

**YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE**  
**Fall 2021 Public Health Protocols**  
*approved by President Van Horn 7/14/2021*

Young Harris College's Pandemic Recovery Task Force continues to monitor all local, national and international developments related to the COVID-19 pandemic and its potential impact on College programs, services, and community members. As this continues to be a fluid situation, the College reserves the right to alter its protocols at any time; any changes will be communicated to members of the campus community immediately. Nothing in this document is intended to form a guarantee or legal contract between any individual and the College.

### **Academic Calendar & Class Meetings**

The College is returning to its standard academic calendar for the fall 2021 semester. Classes will begin on 16 August, and final exams will conclude on 10 December. Classes will not meet 7-8 October for Fall Break or 22-26 November for Thanksgiving Break.

Classes delivered on-campus will be held in-person at full capacity. MAT classes will continue in their hybrid delivery format, and those Young Harris Early College classes designated as being offered via distance education will continue online.

### **Vaccines**

The College strongly encourages all members of the campus community to be vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, if they are able to do so. Rigorous studies and ongoing safety monitoring have demonstrated that all three vaccines authorized for emergency use by the FDA are safe and highly effective at decreasing the risk of moderate to severe cases of COVID-19 and of hospitalization. Vaccines approved for use outside of the United States have shown similar levels of efficacy.

Individuals are considered "fully vaccinated" two weeks after receiving a single-shot vaccine (e.g., Johnson & Johnson/Janssen) or two weeks after receiving the second shot of a two-shot vaccine (e.g., Moderna, Oxford-AstraZeneca, Pfizer/BioNTech). Individuals who are not fully vaccinated will face additional requirements and/or restrictions (see below).

### **Campus Visitors**

Prospective visitors who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 are prohibited from campus, regardless of vaccination status.

Fully vaccinated visitors who exhibit no symptoms of COVID-19 may visit campus normally. Unvaccinated visitors who exhibit no symptoms of COVID-19 are strongly encouraged to wear masks at all times when they are indoors and cannot keep a distance of at least six feet from others, or when they are outdoors and cannot keep a distance of at least three feet (arm's length).

Events that are open to the public will proceed without capacity restrictions unless required to limit attendance by local, state, or federal law, executive order, or guidance.

Current YHC students may visit campus residential facilities to which they are not officially assigned regardless of vaccination status without capacity restrictions, subject to the conditions published in the Guide to Student Life. Guests of residential students who are not current YHC students must be registered in advance of their visit with their host's RLC. Residential students may require visitors or guests to wear masks in their rooms, suites, or apartments.

Members of the local community may use the campus grounds for exercise or to walk their pets.

### **Masks & Physical Distancing**

The College uses the term “mask” to denote a face covering designed to reduce the spread of droplets and aerosols from the nose and mouth. These include medical and non-medical disposable masks, respirators (e.g., N95, KN95), and multi-layer cloth face coverings (with or without filter materials). They do not include single-layer masks or gaiters, face shields, scarves, mesh masks that do not appreciably impede the flow of droplets or aerosols, masks with exhalation valves (e.g., those designed for exercise or work in dusty environments), turtleneck shirts or sweaters pulled up over the face, or other makeshift face coverings. To be effective, a mask must be worn over the nose and mouth with minimal or no gaps around the edges.

Fully vaccinated individuals are not required to wear masks or continue physically distancing from other individuals.

Individuals who are not fully vaccinated are strongly encouraged to wear masks when they are indoors and cannot keep a distance of at least six feet from others, or when they are outdoors and cannot keep a distance of at least three feet (arm's length).

Employees may designate their offices as “mask required” spaces. To do so, a suitable sign must be placed on the office door. All participants in meetings in an office so designated are required to wear masks while in the space.

### **Daily Self-Wellness Check**

Prior to leaving their home or residential facility each day, employees and students are required to perform a daily self-wellness check in accordance with [CDC symptom guidelines](#). Current symptoms include the following:

- Fever (100.4°F/38°C or more) 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

An individual who has any of the above symptoms that are not attributable to another health condition or activity must immediately report the symptoms (see below).

