



The Return of the Flock

Important Information Regarding Students' Return to Campus

Dear Students,

Please read below for some updated information regarding the return to campus.

Student Return – Expanded Arrival Window

We are expanding the arrival window for students to return to campus, so that all students may begin to return to their campus housing starting Jan. 18 and up through Jan. 23. Additionally, we are asking all students to please make an appointment (see below for more information on that process) for their gateway test, as opposed to students doing walk-ups at the test site upon arrival.

We are making this adjustment in order to spread out the student return, which will reduce congestion and long wait times at the test site as well as congestion within the residence halls.

Here's what you need to know about this:

- Meal plans will be active on 1/18, so students who do opt to return a few days early will be able to resume meals with their existing meal plan right away.
- **We are NOT expecting anyone to rearrange or reschedule existing travel plans.** If you have a flight booked, don't change it. If you have family or friends helping and they can only do so on the weekend, keep your original arrival plans in place.
- We request that **no more than two helpers** arrive with a student to move in their things.
- Masks will be required at **all times during move-in.**
- You will be able to sign up for your gateway test appointment [in the Housing Portal](#) - the sign-up will be available beginning 9 AM on Wednesday 1/12.

The objective in expanding the move-in window is to ease congestion, so we are requesting that any students who have the ability to be flexible with their arrival time please consider arriving during the week, as we know that Saturday 1/22 and Sunday 1/23 will be our high traffic days. We will do our best to move everyone through gateway testing as quickly as we can, but students should still be prepared for longer wait times if arriving over the weekend.

Gateway Testing – Additional Information

As noted above, all students **must make an appointment for their gateway test** for the spring semester. You can use [this link](#) to access the Housing Portal where you will select a date and time. The gateway test sign-up will be active in the portal starting Wed. 1/12 at 9 AM.

Here's what you need to know about gateway testing:

- The testing site will be open from 9 AM to 4 PM throughout the entire move-in time period (1/18 – 1/23)
- If your travel arrangements are such that you will arrive to campus after 4 PM, please schedule your gateway test for the soonest possible time available on the following day.



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- If you begin to experience any COVID symptoms after arrival but prior to your test, please contact the Quarantine & Isolation Coordinator on duty at 443-480-1196.
- If you already have an appointment set up because you were considered an early arrival, you DO NOT need to reschedule your test via the sign-up in the Housing Portal. Please just keep your original appointment time and/or follow the instructions for scheduling your test provided to you by your supervisor.
- If you live off-campus, please schedule an appointment between 1/18 and 1/21 (if you are back in town). We anticipate higher volumes on Saturday and Sunday, so having off-campus students complete the testing before the weekend will help cut down on some of that congestion.
- We are aware that some students may have recently recovered from COVID and may be more likely to test positive. The rapid antigen test that we use for gateway testing is unlikely to return a positive result for someone who has fully recovered (versus the PCR test), but any student who has tested positive in the last 30 days should also have documentation of their previous positive test with them.
- Due to lengthy delays in receiving results from send-out PCR tests, the rapid antigen is the only test that will be administered. If it is positive, that individual is considered to be COVID-positive.
- Students who are COVID-positive and able to return home will be asked to do so until they have satisfied the isolation requirements. If a student is not within driving distance, they will be placed in Isolation housing on campus.

Before You Arrive

As we look to your return to campus, it's important to note the critical role you can play right now in determining how successful we are at resuming our mostly-normal operations. We strongly encourage you to consider your activities in this time period before your return to campus. Consider skipping large, crowded events; be diligent about wearing your mask indoors; and stay away from anyone who is showing cold or flu-like symptoms or had a recent exposure.

If you are feeling at all unwell, please get tested before arriving on campus and delay your return until you feel better.

If you have had a recent close contact exposure, please get tested before you return. (Gateway testing will still be required upon arrival.)

If you just want to improve your chances of not finding out you are COVID-positive upon arrival (and having to isolate) and have easy access to get tested, please do so!

We appreciate your assistance with these changes, and please let us know if you have any questions.

We look forward to welcoming you back to campus!