



Lincoln University
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LU COVID-19 Taskforce

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COVID-19 Support Guide

2022-2023 Academic Year

Mission: Lincoln University, the nation's first degree-granting Historically Black College & University (HBCU), educates and empowers students to lead their communities and change the world.

COVID-19 Support Guide

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Background

Lincoln University's goal is to resume on-campus activities within the context of best practices designed to minimize the continuing threat of COVID-19. We have developed procedural and engagement policies towards mitigating and monitoring the risk of the virus while in session. These policies are designed to protect the health and safety of the Lincoln University community and are guided by state's reopening plans as well as guidance offered through the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and local public health agencies.

We continue to compile the latest data and research on managing the threat of Covid-19 infections and to adjust our protocols as warranted. We have also sought to make this an ongoing and inclusive process by assembling working groups comprised of faculty, students, and staff as well as participation by members of the Board of Trustees. Additionally, we have created other avenues to seek broader community input including an open comments page and a series of community town halls and community forums designed to solicit continuous feedback regarding reopening and individual concerns.

The State of Pennsylvania recently announced that all COVID restrictions will be lifted effective May 31, 2021 but has allowed individual entities to maintain or implement stricter measures. Considering this announcement, the safety guidelines and protocols within this fall reopening plan will likely be modified in the coming weeks and months according to the available scientific guidance. While the loosening of restrictions in the State may result in the relaxation of some of the safety guidelines and protocols in the College's fall reopening plan, other protocols will remain in place to help ease the safe transition back to full in-person operations.

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Executive Summary

Lincoln University has engaged in multiple planning process designed to incorporate state and national guidelines for reopening in a plan to resume in-person education for the 2022- 2023 academic year.

The top priorities for reopening are ensuring the health and safety of the Lincoln University community and providing continuity of education including maximizing the student experience. Our plan seeks to build in the flexibility, precautions, and social responsibility needed to offer a rigorous academic experience despite COVID-19 threats. Of primary importance will be the requirements of social distancing and face masks whenever in a public space.

Several strategies and protocols will be implemented toward reducing the threat of a COVID-19 outbreak during the on-campus sessions as well as plans for monitoring and containing any identified cases. The strategies and protocols draw upon the best information and practices known to date. A COVID-19 Incident Task Force has been established to analyze, recommend, and execute appropriate guidelines to the evolving changing of novel coronavirus.

The Reopening of Lincoln University (LU), or in essence the increased opening of LU, requires all of us to move forward together by practicing social distancing and other recommended daily habits to reduce our risk of exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19, and supporting faculty, staff, and students in obtaining, and understanding the benefits of, a vaccination. The health and safety of the campus community will remain at the forefront of the College's priorities as any modifications are made, and as the College maintains an opened posture.

Sincerely,

Tamarkius Roby
Deputy Incident Commander

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Guiding Principles

1. Maintaining the Health and Safety of our Community

The health and safety of the Lincoln University community is a top priority. Best practices guidelines for reducing the risk of a Covid-19 spread on our campus is the starting point for each decision. How we engage in on-campus activities will be guided by the best public health practices available to mitigate, monitor, and contain the ongoing threat of Covid-19. Mitigation efforts such as social distancing, personal protective equipment, and increased cleaning regimens will be integrated into decisions regarding all campus activities. The University will also employ best practices procedures designed to monitor and contain any signs of the virus on campus including periodic testing, contact tracing, and quarantining/isolating methods.

2. Continuing the Legacy of Academic Excellence

Lincoln University's mission to provide a rigorous liberal arts education featuring active and collaborative learning while cultivating the character, values, and standards of excellence needed to enable students to become responsible citizens of a global community will continue. Standards of excellence will persist in all modalities whether face-to-face, hybrid, or virtual. Moreover, we are committed to supporting the personal and professional goals of our students and faculty in the classroom as well as other critical aspects of campus life, including academic support services, campus traditions, and co-curricular activities.

3. Science will Continue to Guide Decisions

Lincoln University is committed to continuously monitor the trajectory of the pandemic and the effectiveness and practicality of mitigation efforts on our campus. Flexibility will be built into every plan and alternative methods for achieving our goals will be used to balance concerns related to health and safety and academic excellence.

4. Inclusive Processes will be Employed

Students, faculty, and staff remain integral to shaping and implementing plans to consider the full range of our community's needs and interests. All decisions will consider the disparate impacts of the pandemic on members of our community

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Vaccination Status

To promote a healthy and safe environment, Lincoln University requires all students, faculty, and staff accessing campus to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 unless they have an approved exemption for medical or sincerely held religious reasons. This mandate comes with support from the Lincoln University Board of Trustees, Faculty Union, Faculty Council, Clerical Union, Police Union and Student Government Executive Board.

There are three (3) ways to be classified:

1. Fully Vaccinated- Received 2 doses of Pfizer/Moderna or 1 dose of Johnson & Johnson
 - a. Fully Vaccinated + Booster- Received an additional dose(s) of Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson
2. Partially Vaccinated- Received 1 dose Pfizer/Moderna
3. Exempt Unvaccinated - Medical or religious documentations that clearly indicates ones inability to take the COVID vaccination(s). Must be approved by the Office of Accessibility Services (formerly known as the Office of Disability Services)

Unvaccinated students, faculty and staff with exemptions are expected to wear masks at all times in indoor locations.

COVID-19 Testing

There will be no routine surveillance testing for faculty, staff, or students, unless required by an athletic conference or regulations governing a student's participation in certain programs or activities. Individuals who would like to be tested due to possible exposure or with symptoms, may request testing through Health Services.

Isolation

Individuals who are confirmed as "**positive**" must isolate at **home**¹ based on their vaccination status:

- Vaccinated: 5 days minimum
- Exempt Unvaccinated: 14 days minimum

For students who test positive through Health Services, or through an accredited testing lab and provide an official result report, Health Services will send an official notice directly to faculty excusing the student from in-person classes, while in isolation.

It is the student's responsibility to arrange with the faculty to make up for missed classwork or assignments.

Quarantine

Individuals who are exposed to a positive case (identified through contact tracing) are required to quarantine at **home**² based on their vaccination status.

- Vaccinated: Do not need to quarantine or be restricted, if without COVID-like symptoms. Must wear a mask for 5 days and take a COVID test on the 5th day after being exposed.
- Exempted Unvaccinated: 7 days minimum

¹ Students must leave campus and return to their home of record to complete any isolation requirements.

² Students must leave campus and return to their home of record to complete any quarantine requirements.

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Safety Tips

- Correctly wear face covering over both your mouth and nose
- Change your mask frequently; wash cloth mask daily and allow to air dry
- Practice social distancing (4 feet) from others when indoors; encourage outdoors when feasible
- Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds as handwashing is critical in preventing the spread of illnesses