



Girard College COVID-19 Policy

Last updated November 8, 2021

The purpose of this Policy is to outline the guidance and requirements Girard College is implementing to achieve a successful 2021-22 school year. The Policy will continue to evolve in accordance with public health data, national and local leadership, and input from our community.

Phased Student Return

We know the vital importance of in-person learning for academic and social-emotional growth, and remain committed to our goal of returning all students to campus. We will continue to evaluate our program's status in accordance with the public health data and recommendations.

Health and Safety

To mitigate the spread of COVID-19 on the Girard College campus, where students live in dormitories and attend classes together, the Policy outlines actions critical for our collective health and safety.

COVID-19 Vaccination Policy

Effective September 20, 2021, Girard College requires that all employees and vaccine-eligible students be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. [See the policy here.](#)

COVID-19 Testing

Students

- All students not fully vaccinated returning to campus are required to have a negative PCR result prior to their initial return to campus.
- Each week, students not fully vaccinated returning to campus will be given a rapid antigen test administered by parents during student return.
- Fully vaccinated students are no longer required to test unless they are experiencing symptoms.

Staff

- Staff not fully vaccinated are required to test weekly with a rapid antigen test which will be provided by Human Resources.
- Fully vaccinated staff are no longer required to test unless they are experiencing symptoms.

Onsite Testing

- Onsite testing is available for students who have COVID-like symptoms during the day.

Daily Health Screening and Monitoring

- Girard College staff are required to complete an online health screening every day prior to arriving to work.
- Parents and Guardians are required to complete an online health screening every week prior to their student's return.
- Residential Staff will conduct once-daily health screenings for every student.
 - If a fully vaccinated student has a known exposure they will have twice daily health screenings by the residential staff.
- Everyone should monitor their own and their student's symptoms daily and communicate any symptoms or known exposures immediately to Health Services (students/families) or Human Resources (staff).

If you or your student feel sick, do not come to campus.

Common symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Confirmed Positive COVID-19 Cases

- **Communication:** General email notification to the school community; close contacts receive instructions regarding testing, quarantining and isolation requirements.
- **Person Testing Positive:** In-home isolation required for at least 10 days and at least 24 hours with no fever, without fever reducing medications, and symptoms have improved.
- **Staff members** who are on campus who become symptomatic during the day and test positive must immediately depart campus and quarantine for 10 days as described above.
- **Students** who become symptomatic at any time during the week will be immediately isolated and PCR tested. If positive, parents will be required to pick up the student within 6 hours of the positive result. Students will remain in an isolation suite and will be closely monitored by the nursing staff until departure.

Quarantine Following Exposure

- Fully vaccinated people with known or suspected exposure are exempt from quarantine and must be PCR tested 3-5 days after exposure.
 - Families are responsible for getting their student tested within the 3-5 days following exposure. Student may return to school while results are pending but will need proof that a test was performed within that timeframe.

- Student will be sent home if proof of test is not received within the 3-5 day timeframe.
- People not fully vaccinated with known or suspected exposure require a 10 or 14 day quarantine depending on the contact tracer's recommendation.

Masks & Facial Coverings

- All staff and students, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear a mask or face covering while indoors. Specific exceptions are noted below.
- Individuals who are not fully vaccinated and cannot maintain at least 3 feet of distance are required to wear a mask outdoors.
- Each individual is responsible for providing their own masks. Families should send students to school with 5-10 labeled, laundered cloth masks for daily usage.
- We will reevaluate our masking policy as the year progresses based on community transmission, vaccination status, and internal cases.

Types of face coverings: Reusable cloth masks or disposable medical paper masks are acceptable. All masks must cover the face from the bridge of the nose to under the chin. Masks should be secure enough to stay in place with no gaps around the edges. Masks may not include valves, and gaiters are not acceptable.

Exceptions to Mask Policy

- From Section 3 of the [PA Dept of Health Order Directing Face Coverings in School Entities](#). All alternatives to a face covering, including the use of a face shield, should be exhausted before an individual is excepted.
 - A. If wearing a face covering while working would create an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.
 - B. If wearing a face covering would either cause a medical condition, or exacerbate an existing one, including respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition or a disability.
 - C. When necessary to confirm the individual's identity.
 - D. When working alone and isolated from interaction with other people with little or no expectation of in-person interaction.
 - E. If an individual is communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing-impaired or has another disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
 - F. When the individual is under two (2) years of age.
 - G. When an individual is:
 1. Engaged in an activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating and drinking, or playing an instrument that would be obstructed by the face covering; or

2. Participating in high intensity aerobic or anerobic activities, including during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals.

