COVID-19 Policies at Hiram College

Hiram College students will continue to adhere to COVID-19 guidelines and policies as indicated in this section of the Hiram College Student Handbook. All students are expected to read this section carefully, monitor their symptoms regularly, and comply with all policies and procedures here within or as modified by further written communication(s). Violation of these guidelines and policies may result in documentation, which may lead to conduct hearing(s), monetary fine(s), and/or adjustments to your housing assignments and student status at Hiram College.

COVID-19 Alert System

Campus administrators will be monitoring the following factors to assess campus health throughout the academic year. Should the campus or region meet any of the following indicators, the campus’s alert level may increase. These alert levels and policies may change at any time to ensure the health and safety of the campus community. The current alert level can be found at www.hiram.edu.

Campus Indicators

- Surrounding Community Caseload: 7-day average of daily cases in 10 surrounding counties; triggered when >50/100,000 per day
- Campus Isolation Capacity: Triggered when >50% occupied (11 rooms)
- Cases on Campus: 7-day average of new daily cases; triggered when increasing for 5 days in a row
- Campus Community Spread: Triggered when there are more than 3 cases in one week that are unrelated through contact tracing

Alert Levels

Level 0 Green: No Pandemic

Level 1 Yellow: Active Pandemic – Minimal Exposure and Spread

Level 2 Orange: Active Pandemic – Limited Exposure and Spread

Level 3 Red: Active Pandemic – Heightened Exposure and Spread

Level 4 Purple: Active Pandemic – Severe Level of Exposure and Spread

**Level 0 Green: No Pandemic**

- Physical distancing is no longer required.
- Face covering are no longer required.
- Continue to practice good hand and respiratory hygiene.
Level 1 Yellow: Active Pandemic – Minimal Exposure and Spread

The following is in effect:

- **Face coverings:** Masks are welcome for all and encouraged for those not vaccinated or those not feeling well.
- **Testing:** Testing will occur on campus for any symptomatic individuals on campus.
- **In-Person Gatherings:** Classes will be held in person, activities will be held on campus.
- **Transportation:** The College will continue transportation as scheduled. Masks are welcome for all and encouraged for those not vaccinated while riding in a Hiram College vehicle.
- **Dining:** The Dining Hall and Bistro will operate under normal dining hours.
- **Athletics:** Student athletes will follow the NCAA Division III and NCAC health and safety plan.

Level 2 Orange: Active Pandemic – Limited Exposure and Spread

The following is in effect:

- **Face Coverings:** Masks are welcome for all and should be worn by those not feeling well and by those not vaccinated inside buildings and outside when physical distancing cannot be easily maintained.
- **Testing:** Students will be tested upon arrival to campus prior to the start of a semester or following a semester break. Testing will occur on campus for any symptomatic individuals on campus. The Health Center will conduct randomized testing of unvaccinated campus community members.
- **In-Person Gatherings:** Classes will be held in person. Due to the difficulty in maintaining physical distancing, all indoor lab classes will require masks. Activities will be held on campus with guidelines for face coverings, physical distancing, and handwashing in place.
- **Transportation:** The College will continue transportation as scheduled. All passengers in college transportation must wear a face covering.
- **Dining:** The Dining Hall and Bistro will operate under normal dining hours. Face coverings must be worn in serving areas.
- **Athletics:** Student athletes will follow the NCAA Division III and NCAC health and safety plan.

Level 3 Red: Active Pandemic – Heightened Exposure and Spread

The following is in effect:

- **Face Coverings:** Masks are recommended for all. Unvaccinated campus community members must wear face coverings while on campus.
- **Testing:** Students will be tested upon arrival to campus prior to the start of a semester or following a semester break. Testing will occur on campus for any symptomatic individuals on campus. The Health Center will conduct randomized testing of unvaccinated campus community members.
- **In-Person Gatherings:** Classes will be in person, remote or flex schedule. Masks may be required for in-person classes. Activities will be held on campus or remotely with mandates for face coverings and social distancing required.
• **Transportation:** The College will continue transportation as scheduled. All passengers in college transportation must wear a face covering.

• **Dining:** The Dining Hall will be open at 50% capacity. Face coverings must be worn when in serving areas or when not eating.

• **Athletics:** Student athletes will follow the NCAA Division III and NCAC health and safety plan.

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*Level 4 Purple: Active Pandemic – Severe Level of Exposure and Spread*

The following is in effect:

• **Face Coverings:** Face coverings are required for everyone on campus.

• **Remote Gatherings:** Classes will be remote on a flex schedule. All activities and other in-person events are suspended until further notice.

• **Campus Housing:** The majority of students will move home for the rest of the semester. Students must contact the Office of Residential Education to discuss on-campus housing options on a case-by-case basis.

• **Transportation:** All college transportation will be suspended.

• **Dining:** The Dining Hall will offer meals as take out only.

• **Athletics:** Student athletes will follow the NCAA Division III and NCAC health and safety plan.

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**Face Coverings and Masks**

Hiram College reserves the right to implement a mask requirement at any alert level for any amount of time based on transmission rates at Hiram College and the local community per guidance from CDC. Any medical exemptions to a mask requirement should be submitted to the Hiram College Health Center in a private letter from the student’s primary care physician.

