

Respiratory Virus Safety on Campus

Guidelines for Students



PRIMARY PURPOSE

William Woods University (WWU) policies and protocols are designed to protect the safety of our students, faculty and staff and the public with whom we interact. All decisions are made with students' health and wellbeing in mind along with the goal of providing an engaging and thriving campus experience. Vaccination remains the most effective approach to limit transmission of respiratory viruses, thus we highly recommend the COVID-19 series and booster doses, along with the annual influenza vaccine. **Campus policies are subject to change with the introduction of additional public health guidance from local, state, and federal authorities. Any policy updates will be communicated immediately to the campus community.**

EXPECTATIONS

All students are expected to comply with the guidelines outlined in this document as they would the Community Code, the Student Handbook and all other WWU policies. Following these guidelines will help limit the spread of respiratory viruses and provide for a more engaging campus experience. While these guidelines apply specifically to the main campus student, it is recommended that all students, faculty, and staff in WWU designated locations follow University policy.

In early 2024, the CDC revised the COVID-19 guidelines to include influenza and RSV. These CDC guidelines are now called 'Respiratory Virus Guidance' and are found here: [Respiratory Virus Guidance \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory/index.html)

William Woods University has followed these recommendations and this policy was published:

Students are

- **required** to report all positive test results of COVID-19, Influenza and RSV immediately to Woods Wellness Center
- **required** to abstain from campus classes and activities with a fever of 100.4 degrees F and higher. Students may return to campus activities and classes when fever-free for 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medication AND when feeling improved

- **recommended** to wear a mask or face covering when returning to campus for the following 5 days

SYMPTOM MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Students should conduct symptom monitoring daily. If feeling ill, please check your temperature for a fever. Students must be fever-free to attend class and participate in campus activities. A fever is defined by WWU as 100.4 degrees F or higher. Students exhibiting symptoms of illness or fever should contact Woods Wellness Center or their health care provider for further screening and advice. Students should not attend classes or activities until they are fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.

If students are experiencing fever or illness symptoms, to protect both you and the WWU community, reach out to your health care provider and our **Woods Wellness Center** at health.services@williamwoods.edu or **573-592-4222** (between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.).

PREVENTION GUIDELINES

Students should be familiar with and follow current respiratory virus prevention strategies, as outlined here by the CDC: [Preventing Respiratory Viruses | Respiratory Illnesses | CDC](#). Vaccines and social distancing when possible are the leading prevention strategies to protect individuals from viruses. Information about vaccines is available through campus Woods Wellness Center as well as the [CDC: Immunizations for Respiratory Viruses Prevention | Respiratory Illnesses | CDC](#)

General public health considerations such as hand washing and cleaning/disinfecting should continue regardless of vaccination status. The University will maintain a traditional cleaning schedule to clean and disinfect common areas, public restrooms, and community baths in the residence halls. Maintenance will clean high touch surfaces such as door handles as needed. Residential students are required to clean and disinfect their personal spaces including bedrooms and bathrooms daily and as needed throughout the day.

FACE COVERINGS

It is recommended to wear a face covering the following 5 days after returning from a diagnosis of COVID-19, influenza or RSV.

Students with medical conditions and concerns about face coverings are encouraged to talk with their primary care providers about the best face covering options. Additionally, there is information available online on successful strategies for managing various health conditions and face coverings.



CLASSES

Students should follow the attendance policy and communication guidelines contained in each course syllabi. Virtual learning through Zoom or other platforms are not guaranteed and should not be the expectation of students. Faculty reserve the right to require face covering regardless of vaccination status.

RESIDENCE HALLS

Students are expected to maintain the cleanliness of their environment. Residents with suite style restrooms should be prepared with disinfecting supplies to maintain their personal environment. Community style bathrooms will continue to be cleaned by staff; however, students are encouraged to wipe down areas with their own supplies before and after use.

Respiratory Virus SPECIFIC HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

In an effort to keep our campus community safe, William Woods University requires all students and employees to report positive COVID-19, Influenza and RSV test results to the appropriate on-campus entity immediately upon receiving notification of a positive result or during normal business hours by contacting Woods Wellness Center at (573) 592-4222 or health_services@williamwoods.edu.

In the event of a positive respiratory virus diagnosis, students are required to cooperate fully with the University's safety protocols. Detailed below are the working definitions and expectations when dealing with respiratory virus positive test results.

Student health information reported pursuant to this policy will be shared only with those on a need to know basis.

TESTING

Students concerned about potential exposure or symptoms that could be related to COVID-19, Influenza or RSV should contact Woods Wellness Center (573-592-4222) for testing. It is encouraged that students voluntarily test if they are concerned that they might have symptoms of a respiratory virus.

DINING SERVICES

Fresh Ideas, our food service provider, is using a mindful innovative approach to connect students and staff safely without compromising the quality and creative fresh food experience for our students. The dining room will be open with seating for students to use within the dining hall.

- We kindly ask if you are feeling ill, with fever, or within the 5 days of masking after a positive test result, to not eat in the public dining hall. Please remain masked during food pick-up and then choosing a location to eat with distancing of others until all symptoms are improved and without fever for 24 hours.

VIOLATION CONSEQUENCES

Compliance with all the University's safety guidelines and restrictions is required and essential to the health and wellbeing of our community.

Students not in compliance with Respiratory Virus guidelines are subject to accountability such as but not limited to a temporary suspension of their housing agreement (3 Weeks), immediate termination of residential status for the remainder of the semester, restrictions from campus and potential academic suspension. There is no financial refund for a student under these circumstances.

Violations will be handled by the Office of Residential Life and Campus Safety. As the consequences are covered within this specific policy they will be referred without a hearing, similar to pet and fire safety violations. Appeals must be made in writing to the Dean of Student Life within 48 hours of the decision. Please see the student handbook for more information on judicial procedures, including appeals.

RELATED/SUPPORTING UNIVERSITY DOCUMENTS:

Student Handbook-

https://www.williamwoods.edu/student_experience/undergraduate_student_experience/student_handbook.pdf

Academic Policies Standard of Student Responsibility-

https://www.williamwoods.edu/catalog/policy_detail.aspx?id=81

Academic Policies Statement of Conduct-

https://www.williamwoods.edu/catalog/policy_detail.aspx?id=35

Last updated: May 2, 2024