



APPALACHIAN

COLLEGE *of* PHARMACY

Fall 2021 Covid-19 Mitigation Plan

Revised: August 2, 2021

Academic Calendar

The Fall 2021 Academic Calendar has been completed with didactic classes set to begin on August 2, 2021.

Course Delivery Plan

During the Fall 2021 semester, courses at ACP are planned to take place in-person on a normal schedule. All classes will be designed with a contingency to move online in short order should the College have to curtail normal operations due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Students, Faculty and Staff will be on campus. Virtual meetings will be encouraged but not required with most meetings to be conducted in a hybrid format.

With respect to experiential education, students must complete the College's "Assumption of Risk Notice" form (see Appendix) prior to experiential rotations. Any delays (voluntary or involuntary) in completing ACPE accreditation requirements for clinical rotations may delay a student's graduation and eligibility to sit for the NAPLEX and MPJE exams.

Current Guidance and Resources

The latest resources, recommendations and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) will be utilized to keep this plan current. The plan will be modified as needed based on changing viral trends (spikes, surges, new variants, etc.) and best practices will be updated and communicated as additional guidelines are made available.

Recommendations are based on guidance from the following:

- [VDH "VDH Guidance for Institutions of Higher Learning"](#)
- [CDC Guidance for "Colleges, Universities, and Higher Learning"](#)
- [CDC Guidance "Considerations for Institutions of Higher Education"](#)
- [CDC Guidance for "Colleges, Universities, and Higher Learning"](#)

- [CDC Guidance “Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes”](#)

Plan for Monitoring Health Conditions to Detect Infection

COVID-19 Team:

The College has established a COVID-19 coordinator and campus team to assist with the organizational response to COVID-19. This team will work closely with the local Virginia Department of Health (VDH) regarding reporting cases and outbreaks, the management of outbreaks, as well as decisions such as campus shutdown if necessary.

Appalachian College of Pharmacy COVID-19 Team:

Ed Talbott, Coordinator	Susan Mayhew	Michael Deel
Ted Hagen	Holli Harman	Marcy Hernick
Michael Justice	Wade McGeorge	Angie Mutter

Local Health department: Buchanan County is part of the Cumberland Plateau Health District. The Buchanan County Health Department is located at 1051 Rosebud RD, Grundy, VA 24614, and if needed can be reached by phone ([276-935-4591](tel:276-935-4591)).

Screening / Symptoms Questionnaire:

- Temperature checks will be taken for students, employees, contractors, vendors and visitors entering campus facilities. Anyone with a temperature reading over 100.4°F will be sent home. Positive screens will be reviewed by a COVID-19 Team member to determine if isolation, quarantine, or testing is required prior to returning to campus.
- All students, employees and visitors are instructed on how to self-monitor for Covid-19 symptoms. If any symptoms are detected, they will be asked to complete a COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire prior to entering campus facilities. Anyone answering “yes” to an item on the screening form will be questioned by a COVID-19 Team member to determine if isolation, quarantine or testing is needed prior to returning to campus.
- It is considered best practice to encourage students and employees to routinely self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Anyone with a fever or symptoms should not report to work or school.
 - Temperature checks will be implemented for students, employees, and visitors using no-contact thermometers prior to entering a campus building. Anyone with a temperature over 100.4°F will be sent home.
 - Resources for anyone with COVID symptoms:
 - [CDC: Symptoms of Coronavirus](#)
 - Employees and students are instructed to contact their PCP if they think they are having symptoms.

- Students on experiential rotations must follow all federal, state, and institutional policies pertaining to COVID-19. These may include limited travel, self-isolation, COVID-19 testing, providing own PPE, and submitting to daily screenings which may include temperature checks and questionnaires. If you feel sick or come in contact with anyone who has tested positive we ask you to notify your preceptor immediately.

Covid-19 Testing:

- All students upon their return/arrival to campus will be tested utilizing the Abbott BinaxNOW Covid-19 Antigen Rapid Test.
 - subsequent testing will be scheduled based on the vaccination status of the student, exposure risk (health fair events, vaccination clinics, etc.), testing required by experiential sites (nursing homes, hospitals, etc.), and on a random schedule as deemed appropriate by the college.
- Employees and students should contact their primary care provider or local health department and inform the college COVID-19 Coordinator if they experience any symptoms of COVID-19.

