

Spring 2022 Opening Overview

Overview

Residential halls will reopen beginning Sunday, January 16 and classes will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 18, as planned. Classes will be conducted remotely from Jan 18 to Jan. 21.

On Monday, Jan. 24, all classes will then resume with their originally intended modality (on-ground or online).

Due to stringent, on-ground academic requirements in some of our academic majors, select courses may be offered on-ground during Jan. 18-21. All students should take the directive of their faculty on the mode of instruction for their courses Jan. 18-21.

Required Negative PCR Tests

Proof of a negative PCR (molecular) COVID-19 test performed within **96 hours** of a student's return must be provided in order for the student to return to campus following winter break. Residential students must provide proof upon move-in. Provided they can supply proof of a negative PCR result, residential students may move back into their residence halls beginning Jan. 16 and should look to receive further move-in instructions by Tuesday, Jan. 11.

Commuter students should look for additional instruction on providing their proof in communication to come via email by Jan. 11.

Students are encouraged to seek appointments for PCR tests now, as there may be lead time required with some testing sites.

Here are some helpful links to help you find a testing site near you:

<https://curative.com/>

<https://www.holyokemall.com/covid-testing-at-holyoke-mall/>

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-a-covid-19-test>

Students who do move back into the residence halls on Jan. 16-21 will attend their classes remotely Jan. 18-21, even though they will be on campus at that time. Residential move in will be extended to include Jan. 16-Jan. 23, depending on when students can received their negative PCR test result.

We are working on providing some limited testing on campus on Sat. Jan. 15 for those students who need to move in on Sunday, Jan. 16 or Monday, Jan. 17, and are unable to schedule a PCR test prior to that. If that is finalized, we will communicate that this evening/early Tuesday. Note that students will not be able to move-in on Saturday, Jan. 15, so this will require an additional trip to campus.

Masks and Testing

Per the mask mandate on campus and in the City of Westfield, masks will continue to be required indoors. **We ask that all students return with a supply of KN95 masks**, instead of cloth masks. The University will have an emergency supply of KN95 masks should students not

have access or resources to purchase these masks on their own prior to arriving on campus. Standard, single use blue ear loop masks are acceptable, but not preferred to the KN95 masks.

Students, faculty, and staff should reference the [CDC's recommendations for mask selection and use](#) for further guidance.

Our weekly surveillance/asymptomatic testing will continue to concentrate on unvaccinated students, faculty and staff. Weekly surveillance testing is offered on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Room 141B in New Hall.

Symptomatic testing for students will continue to be managed by Health Services. Students who are symptomatic should contact Health Services for further evaluation and/or testing. Faculty and staff who are symptomatic should not report to work, contact their supervisors and Human Resources, and seek direction from their medical providers regarding symptomatic testing.

Booster Mandate and New Isolation and Quarantine Protocols

As I communicated on Dec. 21, booster doses will be required for all vaccinated students, faculty, and staff. Booster doses must be received within 30 days after an individual's eligibility date (2 months after Johnson & Johnson vaccine; 5 months after Pfizer vaccine; and 6 months after Moderna vaccine). *Note that only exemptions granted for the initial vaccine will be honored for the booster dose.*

The confirmed dates for Westfield State University's COVID-19 **clinics for boosters** are Wednesday, **January 12 from 12 to 4 p.m.**, and Friday, **January 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** in Room 141B in New Hall. Registration is required:

[Stop&Shop-Westfield-COVIDVaccineClinic](#)

Participants should search 01086 for the clinic not 01096 as the directions read.

If students received your booster dose, please provide proof to Health Services via email at healthservices@westfield.ma.edu. Students who received their booster dose are still required to obtain a negative result from a PCR test to return to campus for the Spring 2022 semester.

Also, the University has adopted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention revised isolation and quarantine protocols announced on Dec. 28, 2021, also recommended by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The most significant change is the reduced duration for isolation and quarantine from 10 to five days, with masks required to be worn at all times for another five days.

As part of these updated quarantine protocols, individuals identified as close contacts of positive individuals—and are either unvaccinated or eligible for a booster dose but do not yet have a booster dose—will be required to quarantine for five days. *For the spring semester, the University will continue to accommodate isolation needs for students who test positive. Individuals that are identified as close contacts needing to quarantine (unvaccinated, or eligible for the booster, but have not yet received the booster), will need to do so at an off-campus location.*

Adhering to the University's booster dose mandate will prevent faculty, staff, and students who are identified as close contacts from the need to quarantine.

New Student Orientation

Orientation for new students will be a hybrid of in-person and online sessions. New students will receive more details from orientation staff.

COVID Positives in Last 90 Days

For those students who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days, a negative PCR test is not required, but documentation of the original positive is. The positive PCR test or a positive result from a rapid test performed at an urgent care or other medical care facility can be sent to healthservices@westfield.ma.edu. A positive result from a rapid test taken at home cannot be verified, and will *not* be accepted by Health Services.