tested at the campus testing facility no earlier than 72 hours prior to their scheduled return for January term or spring semester. At-home test kits and instructions will be mailed to students living outside of a 10-mile radius, and students will complete the test no earlier than 72 hours prior to returning to campus and follow the mailing instructions. Test samples will be analyzed in collaboration with the College's testing provider, and the College must receive results before the student's scheduled access begins. Students whose test results are positive for COVID-19 will be contacted with instructions for isolation and will not be permitted on campus until the isolation period is over.

### Precautionary Quarantine

To best assure a negative at-home test, students should plan to quarantine at home for at least 10 days prior to traveling to campus or the Worcester area. Precautionary quarantining at home means taking care to stay at home as much as is practical, limiting interactions to those living within the household, and following personal health measures, including facial coverings, frequent handwashing and physical distancing, if you must leave home. While these are generally good practices, following these guidelines for pre-arrival quarantine will reduce the chance that the student's home COVID-19 test will be positive.

## PERSONAL HEALTH ON CAMPUS

COVID-19 cases in the US have been increasing among young adult populations, many of whom are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms. Even so, young adults may be at risk for transmitting the disease to more vulnerable populations, including our employees, students with chronic health conditions, and older neighbors. Taking steps to minimize the risk of COVID-19 infections at the College and in our local community is a shared responsibility.

### Testing and Symptom Monitoring

- The College has contracted with The Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT in Cambridge, Mass. to implement a COVID-19 surveillance testing program. The College will cover the costs of all COVID testing on campus.
- All students returning to campus must have a negative PCR test within 72 hours of arriving on campus. We will send additional information out regarding this requirement prior to the start of school.
- The College's surveillance testing program is based upon the level of exposure a student will have within the broader Holy Cross community, including students who might live off-campus with or near other students. Specifically, the

following categories of students will be required to participate in our testing program:

- All residential students
- All students living in the City of Worcester
- All students living in towns contiguous to Worcester (including towns with the following zip codes: 01501, 01505, 01520, 01524, 01527, 01536, 01545, 01583, 01611, 01612), regardless of their intention to access campus.
- All students enrolled in a course that has any “in-person” component
- Any student athletes participating in athletic events, practices, or programs
- A student’s failure to comply with their testing requirement is a violation of the College’s policy and may result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.
- Any student who tests positive for COVID-19 outside of the College’s testing program, or is instructed by an external medical provider or public health professional to quarantine, must report their status to Health Services immediately by calling 508-793-2276.
- In addition to testing, the College will rely upon students’ self-monitoring of symptoms to limit the transmission of this virus.
  - Students will self-monitor and report the presence or absence of symptoms of COVID-19 every day, beginning on the first day of return to campus. Students will self-report symptoms to Health Services. Instructions for doing so will arrive in a subsequent email to students’ Holy Cross accounts.
  - All students must remain at home or in a designated isolation space if they are ill with COVID-19. Students who are sick will contact Health Services for telehealth care by calling 508-793-2276.

### Contact Tracing, Isolation, Self-Quarantine

- Despite the many reasonable steps Holy Cross is taking to prevent the transmission of the virus, the presence and transmission of COVID-19 on campus is likely, if not inevitable, during this ongoing global pandemic. Therefore, the College has developed protocols for contact tracing, isolating people who contract COVID-19, and helping people who become exposed to COVID-19 to self-quarantine.
- Students who are diagnosed with COVID-19 will be required to isolate. Residential students will isolate in a space designated by the College (which may be on or off campus). Off-campus students will have the option to isolate in the College-designated space if they are unable to isolate safely in their residence.
- Students who are diagnosed with COVID-19 will be asked to provide information about other people with whom they have been in close contact during the time when they may have been infectious and able to transmit the virus. A College contact tracer will contact students who have been identified as having an exposure and provide them with information and resources on self-quarantining and symptom-monitoring.

Students are required to cooperate fully with all the College’s contact tracing efforts. Students who have been exposed to COVID-19 whose families reside beyond 250 miles of campus may quarantine in the campus-sponsored facility.