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**Arrival Testing, Surveillance Testing, and Symptom Testing**

Vaccinated individuals may not be required to participate in arrival or surveillance testing per CDC guidelines. If a vaccinated individual develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should immediately put on a mask and contact the Health Center to be tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible.

Individuals who are not vaccinated will be required to participate in arrival and surveillance testing for COVID-19, per CDC guidelines. All unvaccinated individuals will be tested upon returning to Hiram College for the Fall 2021 semester. Should a student test positive upon their arrival to Hiram, students living within five hours will be asked to return home to isolate. Students who live more than five hours away will be placed in an isolation location on campus.

If any student, regardless of vaccination status, begins experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, they should immediately put on a mask and separate themselves from other people. Residential students can do this by going to their residence hall room or by going to their car or an isolated location if they are a commuter. If during normal business hours (M-F 8:30AM to 5:00PM) the student experiencing symptoms should then contact the Julia Church Health Center at 330-569-5418. If it is outside of business hours, residential students should contact the Residential Education Pro Staff On Call number at 330-569-4025. Commuter Students should contact the Julia Church Health Center or Residential Education pro Staff On Call prior to leaving campus. All students should save these numbers in their
phones prior to the start of the Fall 2021 semester. Additionally, students may want to contact their primary healthcare provider to inform them of the symptoms and seek immediate medical attention, if necessary.

Hiram College and the Hiram College Health Center will continue to follow the CDC’s recommendations and guidelines regarding quarantine, isolation, and testing. Any student will be cleared to leave isolation once the CDC requirements for ending isolation have been met:

- At least ten (10) days have passed since symptoms appeared, AND
- They have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, AND
- Other symptoms are improving.

Student Expectations and Guidelines

Hiram College has constructed these guidelines, policies, and safety practices to protect the Hiram community. Unless you have received a written exemption from the Julia Church Health Center or your primary care provider, we expect that you will comply with all guidelines, policies, and safety practices. Failure to do so places you and the entire college community at risk.

Symptom and Self-Monitoring

All students must monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 before interacting with the campus community. Commuter students must monitor themselves on a daily basis before commuting to campus. Residential student must monitor themselves on a daily basis before leaving their residence hall room. Students must be free of any symptoms potentially related to COVID-19 before heading elsewhere on campus or traveling to Hiram College. These symptoms are presently understood to include on or more of the following:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever (temperature 100.4 F or higher)
- Chills/Repeated shakes with chills
- Runny nose or congestion
- Muscle pain/Joint pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Nausea, Vomiting, and Diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell

Isolation and Contact Tracing/Quarantine

The CDC defines isolation and quarantine as follows:
• Isolation separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.
• Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

Isolation
Hiram College has identified a number of spaces on campus to be used for isolation of residential students who test positive for COVID-19. Commuter students will be asked to isolate at home. The Office of Residential Education and Commuter Services will work with students to ensure that they have adequate and comfortable isolation spaces. College staff will bring meals to isolated residential students. Students who are well enough to complete coursework will be able to do so remotely while they are in isolation. The Health Center will be checking in on students while they are in isolation.

Any student will be cleared to leave isolation once the DCD requirements for ending isolation have been met:

• At least ten (10) days have passed since symptoms appeared, AND
• They have been fever-free for three (3) full days (72 hours) without the use of fever-reducing medication, AND
• Their symptoms have improved for three (3) full days (72 hours).

Contact Tracing/Quarantine
Should a member of the Hiram College community contract COVID-19, the College will notify the Portage County Health District. Other local, state or federal agencies may also be involved as required by applicable law. The Portage County Health District is charged with conducting contact tracing of confirmed cases of COVID-19 at Hiram College, and will work in cooperation with the Julia Church Health Center and the Office of Residential Education and Commuter Services to promptly identify all individuals who came in close contact of the affected individual for a prolonged period of time starting from two days before the onset of illness, or for a asymptomatic individual, two days prior to a positive specimen collection. The contact tracers will likely not identify the affected individual by name, but will notify those contacts that they may have been exposed to COVID-19. Exposed students will quarantine for fourteen (14) days in their residence hall room, or at home if they are a commuter student, and will self-monitor for symptoms.

The Portage County Health District and the Health Center will conduct calls and follow up queries with those in isolation and/or quarantine as necessary. For any commuter student who lives outside of Portage County, the respective county health department(s) will work together to achieve a coordinated and thorough response to each case.

If you are not vaccinated and are notified that you were exposed, on or off campus, to someone with known COVID-19, please quarantine yourself and notify the Julia Church Health Center, even if you do not have symptoms. Health Center staff will guide you through the necessary fourteen (14) day quarantine.
COVID-19 (Level I or II)
Students are required to all of the tenets of the COVID-19 Policies at Hiram College section of the Hiram College Student Handbook. Students must follow the policies indicated by the current active alert level, which can be found at www.hiram.edu. In general, a student’s first COVID-19 violation will result in a $25 fine, escalating with repeat offenses.