

RADFORD
UNIVERSITY

COVID-19 Working Group

**SPRING 2022 SEMESTER
OPERATIONAL PLAN**

Executive Summary



As news of a novel coronavirus swept across the world in early 2020, Radford University worked quickly to implement fully virtual learning and operating systems. After spring break in March 2020, faculty, staff and students finished the semester away from campus. This allowed sufficient time to assimilate guidance from world and national health experts. On July 27, 2020, with health and safety protocols in place, the Highlander family returned to campus and successfully completed the 2020-2021 academic year in person.

As conditions began to improve in Summer 2021, Radford lifted some of the more sweeping protocols including physical distancing, revised room capacities, dedicated entrances and exits, two-person elevator limit, and enhanced cleaning and disinfection protocols. At the beginning of the Fall 2021 semester, the visitor registration process was discontinued. However, RUC's protocols remained somewhat stricter due to the campus location in Community Hospital. As this semester progresses and the pandemic shifts, Radford University will continue to make positive strides to return to normal "pre-COVID" processes. Plans for Winter Commencement are well underway and details will be available soon. We are excited to celebrate the achievements of our students with their families and friends.

As we have been doing throughout the pandemic, we will continue to closely monitor guidance from the Center for Disease Control, Virginia Department of Health, Commonwealth of VA and other agencies regarding needed protocols. The health and safety of our community and its members remains at the core of each decision made.

Academic Calendar

With our community's continued commitment and dedication to the health and safety of its members as demonstrated through our COVID-19 vaccination rates – we will observe the Spring 2022 semester as previously published, including the opportunity for our students to enjoy a week-long Spring Break.

Spring 2022 Calendar

- Thursday, Jan. 13 – Sunday, Jan. 16, 2022: Move-in
- Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022: Spring Classes Begin
- Monday, Jan. 24, 2022: Last day for Undergraduate to drop/add
- Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022: Last day to change Pass/Fail or Audit options; Last day grad students to drop/add; last day for grad students to register for graduation; census date and last day to withdraw with a full tuition refund
- March 5 – March 13, 2022: Spring Break
- Friday, March 18, 2022: Mid-Semester grades due by 10 a.m.
- Friday, April 1, 2022: Last day to withdraw from One or more (but not all) classes with a grade of "W"
- Friday, April 15, 2022: Last Day to withdraw from University (all classes) with a grade of "W"
- Friday, April 29, 2022: Last Day of Classes
- May 2 – May 5, 2022: Spring Exams
- Friday, May 6, 2022: Main Campus Graduate Degree Conferral and Spring Commencement Ceremony
- Saturday, May 7, 2022: Main Campus Undergraduate Degree Conferral and Spring Commencement Ceremony

- Sunday, May 8, 2022: Radford University Carilion (RUC) Undergraduate and Graduate Degree Conferral and Spring Commencement Ceremony
 - Monday, May 9, 2022: Grades Due by 10 a.m.
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Health and Safety Protocols

At the time this document is published, health and safety protocols outlined are in accordance with CDC, VDH or Commonwealth of Virginia recommendations and requirements. As recommendations and/or requirements change, the University will review, consider and adjust as necessary or appropriate for our community to ensure health and safety.

The following will remain in effect:

- COVID-19 vaccine requirement for students learning, living and engaging in-person on-campus or through an external placement. Students enrolled in a fully online program (no in-person engagement or physical presence on campus at any point) are exempt. Medical and religious exemptions may be requested. Vaccination documentation or medical or religious exemption request can be uploaded via a secure Medica website at <https://radford.medicatconnect.com> or emailed to healthrecords@radford.edu. Students not fully vaccinated will be required to participate in regular COVID-19 testing. Currently, participation in entry and weekly testing is required for partially or unvaccinated students.
- COVID-19 vaccine requirement for employees as outlined in Governor Northam's Executive Directive Number Eighteen – Ensuring a Safe Workplace. Per this Executive Directive employees must disclose their COVID-19 vaccination status. Employees must complete the [Employee Vaccination Status Form](#) regardless of vaccination status. If fully vaccinated, you will be prompted to upload a copy of the front of your vaccination card. Employees not fully vaccinated or who do not disclose their vaccination status, must participate in weekly COVID-19 testing.

Daily Symptom Tracker

- Partially and unvaccinated students and employees are still required to complete the symptom tracker daily.
- Fully vaccinated students and employees are not required to complete the daily tracker, but it remains available as optional resource.

