



## RETURN TO COLLEGE GUIDANCE DUE TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

This guidance follows the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and the governor's *Responsible Restart* Ohio Guidance directives.

The goals of this Guidance are to:

- Gradually and safely return students to the College environment;
- Continue to reduce transmission of the virus among employees and students;
- Maintain healthy College operations; and
- Maintain a healthy learning environment.

These guidelines are fluid and remain subject to change based on College policies, recommendations from the governor and/or CDC guidelines and updates.

### INTRODUCTION

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) is committed to creating a safe and healthy learning environment on campus. In an effort to protect students and visitors, a process has been created to address concerns related to the coronavirus pandemic. We ask that you limit the number of guests on campus and be intentional about your visits to campus during this time. The majority of student services are currently [available online](#) in order to limit your need to visit campus.

We thank you for your patience in adhering to these procedures, which serve to protect our students, faculty, staff and facilities.

### BEFORE COMING TO CAMPUS

Students, faculty, staff and visitors must ask themselves the following questions before coming to any Tri-C campus or site (the [Daily Health Assessment](#)):

- Is my temperature 100.4 F or higher?  
(Temperature screening available at campus Welcome Stations.)
- Do I have COVID-19 symptoms such as fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of smell or taste, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea?
- If I'm not fully vaccinated, have I been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
- Have I traveled out of the state or country in the past 14 days?
- Have I been ordered by a physician or government agency to quarantine or self-isolate in the past 14 days?

***If you answer "Yes" to any of these questions:***

#### **Students**

- Stay at home. Do not come to campus.
- Contact a physician and discuss arrangements with your instructor for making up work.
- Notify the [Risk Management office](#). Someone will contact you to follow up.

## Employees

- Stay at home. Do not come to a Tri-C site.
- Contact a physician.
- Notify your department supervisor.
- Notify the [Risk Management office](#). Someone will contact you to follow up.

## VACCINATION AND MASK-WEARING

Individuals are encouraged to be vaccinated at the earliest possible time. Vaccines are not currently mandated by the College, the CDC or the State of Ohio.

For purposes of this Guidance, individuals are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 two weeks after receiving the second dose in a two-dose series (Pfizer or Moderna) or two weeks after receiving a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson).

### Fully vaccinated individuals:

- Do not need to wear a face covering when in a College building; and
- Do not need to quarantine or be tested following exposure to COVID-19 (as long as they do not experience symptoms).

### All students, whether vaccinated or not, must continue to:

- Maintain social distance and practice other prevention measures when visiting College facilities;
- Avoid medium- and large-sized in-person gatherings; and
- Monitor symptoms, isolate and get tested if experiencing [COVID-19 symptoms](#).

### Individuals who have not been fully vaccinated:

- Must wear a face covering inside any College building; and
- Must quarantine for 14 days if exposed to COVID-19 (even if asymptomatic).

Tri-C students, faculty and staff whose class requirements or jobs require them to visit or work at non-College locations should follow mask-wearing and other safety protocols of those locations while there.

## SAFETY PROTOCOLS

- As students, visitors or employees return to our campuses and sites, we must take extraordinary steps to stay healthy and protect each other.

Therefore, we ask everyone coming to our facilities to review and accept the [Tri-C Statement of Personal Responsibility](#), in which individuals pledge to take responsibility for their own health and help keep the College community safe by “Stomping Out” the spread of COVID-19.

- Students and employees will receive an email at the beginning of each semester directing them to acknowledge College safety protocols by reading and accepting the [Statement of Personal Responsibility](#).
- Visitors must acknowledge the [Visitor Statement of Personal Responsibility](#) during each visit to any campus. The statement can be signed electronically or at any Welcome Station. Visitors may receive a wristband that must be worn at all times while on-site. (If statement is signed electronically, visitor must show proof of acknowledgement at Welcome Station to receive wristband.)
- All students and employees must carry and be prepared to present their College ID card/Stomp Card while on campus.

- Students, employees and visitors who are not fully vaccinated must wear face coverings that completely cover the nose and mouth at all times while inside a College building, including during all classes and labs and while within 6 feet of another individual.
- If you encounter an unmasked individual (who has disclosed they are not fully vaccinated) in a Tri-C building, please report them to the Campus President's Office or Risk Management. The individual will be given a written warning. Repeat offenders will be issued a letter stating that they are not allowed to return to campus for 90 days. A copy of that letter will be sent to each campus president, Human Resources and the Campus Police and Security Services office.
- Students, employees and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines currently implemented by the College.
- Individuals must comply with safety directives as conveyed by instructors, supervisors, campus police and other Tri-C representatives, which may include requirements that apply to a specific campus, office, cubicle, classroom, lab, academic support area or any other work area.
- No-touch temperature scans are available at campus Welcome Stations for individuals to check their temperatures or pick up other personal protective equipment, if needed. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 F or higher will be sent home.
- The College ensures adequate signage and visual markers to communicate safety protocols to all students, employees and visitors at entry points and throughout each facility.
- Certain high-traffic areas (e.g., TLCs, Enrollment Centers) will have controlled occupancy to support effective social distancing per College guidelines.
- Sanitizing wipes are available in high-traffic areas (e.g., Enrollment Center kiosks, shared computer stations) to clean equipment and surfaces after each use.
- All individuals must refrain from gathering in common areas and in large groups while on College property.
- Please be aware of visual/verbal cues (e.g., floor decals, physical barriers, tape) that indicate where to wait or receive services on campus.
- Restrooms and elevators have occupancy limits and limited access.
- Grab-and-go dining service will be open from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays on each campus.
- Recreation centers and swimming pools are closed to the public until further notice.
- Buildings are sanitized throughout the day, and deep cleaning takes place during closed hours.
- Unless fully vaccinated, any individual who travels out of the country or to another state is required to self-isolate for seven days upon return. Visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for the most recent travel advisories.