- Campus isolation or quarantine procedures will likely require students to move to a different residence or local hotel for the isolation or quarantine period. The College will provide food meal drop off and health monitoring for students isolating or quarantining.
- Campus isolation and quarantine spaces are finite. Approaching capacity in these spaces may necessitate the College returning to full remote learning and may require a campus-wide shelter in place or require all students leave campus and return home for the remainder of the semester.
- Students who have been identified as close contacts and who live within 250 miles of campus will be required to return to their family home within 24 hours of notice of exposure to quarantine for 14 days. Families must have a plan for bringing their student home should that become necessary. Prior to returning to campus, students must produce a negative COVID-19 result from a test taken within 72 hours of return.

### Shelter in Place

In the event of a residential viral outbreak, the College may have to require residents in one or more residence halls to shelter in place. In this situation, infected students and their close contacts must follow the College’s isolation and quarantine protocols. All other students within the residence hall will be required to remain on their floor for a 14-day quarantine. During this period, the College will deliver meals to students, and students will attend classes remotely.

In the event of a campus viral outbreak, the College may also have to prohibit travel on and off campus for a period of two weeks in addition to implementing a shelter in place. In this situation, all students will attend classes and access campus resources remotely.

### Face Coverings

- The College has a [Universal Mask Policy](#), which all members of the community must follow.
- All students are required to wear face coverings that completely cover mouth and nose at all times when on and off campus, in both indoor and outdoor spaces. The only times face coverings are not required are when students are (1) in their bedroom/suite/apartment with only their roommate or suite/apartment mates, (2) eating with adequate physical distancing, or (3) undertaking personal grooming.
- Holy Cross has provided two cloth face coverings to all students, free of charge. Students are expected to obtain additional face coverings as needed and to launder and care for their cloth masks according to the [CDC’s instructions on use of and care for face coverings](#).
- The Governor of Massachusetts has issued an advisory for all people to wear face coverings in indoor and outdoor public spaces. Students should also be aware of any additional state requirements that may require the use of face coverings while

out in public spaces. For information on the state's COVID guidance, please see: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information>.

### Physical Distancing

- Because keeping space between people is one of the best tools for avoiding exposure to COVID-19, students are required to maintain six feet of distance.
- Students will be required to adhere to space occupancy limits, which will be posted in every space on campus. During gatherings, face coverings must be worn and physical distancing must be followed.
- The College is taking several actions to make physical distancing easier and provide periodic reminders, including reducing seating capacity in classrooms and other campus spaces.

### Personal Hygiene

- **Handwashing:** Students should wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after they have been in a public place, touched shared equipment, or after blowing their nose, coughing, sneezing or touching their face. If soap and water are not readily available, they should use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol. When using hand sanitizer, students should cover their hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be in place around campus in strategic locations, but students are advised to bring a personal supply when returning to Holy Cross.
- **Touching Face:** Students should avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth, with unwashed hands. Students should wash their hands before and after touching their face.
- **Gloves:** According to the CDC, gloves are not necessary for general use in the COVID-19 pandemic and do not replace frequent and thorough handwashing. Students working in high-risk areas, such as labs or dining facilities, must use gloves as directed while working. Gloves and other personal protective equipment may be required in certain labs or other areas.
- **Coughing/Sneezing Hygiene:** Students should always cover their mouth and nose with tissues when they cough or sneeze or use the inside of their elbow. All tissues should be thrown in the trash. Students should immediately wash their hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.

### Flu Vaccine

- Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires the influenza vaccine for all full-time undergraduate and graduate students under 30 years of age and all full and part-time health science students at post-secondary institutions. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the influenza vaccine will be especially critical to reduce the overall impact of respiratory illness, protect vulnerable populations and decrease the burden on the health care system. The [vaccine will now be required](#) annually for all students who will be on campus unless they

have an approved reasonable accommodation.

- The immunization requirements apply to all students who live on or come to campus at any time.
- Accordingly, students planning to access campus during spring semester will be required to have the flu vaccination and upload the appropriate medical documentation into their patient portal at [Patient Portal - Appointments & Uploads](#). Students must enter the date of administration of the influenza vaccine under immunizations in your patient portal.
- Residential students must ensure that their immunization record is complete, including documentation for the flu vaccine, by December 1 in order to participate in the housing selection process. Any student deficient in the mandated Massachusetts vaccine requirements after 30 days of the deadline will not be able to have access to campus.

### ACADEMIC LIFE

Faculty have been restructuring their courses into online or in-person formats for the January session and online, in-person, or hybrid formats for the spring semester. Many things will change about the academic program: students and faculty will need to abide by physical distancing and mask wearing protocols when classes meet in person; we will have few in-person public events; and many courses will be online. What has not changed is the commitment of faculty to students' intellectual development: creating challenging and innovative courses; developing academic skills; and providing the support and structure that will allow students to be successful.