Visitor Check-in Process at RUC

Because of its clinical setting, RUC still requires visitors in check in before proceeding past the lobby area.

Masking

The CDC recommends indoor masking, regardless of vaccination status in areas of substantial or high rates of transmission of COVID-19. On August 16, 2021, the University implemented a temporary requirement for face masks to be worn in indoor spaces regardless of vaccine status. This includes classrooms, common spaces, dining areas unless someone is eating, or other indoor areas where multiple people can gather or engage. Area COVID-19 transmission rates are reviewed weekly.

Additional Considerations

Athletics

Radford University athletic teams will engage in practice and competitive play in accordance with NCAA and Big South Conference requirements

Student Health Services

Consistent with Fall 2021, staff will make any necessary adjustments to processes and staffing based on student needs and utilization. Staffing is dependent upon availability.

Travel

For the Spring 2022 semester, students, faculty and staff must follow current University travel policy for University-related or sponsored travel:

- The CDC encourages partially and unvaccinated people to delay travel until fully vaccinated unless absolutely necessary. Should travel be necessary the University strongly encourages adherence to both [CDC considerations](#) and [VDH guidance](#).
- Travel should follow CDC guidance depending upon destination/location including recommended testing and/or quarantine.

Student Move-In

- For Spring 2022, students will return to residence halls, apartments and University-leased housing over a period of four (4) days, utilizing a structured process. (Thursday, January 13 – Sunday, January 16, 2022)
- Details regarding process and logistics will be distributed by the Division of Student Affairs by November 16, 2021.
- Partially and unvaccinated students identified to participate in entry testing will be required to comply in order to gain access to their on-campus residence hall or University-owned and operated off-campus apartment.

COVID-19 Entry Testing

- Students who are partially or unvaccinated will be required to participate in entry testing upon return to campus and/or the area.
- Identified students will be notified by the Division of Student Affairs by no later than January 5, 2022.
- Main Campus entry testing available Thursday, January 13-Sunday, January 16, 2022, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. in Young Hall.
- RUC entry testing will be available Saturday, January 15, 2022, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the third floor Boardroom of campus (Community Hospital).
- Partially or unvaccinated students must have a negative test prior to attending in-person classes.
- Students identified for entry testing who have been fully vaccinated can provide their vaccine card to eliminate the testing requirement. Vaccination documentation or medical or religious exemption request can be uploaded via a secure Mediat website at <https://radford.medicatconnect.com> or emailed to healthrecords@radford.edu.
- Students identified for entry testing who have not been vaccinated, but are interested in receiving a vaccine, should contact the Dean of Students Office prior to their arrival on campus or in the local area.

Quarantine and Isolation Housing

- For Spring 2022 the University will offer quarantine and isolation housing for main campus students living in on-campus residence halls and RUC students living in University-leased housing.
- For main campus, such housing will be available at an off-campus location.
- For RUC, such housing will be available in the Patrick Henry.
- All quarantine and isolation housing needs will be administered by the Dean of Students Office.

COVID-19 Weekly Testing

- Students, faculty and staff interested in COVID-19 testing will have access on a weekly basis.
- Students, faculty and staff required to participate in weekly COVID-19 testing will have access.

Testing Locations and Times:

Main Campus

Location: Young Hall

Schedule:

- Monday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Tuesday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Wednesday, 3-6 p.m.
- Spring Break: Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., and Wednesday, March 9, 2022, 4-6 p.m.

RUC

Location: Third floor Boardroom on campus (Community Hospital)

Schedule:

- First and third Wednesday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Second and fourth Thursday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Spring Break: Wednesday, March 9, 2022, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Additional Procedures

- Symptomatic students on main campus should contact Student Health at 540-831-5111.
- Symptomatic students at RUC should contact the Nurse Navigator at 540-795-3273.
- Symptomatic faculty and staff should contact their healthcare provider.

On the Website: COVID-19 Planning and Updates and Frequently Asked Questions.

“[Frequently Asked Questions](#)” provides answers to commonly asked questions related to the pandemic. Remember that many answers provide general guidance and an individual’s COVID-19 vaccine or booster process unique circumstances may necessitate adjustments or different approach.

Students seeking specific guidance should contact the Dean of Students Office at dos-web@radford.edu or 540-831-6297.

Employees with questions based upon personal circumstances should contact [Human Resources](#) at 540-831-5008.



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