



Dear Lynx,

As we prepare for our return to campus and in-person classes next Monday, January 31, I wanted to update you on our Spring 2022 Health and Safety protocols. A reminder that residence halls will reopen for students who did not request Early Arrival on Saturday, January 29. The halls will open officially at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday for access.

Over the past few weeks, I have had the opportunity to connect with many of you and hear your feedback on protocols that would not only allow you to feel safe, but to have a successful and vibrant spring on campus.

Please take a moment to review the Spring 2022 Health & Safety Protocols:

Isolation/Quarantine Recommendations and Requirements

Student isolation and quarantine will occur in place, which means students will remain in their assigned room for the duration of the isolation/quarantine period. Faculty will provide remote access to classes for students isolating for the [CDC-required five-day period](#).

Unvaccinated roommates who need to follow a 10-day quarantine protocol due to a roommate being positive, should contact Health Services at health-forms@rhodes.edu. Health Services will issue the appropriate documentation for students to share with their faculty.

Vaccinated roommates are not restricted from class and should be tested in accordance with the protocols.

Protocol Recommendations			
	Unvaccinated	Fully Vaccinated/No Booster	Fully Vaccinated with Booster
Positive for COVID	10-day isolation protocol	5-day isolation protocol. Release from isolation on Day 6 if: it has been at least 5 days since symptoms appeared, and 24 hours since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medication, and symptoms have improved. If symptoms have not resolved, the individual will remain in isolation for an additional 5 days.	5-day isolation protocol. Release from isolation on Day 6 if: it has been at least 5 days since symptoms appeared, and 24 hours since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medication, and symptoms have improved. If symptoms have not resolved, the individual will remain in isolation for an additional 5 days.

High Risk/Close Contact Exposure	10-day isolation protocol	No restriction with testing at 48 hours and a test between days 5-7.	No restriction with testing at 48 hours and a test between days 5-7.
Minimum Requirement			
Positive for COVID	<p>5-day isolation protocol.</p> <p>Release from isolation on Day 6 if: it has been at least 5 days since symptoms appeared, and 24 hours since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medication, and symptoms have improved.</p> <p>If symptoms have not resolved, the individual will remain in isolation for an additional 5 days.</p>		
High Risk/Close Contact Exposure	No restriction with testing at 48 hours and a test between days 5-7.		

Distinguishing mild symptoms from more significant symptoms:

Significant Symptoms:

- Lingering cough
- Fever within the last 24 hours**
- Severe respiratory systems
- Lingering GI symptoms like diarrhea or vomiting
- Severe sore throat, fatigue, headache
- Body aches, chills

Mild Symptoms:

- Mild headache, mild or scratchy sore throat, mild fatigue
- Lingering loss of smell or taste
- Mild congestion (nasal)

**For the purpose of this guidance, fever is defined as subjective fever (feeling feverish) or a measured temperature of 100.0°F (37.8°C) or higher. Note that fever may be intermittent or may not be present in some people, such as those who are elderly, immunocompromised, or taking certain fever-reducing medications (e.g., nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs [NSAIDS]).

Student-Athletes will be required to follow protocols as outlined by the SAA under NCAA guidance and will receive guidance from the Coordinator of Athletic Training.

Testing

Symptomatic and high risk/close contact testing will be available through Student Health Services COVID Care Clinic. Students should email health-forms@rhodes.edu to schedule a symptomatic testing appointment.

Contact Tracing

COVID-19 positive students will be expected to communicate directly with their close contacts. We will provide direction and guidelines for how individuals should determine those contacts.

Spring 2022 Remote Access to Classes

Faculty will provide remote access for students in isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19.

- Faculty are permitted to request documentation from students (i.e. results from Student Health Services testing, off-campus testing, or an at-home test) to confirm their COVID-positive status and absence from in-person classes.
- At this time, Rhodes does not have authorization from our accreditors (SACSCOC) to offer any type of distance education outside of the terms covered by its COVID-19 waiver. For this reason, the College will allow remote accommodations to students only for COVID-related circumstances. Student remote accommodations for non-COVID-related reasons or circumstances are not permitted.