Our aim is that all students, whether on campus or not, will have access to courses that will allow them to continue in their major and explore new areas of the curriculum, to opportunities outside their courses that will engage them in larger intellectual communities, and to academic resources (libraries, academic services, tutoring and writing support) that will facilitate deeper learning.

As always, if students have any questions about their academic program or course enrollment, they can contact their class dean or faculty advisor.

### Academic Calendar and Coursework

- There are a limited number of courses being offered during the January Session. Classes will begin on January 4 and end on January 22. Students were required to apply for a January session course by October 30, and will be notified by November 7 if they have been enrolled in a January session course. Students who were enrolled in the fall semester will not be charged tuition for the January session course but there will be a room and board charge of \$1350 for students who will be living on campus to take an in-person course.
- The [academic calendar for the Spring 2021](#) term has been changed. Classes will begin on February 1. There will be no March break. We have a break scheduled around Easter, from April 1 - April 6. There may be restrictions on travel during this break period depending on the course of the virus

in the spring. Classes end on Friday, May 7, and the final exam period is scheduled from Wednesday, May 12, through Tuesday, May 18.

- The College will also be offering two six-week summer sessions this summer. Students who were unable to complete a full eight course program during the fall and spring terms will be given priority for courses to be offered in Summer Session I. This course will be included in spring tuition. Spring 2021 courses will be offered in a variety of formats, giving students different options to study in person or online. A large number of courses will be offered fully online or in a format that includes both in-person and virtual components to allow participation by people who are physically present and those who are remote, and a smaller number of courses will be in-person only.
- The schedule of classes has been modified to create more time between classes in order to facilitate physical distancing as we move between classes.

- A course listing is available in STAR, including class times and the expected mode(s) of instruction for each course. This will be updated as necessary. Please note that if circumstances change before or during the semester with regard to the virus in general or a faculty member’s individual situation, a course that is scheduled to be offered in person or in a hybrid format may need to move fully online.
- Physical distancing and the use of masks will be required of everyone participating in coursework in person.
- Office hours will generally be conducted virtually, although some faculty are exploring ways in which it may be possible to meet with students in person with masks and physical distancing.

### Course Enrollment

- Enrollment for Spring 2021 courses will be held using a three stage process. The enrollment dates for each class year are listed below.

<b>EXPECTED GRADUATION TERM</b>	<b>STAGE 1 ENROLLMENT DATES</b>	<b>STAGE 2 ENROLLMENT DATES</b>	<b>STAGE 3 OPEN ENROLLMENT</b>
<b>SPRING 2021 AND FALL 2021</b>	<b>SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 AT 10:00 AM (ET) UNTIL 2:00 PM (ET)</b>	<b>MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT 7:30 AM (ET) UNTIL 2:00 PM (ET)</b>	<b>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3 AT 8:00 AM (ET) UNTIL SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 AT 11:59 PM (ET)</b>
<b>SPRING 2022 AND FALL 2022</b>	<b>SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 AT 6:00 PM (ET) UNTIL 10:00 PM (ET)</b>	<b>TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 7:30 AM (ET) UNTIL 2:00 PM (ET)</b>	
<b>SPRING 2023 AND FALL 2023</b>	<b>SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8 AT 10:00 AM (ET) UNTIL 2:00 PM (ET)</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 7:30 AM (ET) UNTIL 2:00 PM (ET)</b>	
<b>SPRING 2024</b>	<b>SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8 AT 6:00 PM (ET) UNTIL 10:00 PM (ET)</b>	<b>THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19 AT 7:30 AM (ET) UNTIL 2:00 PM (ET)</b>	

- A limited number of courses will be offered in person for the spring semester, thus many or all of your courses will be delivered in hybrid or fully online formats. Faculty members have been redesigning their courses to seek to ensure that each course will be intellectually challenging and engaging, and will effectively use technology to enhance your learning.

