



COVID-19 2021-2022 FAQs

Updated Aug. 13, 2021

Chatham Hall is grateful to our community members for your collective commitment to safeguarding yourself and your families against COVID-19. Vaccination is our greatest defense against the pandemic, and the surest way to allow all of us to enjoy the benefits of being in community. Still, we realize the Delta variant that now sweeps through the nation is a concern to even the vaccinated and we are and will be taking precautions. Below you will find answers to frequently asked questions related to COVID protocols (and easements) for the 2021-2022 school year.

Please be advised that any answer is subject to change at any time depending on pandemic activity, guidance from the CDC and/or our local health officials, federal and state regulations, etc. Director of the Health Care Center [Lynne Shelton](#) may be contacted for questions regarding COVID-19 processes and procedures. If and when any changes are made, they will be communicated by the Dean of Students' Office via email.

Vaccinations

Is proof of vaccination required of students?

Yes. Proof of vaccination is required of students before arrival on campus. Students will be sent home if these documents are not provided prior to arrival. International students who are not eligible for vaccinations in their home country will be vaccinated within 48 hours of arrival. We welcome and encourage international students who are not yet eligible for vaccination in their home country to arrive on Aug. 25, if possible. Unvaccinated students will engage in a modified quarantine until two weeks from the first vaccination dose. Families must share proof of vaccination and other medical information with Director of the Health Care Center Lynne Shelton before arriving on campus.

Is proof of vaccination required of all employees?

Yes, vaccination and proof of vaccination will be required for all employees who do not qualify for a medical or religious exemption. Director of the Health Care Center Lynne Shelton will be in touch with employees still requiring vaccinations. We expect that every employee will have at least a first dose of vaccination by the end of August. We are proud that 95% of employees were vaccinated by the end of the last school year.



Masks

When will masks be required?

On the order of the Virginia State Health Commissioner as of Aug. 12, 2021, all individuals aged two and older must wear a mask indoors at public and private K-12 schools in Virginia. All Chatham Hall students, employees, and visitors must be masked indoors. Students may remove their masks on dorm in their rooms.

Masks will be required of everyone, regardless of vaccination status, during Matriculation and Move In Days. Masks will not be required outdoors during these times.

Temperature Checks

Will there be daily temperature checks for students this year?

No.

Will there be daily temperature checks for adults?

No.

COVID-19 Testing

Will there be testing at the start of the school year?

Yes. All students and employees regardless of vaccination status will be tested at the start of the school year to ensure Chatham Hall knows if COVID-19 is present at the beginning of the year. Everyone will then be tested a second time a week after the first set of results is returned.

Will there be testing throughout the school year?

Yes. Unvaccinated students and employees will be tested on a regular basis throughout the year unless their vaccinations status changes. They will be contacted by Director of the Health Care Center Lynne Shelton. Any other COVID-19 tests will be administered as recommended by local public health officials and/or as the director of the health care center deems necessary. We will also have random testing similar to last school year for all employees and students to help us with tracing and keeping the community safe.

Positive COVID-19 Tests & Quarantining Procedures

Where will students quarantine if they test positive for COVID-19?

If any student tests positive for COVID-19, they will be quarantined in the Health Care



Center. Similar to last year, if the student lives within 300 miles of Chatham Hall, she will be quarantined at the Health Care Center until parents/guardians can bring her home.

How long is a quarantine following a positive COVID-19 test?

Chatham Hall follows the guidance of local public health officials regarding quarantining, which is currently a quarantine of 14 days from the date of the positive COVID-19 test. Director of the Health Care Center Lynne Shelton is the point of contact regarding quarantining procedures, and, just like last year, should be contacted immediately following a positive COVID-19 test.

Social Distancing & Campus Facilities

Will there be social distancing in classrooms?

In general no, but those unvaccinated students securing the vaccine upon arrival at school will need to practice distancing in classrooms until two weeks following the first dose of vaccination.

Will we be eating in Yardley Dining Hall this year?

Yes, following a period of boxed meals that is expected to end on Sept. 1 when all community COVID-19 test results will be returned. During this initial period, unvaccinated students will eat in Van Voorhis Lecture Hall (Dutch) together as a "pod." When the Dean of Students' Office notifies the community, full dining in Yardley will begin with food served by Meriwether-Godsey. We cannot wait!

Will there be social distancing in Yardley?

No. Tables will be limited to eight seats, but it is expected that everyone will dine together in Yardley for meals. Take away meals will not be offered once meals in Yardley have begun.

Will Yardley food include self-service options again?

Yes, self-serve options will be available in Yardley, though may be served by Meriwether-Godsey for a period of time.

Will there be staggered times for students to line up for dinner when meals in Yardley begin?

No, everyone may begin to line up at 6:00 p.m.