## MAINTAINING A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

The College is committed to maintaining a healthy learning and working environment. The following additional health and safety steps have been implemented:

- Improved engineering controls for building ventilation systems. This includes increasing outside air as much as possible without negatively impacting other environmental controls. More than 200 bipolar ionizers have been installed to purify the air with 99.4% efficacy.
- In an effort to support respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene for employees, students and visitors, the College will provide:

- Tissues and no-touch disposal receptacles.
- Soap and water and, where soap and water are not readily available, alcohol-based hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol.
- Handshaking is discouraged. Please use other noncontact methods of greeting.
- Coughing and sneezing etiquette is expected. See the CDC's coughing and sneezing etiquette and [clean hands webpage](#) for more information.
- Disposable wipes and/or other sanitization products are available to clean commonly used surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, keyboards, remote controls, desks) before each use.
- Restrooms are cleaned frequently throughout the day.

## PREVENTIVE MEASURES

- Wash your hands often, with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds — especially after being in a public place or after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands, then rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick, even inside your home. If possible, maintain 6 feet between the sick person and other household members who are not fully vaccinated.
- Remember that some people are able to spread the virus without showing symptoms.
- Choose safer activities based on your vaccination status. Review the [CDC guidance and examples](#).
- If you are not fully vaccinated, cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face covering when around others, especially in public places. The face covering is meant to protect other people, in case you are infected.
- Cloth face coverings should not be placed on children under age 2 or on anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, is incapacitated or is otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- The cloth face covering is not a substitute for social distancing if you are not fully vaccinated. You must still keep 6 feet between yourself and others.
- Face shields alone are not sufficient; masks or alternate face coverings must be worn under face shields for individuals not fully vaccinated.
- Always cover coughs and sneezes, and throw used tissues in the trash. After coughing or sneezing, wash your hands immediately as described above.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets and sinks.
  - If surfaces are dirty, clean them with detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
  - Most common EPA-registered household disinfectants will work.
- Individuals who become ill while on campus will be sent home immediately. Students, faculty and/or staff will be relocated from affected areas until surfaces can be cleaned and disinfected. The ill person should compile information on persons with whom they had contact while

symptomatic (and in the two days prior) and provide that data to the [Risk Management](#) office.

## GUIDANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH CONFIRMED DIAGNOSIS OF OR EXPOSURE TO COVID-19

Individuals with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 should follow their physician's orders and CDC-recommended steps. Do not return to a campus or site until you:

- Are free from fever for at least 24 hours (without use of fever reducers); **and**
- Other symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have subsided; **and**
- At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared (if asymptomatic, 10 days since positive test).

If you receive a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 or have been exposed to COVID-19, notify and work with Risk Management to facilitate contact tracing. Email [risk.management@tri-c.edu](mailto:risk.management@tri-c.edu) for further guidance.

- The College will inform the Tri-C community of possible exposure to COVID-19 in the classroom or workplace while maintaining the confidentiality of the affected individual as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All individuals exposed to the affected student or employee will be notified in accordance with county health guidelines.
- The CDC broadened its definition of "close contact." Under the revised CDC standard, close contact is defined as being "within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, starting from two days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, two days prior to testing) until the time the patient is isolated."
- Individuals must review the [Daily Health Assessment](#) and answer "No" to all questions in order to return to class or work.
- Areas identified as having been visited by an ill individual will be thoroughly disinfected.
- If an ill student is unable to complete coursework, they must notify their instructor(s) prior to assignment due dates or as soon as possible through the preferred communication method established in class. The instructor(s) will work with the student to ensure completion of all required coursework. It remains the student's responsibility to make up all work missed due to illness.

## TRAVEL

All travel for College purposes is suspended until further notice. Restrictions for personal travel are listed above. See [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for travel restrictions.

## COVID-19 TESTING

Tri-C and Care Alliance Health Center are working together to bring COVID-19 testing to Tri-C students, faculty and staff and residents of surrounding communities. The program offers free testing to individuals regardless of their symptom status, insurance status or ability to pay. Testing is available at the Care Alliance Central Clinic, located at 2916 Central Ave. in Cleveland. Visit [tri-c.edu/covidtest](https://tri-c.edu/covidtest) for more information.

## RESOURCES

- [COVID-19 Student Resources](#)
- [CDC coronavirus website](#)

- [Ohio Department of Health coronavirus website](#)
- [World Health Organization coronavirus website](#)

## QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

[risk.management@tri-c.edu](mailto:risk.management@tri-c.edu)

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