H. When a child/student is participating in a sports practice activity or event, whether indoors or outdoors.

- Indoor meal periods: Students and staff will dine in outdoor spaces as much as possible and feasible. If meals are indoor, students and staff will maintain at least 3 feet distance at all times in well ventilated spaces and utilize other mitigation strategies including strict handwashing.
- While outdoors, fully vaccinated individuals may remove their masks while maintaining at least 3 feet of distance.
- Cohorted students may remove their masks while sleeping with their designated cohort and maintaining 6 feet of distance.

Physical Distancing

All staff and students are asked to maintain a distance of at least 3 feet from one another whenever possible.

Cleaning & Sanitizing

All instructional and residential spaces will be cleaned throughout the day, every day, and sanitized once a week according to CDC guidelines.

Handwashing & Sanitizer

Routinely scheduled handwashing; Signage posted with proper technique and hand sanitizer deployed in all occupied areas.

Air Quality

All classroom and office areas have been provided with air filtration units, and we will continue to implement strategies to increase the fresh air flow, ventilation, and air exchange in campus buildings.

COVID Testing Requirements

- Fully vaccinated, asymptomatic people with no known exposure to COVID-19 are exempted from routine screening testing programs.
- Fully vaccinated, asymptomatic people who have been exposed to a known case of COVID-19 are not required to quarantine but will be required to get tested 3 to 5 days post exposure.

COVID-19 Visitor & Rental Policy

Parents/Guardians: To maintain a safe and sanitary campus and to limit the amount of people on campus, parents/guardians are asked to limit the amount of time they are visiting the campus.

We ask that campus visits be limited to:

- Drop-off on Sundays and Pick-up on Thursdays
- Pick-up/Drop-off for special arrangements

- Scheduled Meetings with Residential/Academic Staff
- Essential Visits for student support
- College Advising
- Academic Testing as determined

Protocols for Student Day Visits

While Girard College students continue to learn virtually, we will occasionally invite certain students or grade levels to campus on specific days for specific events or meetings (e.g., standardized testing, college meetings, family conferences).

In order to keep everyone in our community safe and healthy, the following will apply during these visits. *If you or your child are ill, please do not bring them to campus.*

- **Health Screener:** All students or family members must complete an online [Health Screener](#) that asks basic questions about symptoms before arriving on campus.
 - The screener may be completed on your smartphone so that you can show it to our Security team upon arriving to campus. It may also be completed on a computer and emailed to the point of contact coordinating the visit to campus.

Staff/Residents: To control the number of visitors on campus, buildings, in offices and residential areas, and to enforce required social distancing guidelines, we will require all staff and residents of Girard College to follow the campus visitor policy.

The campus visitor policy for staff and residents will include but not be limited to:

- All staff/residents must inform security via phone or email that they are expecting a delivery or visitor.
- All visitors must check-in at the front gate.
- After security has check-in visitors, they will call staff/residents to inform them that their delivery/visitor are on their way.
- All staff must meet delivery drivers at one of the 3 checkpoints.
- All staff must meet their visitor at the front door of their building and accompany them to their desired destination.

Staff Events: To protect our students, staff, and residents by maintaining control of a safe and sanitary campus environment, specific guidelines and restrictions on the use of facilities by staff for events and meetings have been put in place.

- Events and meetings will be permitted in outdoor and indoor areas that are authorized and approved to meet maximum capacity limits.
- Any Staff Member who wishes to conduct an event or meeting on campus must complete the [Event Application Form](#) and submit to Ms. Dawn Carmichael, Compliance & Operations Office Manager.
- Approval will be contingent upon compliance with the College's COVID-19 mitigation efforts.

Rentals: To protect our students, staff and residents by maintaining control of a safe and sanitary campus environment, specific guidelines and restrictions on the use of facilities by renters have been put in place.

- Rentals will be permitted in outdoor and indoor areas that are authorized and approved to meet maximum capacity limits.
- The rental of campus facilities will be permissible on weekends.
- Rental costs will include a fee for overtime to compensate facilities staff for doing a deep clean at the end of each event.
- Renters will be restricted from areas outside the rental agreement.
- To enforce social distancing guidelines, Girard College will set a limit for the number of occupants in the areas being rented.