

## Spring 2022 Opening Overview

*Updated 1/14/22*

### 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.

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 has been extended to include Jan. 16-Jan. 23.

### COVID Testing Requirements Upon Return

Please note the following testing protocols that will now be implemented:

- **Symptomatic students** should stay home and test, and only return to campus if their test is negative. Those that test positive (through rapid test or PCR) should provide those results to Health Services and follow isolation instructions.
- **Unvaccinated/exempt residential students** will be required to take an antigen rapid test upon their move-in to residential halls during their registered move in date and time. Those registered to move in on Sunday, Jan. 16 and Monday, Jan. 17 should report to Room 141B in New Hall for the antigen test, while those registered to move in on Tuesday, Jan. 18 or Wednesday, Jan. 19 should report to Health Services for the antigen test. Unvaccinated residential students who test positive during Sunday-Wednesday's antigen testing will be instructed to isolate off-campus. Unvaccinated residential students who test negative Sunday-Wednesday and are allowed to move into residence halls, will still need to also participate in the University's weekly asymptomatic testing on Tuesday, Jan. 18 or Wednesday, Jan. 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Room 141B of New Hall. This means that these students will be testing two times this upcoming week (antigen rapid test and PCR).
- **Unvaccinated/exempt commuters** are required to participate in the University's weekly asymptomatic/surveillance testing on Tuesday or Wednesday, Jan. 18 or 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Room 141B in New Hall.
- **Vaccinated, asymptomatic residential students** can return to the residence halls for move-in without a confirmed negative test.
- **Vaccinated, asymptomatic commuter students** can return to the classroom, when on-ground classes resume on Monday, Jan. 24 without a confirmed negative test.
- The University will still offer optional, limited PCR testing on campus for interested students, faculty, and staff on Saturday, January 15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Room 141B in New Hall.

## **Masks and Ongoing 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 who do not have their own KN95 mask can pick up their complimentary one to start out the semester at the SAIL office window in the garden level of the Ely Campus Center.

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 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 5 months after Moderna vaccine). *Note that only exemptions granted for the initial vaccine will be honored for the booster dose.*

The upcoming date for Westfield State University's COVID-19 **clinics for boosters** is 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](mailto: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. As noted above, unvaccinated/exempt students who test positive upon move-in for the spring semester will be instructed to isolate off campus.*

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 should provide that documentation to Health Services at [healthservices@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:healthservices@westfield.ma.edu).