Plan for Community Mitigation Strategies

Educate College Community

This campaign is coordinated through the COVID-19 campus team. A training session will be provided to all employees remotely through SafeColleges on: Coronavirus Awareness, Coronavirus: Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Work Environment, and Coronavirus: Managing Stress and Anxiety. An anti-stigma training session will also be provided. Training sessions will be provided by the COVID19 Coordinator and Team to incoming students during their first week on campus and will also include anti-stigma training.

Various posters and signage will be posted in buildings on campus to help mitigate COVID-19.

Physical Distancing Practices

- **Facilities:**
 - ACP is aligned with the [Governor's Executive Order 79](#), which relaxed all distancing and capacity restrictions and removed all limits on gathering sizes.
 - Workstations and classroom seating will be designed to allow for physical distancing.
 - Students will have required seating arrangements and tracking of in-person attendance to facilitate contact tracing in the event of an exposure.
 - Staggered class schedules (see below) will be used to minimize crowding at entrances and exits.

	P1 Students	P2 Students
Arrive / Temp Checks	8:20-8:30 AM	8:50-9:00 AM
Class 1	8:30-11:30 AM	9:00-12:00 PM
Lunch	11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Class 2	12:30 PM - 3:30 PM	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Depart	3:30 PM	4:00 PM (if no evening course)
Evening Course	N/A	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Depart		6:00 PM

- ACP will utilize virtual group events, gatherings and meetings when appropriate.
 - ACP will provide student support services virtually when appropriate
- **On Campus Study:**
 - Students may be allowed to study on campus in designated areas [multi-purpose room, classrooms, breakout rooms, student lounge and computer lab] in the evenings until 10:00 p.m.. Tutors may provide academic support to students in designated areas and during designated times.
- **Exercise Facilities:**
 - Student use of indoor exercise equipment and weight machines will be opened in mid August 2021
 - 6-foot distancing must be maintained and all equipment and equipment and weights must be cleaned with alcohol or bleach wipes after each use
 - the gym floor space will be open for walking, yoga and other non-contact sports as long as social distancing is maintained
 - contact sports such as basketball and volleyball are not allowed
 - Employees may use the employee exercise room; however, this will be limited to one person at a time and any used equipment must be disinfected before and after use.

Visitors

- Visitation to campus is discouraged unless invited for a specific and necessary reason
- Security will be notified of expected visitor(s).
- Visitors that have been invited should be notified in advance of the ACP face-covering policy and should communicate on the day of arrival the answers to COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire and obtain a temperature prior to entering campus facilities.
- Security can provide visitors with face covering, if needed.
- Visitors will be asked to leave if they have a temperature of over 100.4°F.
- Visitors will be questioned by a member of the COVID-19 Team if they have a response of “yes” for any item on the COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire.

Masks / Face Coverings:

- Due to the rapid increase of Delta variant Covid-19 cases in Southwest Virginia, masks will be required in all indoor settings on the ACP campus regardless of vaccination status. This is in alignment with current CDC and Virginia Department of Health recommendations. We will reevaluate this policy once we determine the percentage of vaccinated students in the incoming P1 class as well as noting a decrease in local Covid-19 cases.
- Those who are unvaccinated are strongly encouraged to make an appointment for vaccination unless there is a medical or religious exemption.
- ACP supports and encourages anyone, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a mask to protect themselves and also to help mitigate the spread of Covid-19.
- All students and employees will be provided cloth face coverings. Individuals should not touch the face covering and should wash their hands frequently.
 - Cloth face coverings are an effective tool to protect against the spread of the virus, especially by asymptomatic individuals.

Hygiene Practices:

- It is recommended that employees and students frequently use handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used.
- Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of your elbow. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use of shared objects (e.g., lab equipment, desks) should be limited when possible, or cleaned between uses. Wipes will be provided.
- All students and staff are provided their own laptops and/or desktop computer, which minimizes shared objects. Students, faculty, and staff should keep their personal items (e.g., cell phones, other electronics) and personal work and living spaces clean.