### Academic Resources and Support

- The libraries on campus will be open. Study space in the libraries will be limited due to physical distancing requirements. The electronic resources of the library will be available to all students, on campus or not; the libraries have been working over the summer to enhance available electronic resources. Students will be able make appointments to meet virtually with a research librarian, and research librarians will also answer email requests 7 days per week.
- Since study space in the libraries will be limited, the College has identified other spaces on campus that can be made available to students for studying. Physical distancing will also limit the numbers of seats available in these spaces. Students should plan to do much of their studying in their residence hall room or common areas.
- Academic support resources such as the Writer's Workshop, Academic Services and Learning Resources and tutoring support will be available to all students in a virtual format (via video, audio, chat, or interactive whiteboard).
- We know that the academic experience at Holy Cross is about more than your courses, and we will continue to create opportunities for intellectual engagement (e.g., speakers, panels, discussions) for students, wherever they are learning.

### Study Abroad and Semester Away

Unfortunately, most of our study abroad programs have been canceled for Spring 2021. There are a few sites that have appropriate health and safety protocols in place, as well as plans for continuing the academic program if there is a rise in the number of cases in the region. Students who were planning to study abroad should contact the Study Abroad office for more information. We are planning to continue our DC and NY semester programs.

## LIVING ON CAMPUS

### Housing Selection

- For the Spring semester, all students intending to live on campus will search for and select their roommate through The Housing Director (THD) Self-Service. Whether students are selecting a new roommate or an existing roommate all roommate selections for the Spring must be submitted through THD.
- Students whose fall semester roommate is not returning to campus for the spring or has other plans for housing may either select a roommate through THD Self-Service or allow

Residence Life and Housing to assign a new roommate.

- Students who prefer Residence Life and Housing to select a roommate based on the roommate matching system do not need to do anything in Self-Service except sign the Housing Agreement.
- Signing the Housing Agreement is required for roommate matching and selection/assignment of a spring semester room.
- Compliance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' immunization and flu vaccination requirements is also required for full participation in the Housing Selection Process.
- If the desired roommate does not appear in the roommate selection process, that student may not have signed the housing contract or submitted immunization and/or flu vaccine records to Health Services.

### Housing Assignments

- Housing options will be offered to all students planning to reside on campus for Spring 2021; however, College housing is subject to availability.
- The College will assign no more than two students per bedroom.
- Students will receive the Spring 2021 Acknowledgement and Election of Options Form on November 16, and residential students will complete the housing selection process in December.
- All students who plan to reside in college housing must complete the Spring 2021 Acknowledgment and Election of Options Form (see end of Guide for instructions) and the revised Housing Agreement by **November 27**.
- Students should expect confirmation of housing assignments by late December.

### Move-In / Move-Out Logistics

- Students are encouraged to pack lightly.
- In order to minimize traffic in the residence halls, only one person at a time may assist students with move-in. If both parents accompany a student to campus, only one may enter the residence hall at a time.
- January term arrivals will move into their spring semester assignments.
- Early arrival and spring semester move-in will be staggered over multiple days, and students will receive an assigned date and time for move-in. More details will follow.
- Having submitted the at-home COVID-19 test no earlier than 72 hours prior to arrival, only students with a negative result will be permitted to move-in. Move-in will be delayed by at least 10 days or until the isolation period is over for those students who receive a positive result from the home test.
- The College will conduct an initial COVID-19 test upon students' arrival. More details will follow.
- Students and families must have a move out plan in place for a possible emergency move-out in the event of a viral outbreak.

- Students who are not able to return home for summer may apply for an exception to remain on campus. Applications will be due April 15, and exceptions will be granted on a limited basis.

### Residence Hall Life

- Face coverings are not required when students are in their bedroom and the only other person present is their assigned roommate. Students must wear face coverings any time they leave their bedroom, including going to common spaces or bathrooms.
- When interacting with others in residence hall areas, students will maintain physical distancing and wear facial coverings.
- Students will be assigned to use specific bathrooms, and limited occupancy in the bathroom spaces will be implemented.
- Students are limited to conducting personal hygiene in the floor bathroom to which they are assigned and must keep their shower and bathroom supplies in their rooms rather than storing them in bathrooms.
- Study space will be available in every residence hall in the common areas that will be converted for this purpose. Students must wear face masks and comply with the occupancy limits posted for each room.
- Social space will be available on each first-year and sophomore residence hall floor for the use of the residents on that particular floor. Students must wear face masks and comply with the occupancy limits posted for each room.
- Laundry facilities will be available for student use. Students must wear face masks and comply with the occupancy limits posted for each facility.
- Maintaining a clean living environment is important for the prevention of transmission of all germs, including COVID-19. The College is taking extra precautions to clean high-touch areas across campus, and the same principles apply in students' living spaces. Students must clean high-touch surfaces regularly within their own living spaces to limit transmission of germs carried in droplets that may have landed on surfaces, or may have been transferred to surfaces from our hands. High-touch surfaces include, door and cabinet handles, bathroom faucets and surfaces, and kitchen surfaces.

