

AU Forward: Spring 2022 Health and Safety Plan

For a safe and productive in-person semester, American University has updated our health and safety protocols. Important measures that all community members must follow are outlined below.

Key Protocols

Masking

All students, faculty, staff, contract workers, and visitors, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated against COVID-19, are required to wear masks while indoors on university property.

Individuals are expected to wear N95 or KN95 masks to ensure the highest level of protection. KN95 masks are available to students, faculty, and staff with an AU ID at community distribution points. An updated listing of these locations and hours can be found in [COVID Guide: Mask Distribution at AU](#).

The only exceptions are when eating/drinking or alone in a private office. In residence halls, roommates in their rooms do not have to mask as the room is considered a family dwelling. It is encouraged that roommates discuss masking upon move-in.

In classrooms, students must wear masks. Faculty may unmask if there is at least 3 feet distance between them and students.

Masks are not required outdoors unless in crowded places or groups of 25 people or more.

Vaccinations

American University requires COVID-19 vaccinations for all students, faculty, staff, contractors, and visitors. AU Community members seeking an exemption for medical or religious reasons must complete the [Vaccination Exemption Form](#) located on the AU Forward Portal and receive approval before an exemption is considered final.

Boosters

All students, faculty, and staff (whether full-time or part-time, on-campus, online, or hybrid) are required to get a COVID-19 vaccine booster shot by February 10, 2022, which is one month after the start of spring classes, or 14 days after

becoming eligible for a booster. This is an extension of the [university vaccine requirement policy](#). Faculty and staff may upload updated vaccination information on the [AU Forward portal](#). Individuals with an approved exemption from the COVID-19 vaccine requirement are also exempt from the booster requirement and should continue the required testing and other safety measures.

Meetings

Priority will be given to academic research, student-related programs, alumni events, and admissions programming for in-person meetings. Regular faculty or staff business meetings are encouraged to continue online to preserve campus space for student-focused activities. Given the vaccine requirements, faculty, staff, and students can meet in small groups in offices and schools/units can use their conference rooms for team meetings using best judgments to ensure safety.

Guests and Visitors

All guests/visitors to American University, including the AU campus, university-owned or managed properties, or at an AU-sponsored event held on campus, must be fully vaccinated.

Visitors must also be prepared to present their vaccination record card or a digital copy upon arrival on the AU campus, at university-owned or managed properties, or at AU-sponsored events held on campus. All guests or visitors will follow applicable university health and safety guidelines and abide by any additional measures outlined by the event coordinator or host and all posted signage.

For more information on visitor protocols and acceptable proof of vaccination, please refer to the American University [COVID-19 Visitor Protocols](#).

Guests/visitors must check for COVID-19 symptoms prior to coming to the AU campus, a university-owned or managed property, or an AU-sponsored event held on campus and not come to the event if experiencing symptoms.

Visitation in Residence Halls

Visitors unaffiliated with AU (including family members) are not allowed in residence halls during the spring 2022 semester.

Travel

An [interim travel approval process](#) is still in place for university-authorized, sponsored, or funded travel including Study Abroad programs, timely or critically needed faculty and graduate-level research and grant-related travel, participation in dual-degree programs, travel for NCAA-sanctioned athletic competitions, admissions and recruitment activities, and individual staff travel required to carry out critical functions related to the AU mission.

The university will review travel requests and make informed decisions regarding the risks posed by travel, particularly to destinations which may not be safe due to local COVID-19 conditions. AU-authorized or sponsored travel within the DMV region (Washington, DC/Maryland/Virginia) will not be applicable to the travel approval process. Additionally, personal travel plans not related to or sponsored by AU will also be excluded from this process.

Resources

[AU Communicable Disease Policy and Associated Health Directives](#)
