
Subject: Fall 2021 Royal Return plan

Date: Monday, August 2, 2021 at 1:17:37 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Covidsafe

To: AllStudents, All-faculty-staff

Dear QueensCommunity,

It's hard to believe that summer is winding down, and our Fall semester is almost here. We're excited to welcome you back to campus, and we continue to prepare for a safer return and a great year!

As we've been doing all along, our senior leadership and COVID-19 Response Team meet regularly and continually consult with our partners at Novant Health, to stay abreast of the most recent research and public health guidance.

This work has helped prepare our [Fall 2021 Royal Return plan](#), now available on our website, with updated policies and requirements to guide our community. Even though much of it will be familiar, please take time to read through the information, so you're aware and able to commit your support to our full community effort. Here are some of the highlights:

- **Vaccinations:** Beginning with the start of the Fall 2021 semester, we will require the COVID-19 vaccine for all faculty, staff and students who will be on campus during the academic year and do not have an approved medical or religious exemption. **If you have not already submitted your vaccine record, please see the Royal Return plan for instructions.**

- **Use of face masks and social distancing:** Our masking policy will (at a minimum) follow the guidelines of the CDC and the NC Department of Health and Human Services. We will endeavor to update the campus as conditions and guidelines change. **As of July 27, 2021 – and due to Mecklenburg County being an area of high transmissions, all persons on campus, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear masks indoors unless in private residence hall rooms or offices.** Please see the Royal Return plan for additional guidelines and requirements for unvaccinated individuals and guests.

- **Testing:** Students and employees with approved exemptions from the vaccination requirement will need to be tested prior to returning to campus and regularly during the fall semester for COVID-19. We will schedule specific days for testing to be conducted on campus. Details will be provided. Once on campus, there will be weekly survey testing of samples of unvaccinated students, faculty, and staff to monitor for the presence of COVID-19 on campus and to reduce the possibility of an outbreak. Testing of vaccinated individuals may also be necessary depending on community conditions, variant spread and other risk factors that will be considered.

- **Quarantine and isolation:** Students and employees who are not feeling well should stay home or in their dorm rooms until they are able to be tested and have received their test results. For students who either test positive for COVID-19 or who are showing symptoms, a testing, tracing, isolation, and quarantine policy will also be in place to protect our campus community.

- **Academics:** We intend to return our classrooms and labs to normal density for the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semesters and most of our on-campus courses will return to in-person instruction.
- **Athletics:** Department staff and student-athletes will continue to align with the broader institutional policy for return. In addition, the NCAA Resocialization of Collegiate Sport and [South Atlantic Conference](#) policies will be followed by our athletic staff and student-athletes for competition.
- **Move-in:** For residential students in fall 2021-22, this will return to normal capacity and processes. All unvaccinated students, faculty, staff, vendors, or guests participating in move-in will be required to properly wear face masks while on-campus (both indoors and outside) and to follow physical distancing of at least six feet apart. **For specific move-in dates, please see the [Campus Life and Housing page](#) in our Royal Return plan.**

It's our goal to give you the strongest Queens experience possible. Of course, we'll monitor new developments and share any changes that arise, but we're hopeful that we can continue moving toward more normal operations.

In the meantime, enjoy these last bits of summer!

Sincerely,

COVID-19 Response Team