

## **Young Harris College — Summer 2021 Public Health Protocols**

*approved by President Van Horn 5/18/2021*

Young Harris College is implementing the following public health protocols for summer 2021 (May-July), in response to low numbers of COVID-19 cases in the local area and broader region, widespread access to effective vaccines, and updated guidance from the CDC. As the pandemic is a fluid situation with daily developments, the College reserves the right to alter its protocols at any time; any changes will be communicated to the campus community. Nothing in this document is intended to form a guarantee or a legal contract between any individual and the College.

### **Vaccines**

The College strongly encourages all members of the campus community to be vaccinated 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 effective at decreasing the risk of moderate to severe cases of COVID-19 and hospitalization.

Individuals are considered “fully vaccinated” two weeks after receiving a second injection of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine or two weeks after receiving a single injection of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine.

### **Campus Visitors**

All visitors to campus must be pre-approved, individually or as a group, by the President, the Provost, or the Chief Operations Officer. Visitors who are not fully vaccinated must be screened at the beginning of their visit to campus.

Visitors are required to keep a distance of at least six feet from others while indoors and at least three feet from others while outdoors when practicable. Visitors are strongly encouraged to wear masks whenever they cannot regularly maintain these distances. Organizations responsible for contracting with the College for on-campus summer events, such as camps, may establish more restrictive protocols for their employees and participants.

Members of the local community may use the campus grounds for exercise or to walk their pets without pre-approval. Such visitors are required to keep a distance of at least three feet between themselves and others while on campus and may not enter campus buildings. Members of the local community who are not fully vaccinated are strongly encouraged to wear masks if they come within three feet of others while on campus.

### **College Employees**

Employees are encouraged to keep a distance of at least six feet from other employees while indoors and at least three feet from other employees while outdoors. Employees are required to

keep a distance of at least six feet from visitors while indoors and at least three feet from visitors while outdoors.

Employees 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. When meeting one-on-one with others, employees are required to practice professional courtesy and wear a mask if the person with whom they are meeting feels more comfortable wearing a mask. When meeting in larger groups, participants are required to maintain a distance of at least six feet from any other participants who wear masks.

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.

Employees may continue to wear masks when on campus if they feel more comfortable doing so.

## **Masks**

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 impede air flow, 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 not intended to reduce droplets and aerosols. To be effective, a mask must be worn over the nose and mouth with minimal or no gaps around the edges.