### Guests

In order to limit the spread of COVID-19, it is necessary to limit contact between people, particularly in the residence halls. Accordingly, absolutely no guests from outside the College will be allowed in residence halls during the 2021 January term or spring semester. Similarly, students will not be permitted to access any residence hall other than the one to which they have been assigned. Students will be required to abide by all room occupancy limits across campus.

## LIVING OFF CAMPUS

Students living off campus have a heightened responsibility to adhere to current health guidelines, not only to protect the campus community, but also to protect those individuals and families living in our neighborhoods. We are looking to our off-campus students to demonstrate the Jesuit principle of being “for and with others” as we work together to reduce the risk to those around us.

- Gatherings at off-campus residences are subject to local and state regulations and orders, and all students must adhere to the requirements in the College's Community Standards and Community Commitment.
- Maintaining a clean living environment is important for the prevention of transmission of all germs, including COVID-19. Students should clean high-touch surfaces regularly within their own living spaces to limit transmission of germs carried in droplets that may have landed on surfaces, or may have been transferred to surfaces from our hands. High-touch surfaces include, door and cabinet handles, bathroom faucets and surfaces, and kitchen surfaces.
- Students living off-campus who contract COVID-19 must contact Health Services to report their positive test results and receive isolation instructions.
- Students living off-campus who are identified as close contacts with someone who has contracted COVID-19 must follow the [CDC's instructions for quarantine](#) and notify Health Services of their quarantine status.

## CAMPUS LIFE

### Dining

- As the pandemic evolves and state regulations and guidelines change, it is anticipated that dine-in service will be limited during the remainder of the academic year. This could include service being takeout only.
- During takeout-only restrictions, Kimball Main will provide reusable to-go containers, and self-service options will be served by Dining team members only. At all other locations, students will order meals through GrubHub.
- In-person dining is permitted at this time and is subject to regulation by local and state public health agencies. To prevent overcrowding, Dining will follow state guidelines to limit the number of guests allowed in each location.
- The food allergy program for students with documented reasonable accommodations will continue to operate.

### Events and Gatherings

- Gatherings in indoor and outdoor spaces will be limited in size in accordance with local, state, and College public health guidelines, both on and off campus. Students must adhere to the occupancy limits of each campus space.
- The College will sponsor small group gatherings and programs in accordance with local and state guidelines.
- Hosting and attending large events are prohibited for Spring 2021 because such events are incompatible with

the physical distancing that is necessary to reduce the spread of COVID-19. As such, most campus events will be held virtually. If this is not possible, the event will likely be cancelled or postponed.

- Students will not be allowed to host guests/visitors on campus for the spring semester.
- Virtual student engagement will continue, so students studying from home and those living on campus have access to departmental programs and campus engagement opportunities, online and through other means.

### Student Organizations

As much as possible, student organization events should occur through a virtual format. In-person events must be approved in advance by the Office of Student Involvement, will include attendance caps, and must meet all other College requirements for physical distancing and personal protection. Large events are prohibited.

### Campus Recreation

- Beginning in the spring semester, the Joanne Chouinard-Luth Recreation and Wellness Center (“The Jo”), our beautiful, new fitness center will be open. Although COVID-19 testing will take place on the courts, the remainder of the facility will be available for limited student use.
- The Jo’s brand-new cardio equipment and the indoor track will be available for physically-distanced student use according to state guidelines. Indoor group fitness classes may also be available but are not assured. Outdoor classes will be available, weather permitting.
- At this time, intramural and club sports have been postponed. The College will monitor campus health conditions continuously and may relax restrictions for intramurals at some point during the semester, provided health conditions remain stable.

### Athletics

Like other college athletic conferences, the College’s main athletic conference, the Patriot League, is currently assessing the viability of a spring season and whether fall sports will be included. Student-athletes and the campus community will be notified of the Patriot League’s decision as soon as it is made available.