### **Reporting COVID-19 Symptoms & Isolation**

Any employee or student who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 or who has received a positive COVID-19 test result must report this information to the Pandemic Recovery Task Force immediately by sending an email to [ReportCOVID@yhc.edu](mailto:ReportCOVID@yhc.edu). The on-call member of the Task Force will screen the individual reporting symptoms to determine whether the situation necessitates putting the individual in isolation.

An employee or student who is required to isolate must remain away from campus for 10 days from the date of symptom onset or from the administration date of the positive test. This period may be shortened or lengthened by a Task Force member in compliance with CDC guidance. Any individual required to isolate away from campus is prohibited from returning to campus until explicitly permitted to do so by a Task Force member. A residential student required to isolate must leave campus unless provided an exception by a Task Force member due to extenuating circumstances.

An employee in isolation may telecommute without taking leave provided the employee's health allows this and the employee's work duties permit this. An employee in isolation who cannot telecommute must take leave for any time spent in isolation.

A student in isolation is expected to communicate with all instructors as soon as possible to arrange reasonable temporary accommodations. This may include, but is not limited to, lecture capture videos, alternative assignments, a designated peer note-taker, videoconference meetings, revised due dates, and the like. The student's academic advisor will assist the student with temporary accommodations, in coordination with Success Center staff. Fully vaccinated students' absences during isolation will be administratively excused; unvaccinated students' absences during isolation will be subject to the absence policies published in course syllabi. The Office of Academic Affairs will alert all instructors when a student has been required to isolate and whether the student's absences are administratively excused.

Any individual who fails to report symptoms, fails to report a positive test result, does not abide by all isolation instructions from a Task Force member, or intentionally misrepresents one's isolation status will be subject progressive discipline (employee) or will be charged with violations of the Code of Conduct (student).

### **Reporting COVID-19 Exposure & Quarantine**

Any employee or student who has been in close contact with an individual who is presumed or confirmed to have COVID-19 must report this to the Pandemic Recovery Task Force immediately by sending an email to [ReportCOVID@yhc.edu](mailto:ReportCOVID@yhc.edu). The on-call member of the Task

Force will screen the individual reporting symptoms to determine whether the situation necessitates putting the individual in quarantine. Typically, a fully vaccinated individual who has been exposed will not be required to quarantine unless the individual is exhibiting symptoms, while an individual who is not fully vaccinated and has been exposed will be required to quarantine even without symptoms.

An employee or student who is required to quarantine must remain away from campus for 10 days from the date of close contact. This period may be shortened or lengthened by a Task Force member in compliance with CDC guidance. Any individual required to quarantine away from campus is prohibited from returning to campus until explicitly permitted to do so by a Task Force member. A residential student required to quarantine must leave campus unless provided an exception by a Task Force member due to extenuating circumstances.

An employee in quarantine may telecommute without taking leave provided the employee's work duties permit this. An employee in quarantine who cannot telecommute must take leave for any time spent in quarantine.

A student in quarantine is required to communicate with all instructors as soon as possible to arrange reasonable temporary accommodations. This may include, but is not limited to, lecture capture videos, alternative assignments, a designated peer note-taker, videoconference meetings, revised due dates, and the like. The student's academic advisor will assist the student with temporary accommodations, in coordination with Success Center staff. Fully vaccinated students' absences during quarantine will be administratively excused; unvaccinated students' absences during quarantine will be subject to the absence policies published in course syllabi. The Office of Academic Affairs will alert all instructors when a student has been required to quarantine and whether the student's absences are administratively excused.

Any individual who fails to report possible exposure, does not abide by all quarantine instructions from a Task Force member, or intentionally misrepresents one's quarantine status will be subject progressive discipline (employee) or will be charged with violations of the Code of Conduct (student).