Facility Cleaning:

- ACP remains committed to maintaining the highest standards of cleanliness throughout the campus. The college employs a consistent, thorough, and deliberate cleaning process.
- Follow [CDC Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection](#) and use an EPA-approved disinfectant to clean.
- Additional hand sanitizer stations will be placed in high-traffic areas and at entrances/exits.
- Faculty and staff will be responsible for cleaning their office (wipes will be provided) and should place trash outside their office door for pickup.
- The Business office is responsible for ensuring that there is an adequate supply of cleaning supplies and face coverings.

Housing

- The Appalachian College of Pharmacy does not have student housing.

International Student, Faculty, and Staff Considerations

- All new or returning international travelers should refer to CDC returning travelers guidelines and review the CDCs "[Travelers Prohibited from Entry to the US](#)".
- Existing international students, faculty, and staff currently in the US who are considering travel to their home countries should review global travel restrictions as noted by the US State Department and CDC.
- Before returning to campus, those traveling will be required to contact the COVID-19 Coordinator to determine whether any measures may be required to help safeguard our campus community. Depending on the nature of travel and status of the pandemic at the locations and time of travel, there may be testing or quarantine requirements before returning to campus.
- Those contemplating travel with subsequent return to the US must seriously consider:
 - Current COVID-19 travel health risks and the possibility of significant unexpected changes in risks during their travels.
 - Potential for abrupt disruption, cancellation, or other serious complications of planned return to the US due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Rapidly changeable re-entry restrictions (including at any intermediate points in itinerary).

Communications

- The COVID-19 Team is responsible for the development of communications related to COVID-19.
- The COVID-19 Coordinator will communicate to the community via website and email.

Student Health Services

- Student health services are available through several of the community health partners of the college such as Appalachian Family Care Clinic, Town Center Urgent Care Clinic, and Buchanan General Hospital and their primary care clinics.

Travel

- College-related travel will be strictly limited to essential travel, regardless of whether the college is paying for it. Permission for all college-related travel must be approved by the Dean. Requests for such travel should include an explanation of why the travel is essential, the dates, destinations, transportation plans and lodging involved in the trip, as well as the steps that will be taken to maximize physical distance and to adhere to CDC guidelines and local health recommendations at the destination.
- Before returning to campus after approved travel, those traveling will be required to contact the COVID-19 Coordinator to determine whether any measures may be required to help safeguard our campus community. Please be aware that depending on the nature of any approved travel, there could be testing or quarantine requirements either

upon arrival at the destination or upon return, depending on the status of the pandemic at the time of travel.

Surveillance and Containment to Prevent Spread of Disease Once Detected

- COVID-19 surveillance and contact tracing will be carried out by the local Virginia Department of Health (VDH), a long-standing partner of the college. The college will follow the guidance provided by the local health department and its director.
- In the event that multiple cases of COVID-19 are found on campus, the college's COVID-19 Team will collaborate closely with the local health department to use the aggregate surveillance data to make informed decisions regarding the need to reduce activity on campus and transition to remote learning. Again, the college will follow guidance provided by the local department of health.
- Infected individuals will be required to quarantine and self-isolate under the surveillance of the local health department until they are cleared to return to campus following a negative COVID-19 test and/or meeting time/symptom based strategies specified by the Virginia Department of Health.
- Students and Employees who are **fully vaccinated** or has had a documented illness with Covid-19 in the past 3 months and have not symptoms do not need to quarantine after contact with someone who has Covid-19 unless they develop symptoms
 - however, fully vaccinated people should be tested 3-5 days after exposure, even if they don't have symptoms and wear a mask indoors for 14 days following exposure or until their test is negative
- **Unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated** employees and students who meet any of the following exposure risks will be required to self-isolate and obtain a COVID-19 test.
 - close contact (living with, caring for, being within 6 feet of for at least 15 minutes) with a person who has COVID-19
 - notification of potential exposure by a contract tracer from the health department
 - after answering "Yes" to any of the daily symptom-based questions on the [ACP COVID-19 Self-Assessment Form](#) and it was determined by a member of the COVID-19 Team that testing and quarantine would be required
- The employee or student will be allowed back on campus when:
 - If test is Positive:
 - at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared or if you never developed symptoms then at least 10 days have passed since the first positive test
 - **and** at least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication
 - **and** if you developed symptoms, those symptoms have improved*
 - *Note: loss of taste or smell might persist for weeks or months and this should not delay the end of isolation.