Remote Class Status

In the event that the number of sick students in any class reaches a level so as to interfere with normal in-person instruction, the faculty member may elect, on a temporary basis, to either provide remote access to isolating students or, with the approval of the Office of Academic Affairs, teach the class remotely. At this time, Rhodes does not have authorization from SACSCOC to offer any type of distance education outside of the terms covered by its COVID-19 waiver. For this reason, the College will allow remote accommodations to students only for COVID-related circumstances. Student remote accommodations for non-COVID-related reasons or circumstances are not permitted.

Faculty Illness

If a faculty member becomes sick they should consult with their chair and follow the [Faculty Illness Policy](#).

Masks

Until conditions warrant a change, masks will be required in all campus buildings regardless of vaccination status. We recommend medical grade masks, given Omicron's highly contagious nature. Masks can only be removed in private office spaces with full walls and doors or in residential rooms. For the time being, masks will be required in common spaces of all residential halls. The mask requirement will be reevaluated at the end of February.

Please see the [CDC's most recent guidance on masks](#). The White House has announced that 400 million masks will be available free of charge at pharmacies and community health centers nationwide starting next week. This initiative, the [Federal Retail Pharmacy Program](#), offers three masks per person through retailers such as CVS, Publix, and Walgreens, among others.

Return to Campus Testing

All students, regardless of vaccination status, should complete a COVID-19 test 48-72 hours prior to returning to campus. If you test positive: do not return to campus, please contact Health Services at [health-](#)

forms@rhodes.edu and plan to isolate at home.

If you have any cold, flu, or COVID-19 symptoms and you cannot obtain a test, please do not return to campus. If you test positive: do not return to campus, please contact Health Services at health-forms@rhodes.edu and plan to isolate at home.

Please refer to our Spring 2022 Return to Campus FAQ page for additional information: <https://www.rhodes.edu/coronavirus-updates>.

Asymptomatic Testing

At this time we will not be requiring regular asymptomatic testing for students, faculty and staff. We will utilize targeted asymptomatic testing as needed on campus.

Dashboard

We will no longer be updating individual cases via the COVID-19 Dashboard. Student Life and Human Resources will continue to provide follow up and coordinated care in the event individuals are extremely sick or need time beyond the standard isolation and quarantine protocols.

Student Events and Activities

The Student Life team will be working closely with students and student groups to provide activities and events on campus. If an indoor event is open to the community, we will continue to require masks, and we will reevaluate the mask requirement at the end of February. Student events and activities should be coordinated with Student Life to ensure Health & Safety protocols are being followed.

Athletic Attendance

We are anticipating a full schedule of winter and spring athletic events, and students and families will be permitted at athletic events this spring. Please stay tuned to RhodesLynx.com for updates to schedules.

Campus Operations

We are planning for the Barret Library, BCLC, Bookstore and Mailroom to resume their normal operations and hours. At this time we are planning for both in-person and to-go dining options. Please, review the campus operations information below:

- Campus dining hours can be found on [Bon Appetit's website](#).
- The Mailroom is open Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Barret Library is currently open Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. and Friday 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Hours are always available [here](#).
- The Bookstore is open Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Friday 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- The Counseling Center is operating under normal business hours and is open Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (closed 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.). Students can call (901) 843-3128 or email counseling@rhodes.edu for assistance. For additional mental health crisis information, please visit <https://sites.rhodes.edu/counselingcenter/crisis>.
- Student Health Services is operating under normal business hours and is open Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (closed 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.). Please call (901) 843-3895 or email health-forms@rhodes.edu for assistance.

- Rhodes Express is operating under normal business hours and is open Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Please call them at (901) 843-3278 or email express@rhodes.edu for assistance.
- Campus Safety is available 24/7 for assistance. Please call (901) 843-3880 or for emergencies, dial 911 and then Campus Safety at (901) 843-3333.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you back in Memphis soon. We are deeply committed to a full and vibrant spring. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Student Life team by phone at (901) 843-3815 or by email at studentlife@rhodes.edu.

Best,

-mhw

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Vice President for Student Life



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