### Marching Band and Pep Band

Practices and performances for both the Good Time Marching Band and the Holy Cross Pep Band have been postponed. The College will monitor state and local guidance and may relax these restrictions at some point during the semester, provided health conditions remain stable. Wind Ensemble will continue in an online format.

### Facilities

- To provide for physical distancing, the College has designed and implemented a new “flow” of people through many

buildings. Signs and other directions indicating this new flow will be installed in many buildings. Students must adhere to these new traffic patterns.

- The College has redesigned spaces on campus to adhere to physical distancing requirements. Students may not rearrange spaces or move furniture or other fixtures.
- There will be increased cleaning across campus. The frequency and type of cleaning for each space will be determined by space’s purpose and volume of use. Designated high-traffic areas, such as high-volume elevator lobbies, high-volume restrooms, and other similar areas will be cleaned multiple times per day. Cleaning and disinfection protocols specified by public health authorities will be implemented.

### Guest Policy

In accordance with the [Visitors Policy](#), only enrolled students with access to campus, faculty, and staff are permitted to be on the campus at this time, with very few exceptions.

### Identification

During this period of masking and a restriction of visitors to campus, we need to have the ability to readily identify members of the Holy Cross community. In accordance with the [Universal ID Display Policy](#), members of the campus community are required to keep their College identification cards visible at all times when moving about the campus. The College will provide lanyards for this purpose to all members of the community who require access to campus.

### TRAVEL

- College-sponsored travel in Spring 2021 will be severely limited.
- Students who travel to/enter from out of state may be required to self-quarantine for up to 14 days upon arrival to Massachusetts, in accordance with the state’s [COVID-19 Travel Order](#).
- Holy Cross strongly discourages all personal travel until in-person instruction has ended, currently scheduled for Friday, May 7. This recommendation includes refraining from travel over weekends, on holidays, or otherwise from the time they arrive at the start of the term until the time they depart after exams.
- International travel is highly discouraged at the present time. International travelers will need to quarantine for 14 days with no exception. Students who must travel out of state must alert Health Services of their planned travel in order to ensure compliance with the current Massachusetts COVID-19 Travel Order. Health Services will assist the student in planning to travel and return safely, which may require quarantine upon return, or testing while at home if possible.

## HOLY CROSS COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

As members of the Holy Cross community, we commit to the following proactive behaviors in order to protect ourselves, one another, and the health of the community at all times, including nights and weekends:

- Following national, state, and local health recommendations, guidelines and requirements, and adhering to those measures that the College deems safe and appropriate for its campus and buildings as set forth in this Guide or published in the [COVID-19 Response and Reopening](#) website (which are subject to change), including, but not limited to:
  - Complying with stipulated face-covering requirements
  - Maintaining physical distancing requirements (usually 6' of distance, but possibly greater, depending upon the activity)
  - Washing and disinfecting my hands frequently
  - Respecting any College-provided physical barriers and directives
  - Following standards set by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts regarding the number of people gathering in any one location at any given time or by space occupancy limits set by the College
  - Refraining from hosting guests on campus, including family members
  - Refraining from hosting students outside my residence hall
  - Wearing my Holy Cross identification on a lanyard outside my room at all times
  - Checking the COVID-19 Response and Reopening website regularly for updated information and requirements, and complying with all requirements
- Monitoring my symptoms daily and reporting to Health Services any symptoms consistent with COVID-19
- Staying in my room and isolating if I feel ill
- Submitting to all testing required by the College and signing releases to permit access to testing and results
- Notifying Health Services any time I test positive for COVID-19 when such test was administered outside the College
- Complying with contact tracing efforts
- Notifying the College in the event I am notified that I am a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, when such notification comes from outside the College
- Following isolation and quarantine protocols
- Returning home for quarantine within 24 hours of being notified of close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 if home is within 250 miles of campus
- Providing a negative result from a test taken no more than 72 hours prior to returning to campus
- Returning home within 24 hours should the College return to remote learning due to a viral outbreak and require that all students in residence leave campus

## CONDUCT

Any student returning to campus in any capacity will comply with the restrictions, requirements, and behavioral expectations the College and state and local authorities are putting in place to promote public health. Agreement to follow the expectations in the College's Community Standards, this Guide, the College's [COVID-19 Response and Reopening](#) website, or other policies or applicable law or guidance will be a condition of accessing residence halls, classrooms, dining locations, and services on campus.