- If test is Negative:
 - if identified as a close contact potential exposure:
 - continue quarantine for 14 days per [VDH Guidance for Students on College Campuses](#)
 - If a household contact: Self-quarantine (stay home) and monitor for symptoms for 14 days **after** the person infected with COVID-19 has been released from isolation.
 - if you were tested due to symptoms only:
 - provide documentation of negative COVID-19 test to ACP **and**
 - a determination of required additional testing or self-isolation will be made by a member of the COVID-19 Team before returning to campus
- Local care for infected individuals can be provided by health partners of the college such as Appalachian Family Care Clinic, Buchanan General Hospital and its associated clinics, or Clinch Valley Hospital.

Reduced Activity and Shutdown Considerations

The College is prepared to reduce activity on campus and transition to remote learning and work under the following conditions:

- Executive Order by the Governor of Virginia
- Recommendation of Virginia Department of Health due to local increase in number of cases.

The “Reduced Activity” plan below aligns with the plan the college implemented in March 2020.

- Transition to remote learning for students.
- Transition to remote work for most faculty and staff.
- Continue essential employees on campus in accordance with the college’s aforementioned disease mitigation strategies (e.g. screening, hygiene, and social distancing expectations).
- Rotate college administrators on campus as directed by the ACP President or Dean.

Subsequent Updates to Covid Plan:

This information will be communicated by the COVID-19 Team via email and the intranet. ACP will share updates on any related changes and as state directives are updated, ACP will review and align, as appropriate, with state and federal guidelines.

Appendix

Assumption of Risk Notice

Appalachian College of Pharmacy

This notice is an important legal document regarding the risks you assume should you choose to continue participation in clinical rotations during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. It is important that you read and understand this notice completely. You may seek medical advice and legal advice prior to signing this form.

Your continued participation in clinical rotations during the Coronavirus pandemic presents a risk of infection with Coronavirus (COVID-19).

You may choose to continue participation in clinical rotations or choose to postpone completing clinical rotation site requirements until risk levels from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic decrease.

You are advised to consider the risk of possible infection with Coronavirus (COVID-19), the risk of illness or possible death from Coronavirus (COVID-19), and the available treatment options.

"Reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death for confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases. The following symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.*

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

*[*This is based on what has been seen previously as the incubation period of MERS-CoV viruses.](#)*

If you choose to postpone completion of clinical rotation site requirements until risk levels from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic decrease, then your graduation and eligibility to sit for the NAPLEX and MPJE exams will be delayed. ACPE has informed the college that the required experiential components of the 300 IPPE and 1440 APPE hours cannot be waived as these have licensing implications. Should you choose to continue participation in clinical rotations, then you acknowledge that you understand the risk of infection with Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the risk of illness and possible death from Coronavirus (COVID-19). Should you choose to continue participation in clinical rotations you voluntarily agree to assume the risk of infection for Coronavirus (COVID-19).

After carefully evaluating the risks of completing your clinical rotation requirements during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, please indicate one of the choices below.

Option 1 - Discontinue Clinical Rotations Until After Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

I, _____, choose not to continue participation in clinical rotations during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. I acknowledge and agree that by choosing to discontinue my participation in clinical rotations that fulfilling the ACPE accreditation requirements for clinical rotations will be delayed and that my graduation and eligibility to sit for the NAPLEX and MPJE exams will be delayed.

Participant's signature

Date

Please print name

Option 2 - Informed Consent and Assumption of Risk to Continue Clinical Rotation

I, _____, voluntarily choose to continue my participation in clinical rotations. I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I UNDERSTAND THE RISK OF INFECTION WITH CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) AND I VOLUNTARILY ASSUME THE RISK OF INFECTION WITH CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) WITH ANY RESULTING ILLNESS AND POSSIBLE DEATH.

Participant's signature

Date

Please print name