Will there be social distancing in the Chapel?

Once the Dean of Students' Office has notified the community that we will all gather in St. Mary's Chapel, we do not expect there to be social distancing, but masks will be required. We hope to be singing in some capacity, but that needs to be confirmed. Until that time, Chapels will take place outside.

Will there be social distancing in student areas such as the Fitness Room, Niche, and Student Kitchen?

No.

Will Assemblies be in the Well?

Once the Dean of Students' Office has notified the community, we will all gather for Assemblies in the Well. Until that time, Assemblies will take place outside in front of Pruden.

Will we have outdoor Convocation this year?

Yes. Convocation will only be open to students, faculty, and staff.

Will buses and vans have any passenger restrictions?

All buses and vans may seat the maximum number of allowed passengers. Masks will be required.

Will HALO machines be used throughout campus?

Yes. The schedule may be weekly, biweekly, or monthly.

Will there be hourly disinfecting of campus facilities?

No. Housekeeping will be cleaning twice a day in addition to any HALO treatments.

Life On Dorm

Will there be any restrictions on dorm foot traffic patterns?

No.

Will there be restrictions on hall and room movements for students?

No, with the exception of unvaccinated students "podding" at the start of the year until two weeks from the first dose of vaccination. These students will only be able to unmask in their rooms and around other students in the "pod."



Will students be allowed into other dorm rooms and to have sleepovers?

Yes, students will be allowed into other dorm rooms. We are expecting sleepovers to be possible as long as our community remains healthy. The Dean of Students' Office will communicate this when it becomes permitted.

Will day students be permitted on dorm?

Yes. They must be masked at all times.

Will there be assigned showers on dorm?

No.

Will there be recycling on dorm?

Yes.

Afternoon Activities

Will Chatham Hall athletic teams compete against other schools this year?

Yes, Chatham Hall will compete in interscholastic athletics with other boarding and VISAA schools. The Athletics Department is coordinating with schools to schedule safe competition following all VISAA safety standards.

Will there be any COVID-19 specific regulations related to athletics?

Yes, similar to last year, COVID-19 specific procedures will be determined by the director of athletics in accordance with VISAA guidelines.

Will families and friends be able to attend sporting events, concerts, performances, etc.?

Yes. Chatham Hall will minimally be guided by VISAA guidelines such as their current directive that all visitors must be masked while indoors regardless of vaccination status.

Visitors to Campus

Will family members and friends be allowed to visit campus?

Yes, according to the processes and procedures of the Dean of Students' Office. Similar to pre-COVID, closed weekends will occur for the first three weeks of the school year. We anticipate the first open weekend to start Friday, Sept. 24.

Will visitors to campus be required to wear masks?

All visitors must wear masks while indoors in any building.



Will food deliveries be allowed for students?

Yes. Security will look over deliveries at their discretion. As per last year's processes, all deliveries must be contactless.

Weekend & Advisory Activities

Will we have off campus weekend activities this year?

Yes, as determined by the Dean of Students' Office. The nature of these activities will be guided by the priority of maintaining the health and safety of the community.

Will Chatham Hall host mixers this year?

Yes, we hope to hold mixers/gatherings with other schools, but this will not begin until well into the school year and will be done in close communication with partner schools. Understanding other school communities' vaccination status and COVID-19 procedures, as well as maintaining our own healthy community, will be central to successful social events among schools.

Will students and adult chaperones be required to wear masks off campus?

Yes. Masks will be required of all students and adult chaperones while on School busses and vans, while indoors in off campus spaces, and outdoors while off campus when around non-Chatham Hall community members, with the exception of while eating. The Dean of Students' Office will communicate any updates.

Will students be allowed in on campus faculty homes?

Yes. Family members who are unable to be vaccinated (i.e. children) are expected to be fully masked according to CDC guidelines when students are present in the home.

Will students be allowed in off campus faculty homes?

Yes. Family members who are unable to be vaccinated are expected to be fully masked according to CDC guidelines when students are present in the home.

Campus Calendar

Will students be able to go home on weekends this year?

Yes, with the exception of during closed weekends and according to the processes and procedures of the Dean of Students' Office and assuming no significant COVID-related concerns arise. We assume that all households will be following CDC directives related to COVID-19 precautions. Students will not be able to leave campus until Sept. 24, including for college visits and family events.



Will students have to quarantine after going home for the weekend?

We are not expecting this at this time. Based on our student vaccination rate and the assumption that families will continue to follow CDC guidelines related to masking, gathering, etc., we believe we can allow students to go home for the occasional weekend and not be subject to quarantine upon return.

Will Chatham Hall close for long weekends this year?

Yes, with the exception of remaining open only for international students requiring accommodation. As usual, we will be looking to our domestic families to welcome international students into their homes during these weekends as well as extended vacations.