Behaviors that violate these expectations jeopardize health and safety, increase the likelihood of a viral outbreak on our campus or in the greater community of Worcester, and may result in actual harm to one or more community members. Therefore, failure to comply with the Commitment and/or existing behavioral expectations outlined in the College's Community Standards, this Guide, the [COVID-19 Response and Reopening](#) website, or other policies or applicable law or guidance may result in a forfeiture of campus access or removal from College housing, including any College-leased properties, in addition to other disciplinary measures, up to possible dismissal from the College.

## MEDICAL CONCERNS AND REQUESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with medical conditions may find that the current state of the pandemic requires a consideration of alternatives to a traditional campus setting. We encourage students to consult with their individual practitioners to develop a personalized plan and determine whether on-campus learning and living is appropriate. Students may also consult with [Health Services](#) by calling 508-793-2276, or emailing [krdevoe@holycross.edu](mailto:krdevoe@holycross.edu), with any questions on the COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan. All accommodations must be requested through the Office of Accessibility Services as set forth below.

Students with disabilities who choose to participate remotely do not need to register with the Office of Accessibility Services to do so but may seek accommodations in connection with remote learning.

The College is committed to the full inclusion of all qualified individuals. As part of this commitment, the College provides reasonable accommodations to individuals with documented disabilities.

Students with disabilities seeking accommodations regarding any part of the Spring 2021 experience may initiate a request for accommodations by submitting relevant documentation to the [Office of Accessibility Services Accommodate portal](#). Students interested in housing-related accommodations for Spring 2021 should submit their documentation by November 27 so the accommodation request can be considered. Please note, availability of certain types of accommodations may be limited after the November 27 deadline for declaring housing intentions.

## REFUND POLICY

The College's refund policy for the 2020-21 academic year is available [here](#).

If a student withdraws from the College during the semester, charges will be prorated if the student has been enrolled for less than or equal to 60 percent of the term. The refund formula measures the actual number of days enrolled during the semester (and with respect to room and board, the number of days that room and board is offered for the semester which is a shorter period). A student is not eligible for a refund until all Federal Title IV programs and other scholarships are reimbursed as required and all outstanding balances with the College have been cleared. A student who is required to withdraw for disciplinary reasons or whose residential housing is limited, suspended or terminated due to disciplinary reasons is not entitled to a refund of tuition, room, or fees.

If a student withdraws after the 60 percent point in the term, there will be no refund of tuition and fees. Room and board fees will be refunded after the 60 percent point only if withdrawal or removal from residential housing occurs due to medical hardship or closure of all College residential housing as described below. Under these circumstances, refunds of room and board will be calculated on a daily basis based upon the number of days that room and board are offered for the semester. All refunds are subject to assessment of an administrative fee.

There will be no refund of tuition or fees in the event that the College determines that all courses must move to a virtual format, all residential housing must close or is otherwise limited or restricted, or as a result of any other changes to programs or activities. Students who remain enrolled but are required by the College to vacate their College-provided housing before the end of the housing license period due to a closure of all residential housing will receive a prorated refund of room charges and the unused portions of meal plans based upon the number of days that room and board are offered for the semester. Students who are approved to remain on campus despite the closure of residential housing because of an inability to depart will be responsible for room and board fees for the duration of their stay.

Certain fees are non-refundable and not subject to the refund policy.

## RISKS AND OPTIONS

The College holds as paramount the health, safety and welfare of every member of its community. None of us can guarantee what course the COVID-19 pandemic will take, and none of us – including the College – can guarantee a COVID-19-free environment. The College is committed to the goals of preventing the spread of COVID-19 and reducing the risk of exposure to COVID-19 for all of its community members. Even with these mitigation measures and students' full compliance with the guidance provided in this document, it is unfortunately not possible to completely eliminate the risk of COVID-19 infection

on campus. It is likely that there will be cases of COVID-19 on campus during 2020–21. It is possible that students may become ill and spread the disease to others in their residential housing, in their classes, and others on campus. It is also possible that some students will become infected during their time at the College and spread it to family members and any other people they have close contact with outside of the College. The College certainly does not wish this on anyone, and we are taking recommended steps to mitigate this risk, but the College cannot categorically guarantee this will not happen. By coming onto campus, each person should understand that this is possible.

It is also important to note that the College may make changes of any nature at any time and from time to time to its educational services and activities, working and living environment, offerings, events, services, activities, calendar, schedule, standards, policies, requirements, rules, and procedures whenever the College deems it necessary or desirable in connection with the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, as determined by the College in its sole discretion. This may include, but is not limited to, changes to modes or methods of delivery of education and activities (including hybrid and remote), modifying, suspending, cancelling or rescheduling any or all activities, services, and events, whether on or off campus, and requiring compliance with new, additional, or modified community standards, policies, procedures or rules intended for the protection of health and safety, in any such case giving such notice as is reasonably practicable under the circumstances.

All students and families are encouraged to review the College's published [refund policy](#). Students who elect to reside in College residential housing or come to campus should understand that they may be required to leave campus and remain off-campus after a positive COVID test, if the College returns to all remote learning due to a viral outbreak, or in connection with disciplinary action.

Accordingly, each student has the following options:

- a. **Attend College classes remotely from home and have no physical access to campus for the Spring 2021 semester.** Students electing this option will not be on campus at any time for any reason even if public health conditions improve. Students will continue to be able to use the many services provided by the College remotely (e.g., electronic access to academic resources, videoconference meetings with faculty and academic advisors, virtual student engagement, chaplains office) but will not be permitted to come to campus or access on-campus services. College residential housing for the Spring semester is subject to availability.
- b. **Reside in College housing during the Spring 2021 semester.** Students electing this option should be aware that there are a limited number of classes being offered in person and that many or all of a student's classes may be delivered in hybrid or remote formats. In addition, returning students may be assigned to College-leased or licensed housing

off-campus, should it become necessary for the College to obtain additional housing or in connection with isolation or quarantine requirements. Students may be required to leave College housing as described above.

- c. **Live at home and come to campus during Spring 2021.** Students electing this option should be aware that there are a limited number of classes being offered in person and that many or all of a student's classes may be delivered in hybrid or remote formats. Students may be required to leave campus and remain home under the circumstances described above. College residential housing for the Spring semester is subject to availability.
- d. **Elect to live off-campus and come to campus during Spring 2021.** Students electing this option should be aware that there are a limited number of classes being offered in person and that many or all of a student's classes may be delivered in hybrid or remote formats. Students may be required to leave campus and remain off-campus under the circumstances as described above. The College is not responsible for any lease that a student may enter into with a third party.
- e. **Request a Leave of Absence for the Spring 2021 semester, but plan to return for fall semester.** Returning students may seek a leave of absence for the fall semester. After reviewing the College's [Voluntary Leave of Absence](#) policy, students should contact their class dean to formally request this Leave. Students electing to take a leave of absence will not have any access to campus or College services during the spring semester and may reenter campus housing, if available, upon their return to campus.

## NEXT STEPS

1. **Information Review and Spring 2021 Decision**  
After reviewing the conditions and expectations outlined in this Guide, students should carefully review their course schedule to understand how each faculty member intends to teach. Updated information about the modality/ies of each Spring 2021 semester course is available in STAR. This information has been updated so students can make an informed decision about their intentions for Spring 2021 in light of personal circumstances.
2. **Notification of Decision**  
All students are required to notify the College of their decision among the above listed options by November 27, 2020. Students must indicate their plans on the Acknowledgment and Election of Options Form. A copy of the student's responses will be sent to the student. Please note that the Acknowledgment and Election of Options Form will open for students on November 16.
3. **Parents/Guardian Acknowledgment and Review**  
The Acknowledgment and Election of Options Form also includes a space for parents/guardians to indicate acknowledgment and review of the Guide and the student's

indication of plans for Spring 2021. Please note that the Acknowledgment and Election of Options Form will open for students on November 16.

4. **Housing Agreement**  
**Students who choose to reside in college housing** must complete the Housing Agreement **by November 27**. The Housing Agreement will be available beginning November 16.
5. **Immunization Compliance**  
First year and new transfer students must complete all medical forms and vaccination requirements, including the influenza vaccination. All upperclass students must comply with the influenza requirement. Vaccination records must be uploaded to the [Patient Portal - Appointments & Uploads](#) by **December 1**.
6. **Housing Selection Process**  
Roommate selection requests are due no later than **December 2**. The Housing Selection Process will begin on December 7 for seniors, December 8 for juniors, December 9 for sophomores, and December 10 for first-year students. Students must have documented that they have received the influenza vaccination in order to participate in the Housing Selection Process. ■

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