

# Operation Resurgent Campus

## Frequently Asked Questions

April 26, 2021

The following questions and responses are as of Monday, April 26, 2021. The reentry plan for 2021-2022 will be fluid as we adopt new guidance from the CDC and local health department.

1. Will Operation Resurgent Campus protocols impact the Spring 2021 semester?

No. Transitioning to Level A2 on May 17<sup>th</sup> can only be accomplished once 75% of employees are fully vaccinated. People are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine. Because a large percentage of employees will receive their second dose of the Moderna vaccine on April 27<sup>th</sup>, they will not be fully vaccinated until two weeks later, approximately May 11<sup>th</sup>. While it may be possible for the last few days of finals week, we do not plan on transitioning until May 17<sup>th</sup> at the earliest.

2. How can I find out more about the safety of the COVID-19 vaccines?

Scientific evidence is available on the safety and efficacy of the vaccines. We encourage you to visit <https://Covidvaccine.mo.gov> or <https://www.cdc.gov> for reliable information.

3. Will COVID-19 vaccination be required of employees and students?

Yes, an announcement is forthcoming regarding vaccine requirements. Although the COVID-19 vaccines are currently in Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), the College intends to require COVID-19 vaccination for the 2021-2022 academic year of both employees and students. Students will complete a new [Health and Immunization Form](#) with the Office of Student Life. Human Resources will collect copies of vaccination cards from employees.

4. What if I'm concerned about my health and receiving the vaccine?

The [evidence supports](#) that the vaccine is safe and provides protection against symptoms of the virus as well as spread of the virus. Allowable exemptions for medical, personal or religious reasons by students must be reported as such on the [Health & Immunization Form](#). Accommodations may also be provided by using the normal processes. Students should contact [Accessibility Services](#) and employees should contact Human Resources. However, to progress from Level A2 to A1, and eventually Level A, we will be reliant upon a significant majority of our community to be vaccinated for 2021-2022.

5. Why is the vaccine required when the College had such low on-campus transmission of COVID-19?

We are changing protocols to emphasize the role of vaccination in relaxing current mask and distancing protocols. The College is confident that transmission was low on campus because of our mitigation protocols put in place by Operation Safe Campus. The College's holistic response

of protocols with Operation Resurgent Campus provides a new and improved method of containing the spread of the virus on-campus, including acceptable use of facial coverings, social distancing, testing, plexiglass, etc.

6. Why does Operation Resurgent Campus Level A1 only reach 50% vaccinated on campus?

In discussions with the Clay County Public Health Center (CCPHC) and Liberty Hospital, the College was advised not to set too high of a goal that may conflict with local public health expectations. CCPHC is predicting a 50% vaccine acceptance rate for this jurisdiction.

7. What does “reaches saturation” mean in Operation Resurgent Campus?

In separate discussions with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), CCPHC and Liberty Hospital, the College was advised that, in the months ahead, there is a point when all individuals who want the vaccine will have received it, and all who do not, will remain unvaccinated. At this point, vaccination rate percentages will not change and those who denied the vaccine will have accepted personal accountability.

8. Where is the best place to receive the vaccine now?

Operation Safe will conclude their efforts in early May with second dose clinics only. HyVee and other pharmacies continue to have available vaccines and timely appointments. Plus, they are free. The College is planning to hold a vaccination clinic on-campus in August to vaccinate anyone who did not have an opportunity over the summer months. It is expected by late-May that vaccines and vaccination appointments will be readily available.

9. How will the variant strains of the virus change the College’s plans?

We anticipate a very fluid response to the variants, as the CDC continues to gather information. It is of note that both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines to date show positive results against the variants in the U.S. Individuals who opt-out of the vaccine should be cognizant of variant spread within Missouri, as evidence indicates that they are more easily transmissible and have more severe symptoms.

10. Will the College continue to conduct COVID-19 testing and isolation for those who test positive?

The college will continue symptomatic testing in the Student Health Center but is not planning to conduct regular asymptomatic and surveillance testing unless guidance and/or requirements change (e.g. GLVC requirements).

Fully vaccinated individuals are able to self-monitor their health after known or suspected exposures rather than entering quarantine per CDC guidance. Individuals who opt out of the vaccine may be responsible for the cost of the COVID-19 test and accountable for quarantining as necessary.

11. Does this mean that the College will bring back on-campus activities next year?

Yes. At the earliest point of confirming that enough employees and students have been vaccinated, the College will permit most on-campus activities that we have been accustomed to prior to the pandemic. There will likely be some activities that retain higher levels of mitigation.

12. What will the classroom experience look like in the fall?

The College is preparing to transition back to a normal classroom setting, which does not include six feet of social distancing (one may be required to mask in some situations) and using the traditional classroom spaces only.

13. If I and others are vaccinated, can we meet without facial coverings?

Fully vaccinated people can visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or distancing at Level A2 of Operation Resurgent Campus. Those who are not fully vaccinated should continue to wear a facial covering until Level A1.

14. What if I'm not ready to take off my mask or I see others with their masks off and I feel unsafe?

Employees and students will be supported to continue to wear facial coverings at their discretion. It is important for all individuals who are high(er)-risk to receive the vaccine as it provides the necessary protection if exposed to someone who is asymptomatic and positive for COVID-19 (low-risk). It is also important to understand that COVID-19 is likely to never leave our community entirely and that we all must play a part in keeping the College as safe as possible.

15. When will visitors be allowed back on campus?

The College will reduce the restrictions on visitors in Level A2. Many visitors have been coming to campus for athletic events and other approved purposes. There will be activities occurring on campus this summer that have not been permitted for over a year but there will be an expectation of following protocols in place. More details are forthcoming on the expectations for visitors on campus this summer and beginning this fall.

16. Will the plexiglass and air filtration systems across campus be removed?

Air filtrations provide obvious benefits not related to COVID. However, some of them are located in distracting locations and may be relocated as of May 17<sup>th</sup>. Plexiglass will remain up in high traffic areas through the summer with department input and preference given priority, before being removed.

17. Will COVID-19, facial covering and distancing signs be removed from all of our buildings?

We will remove signs that indicate facial coverings are required indoors. However, there will be instances when facial coverings are recommended, including large gatherings of individuals when

it cannot be confirmed that the majority of people are vaccinated. New signs will be placed throughout campus to help remind people to consider masks, especially if they are not vaccinated.

18. Is the College still following CDC and Clay County Public Health guidance?

Yes. To the extent we can, we will continue to follow the guidance of those responsible for the health and safety of the people. Communal living environments are a unique community, and we may find it necessary to adjust protocols as we know we are a community valuing responsible citizenship and immunization is prevalent across campus. [Click here](#) to view the April 23<sup>rd</sup> announcement from Clay County.

19. What will happen to Operation Safe Campus?

Operation Safe Campus protocols will sunset for operations beginning May 17<sup>th</sup>. In an unfortunate circumstance when a variant virus has increased transmission on campus and the safety and wellbeing of our community is at risk, we will act appropriately. Of course, should something like this occur, our community will be informed every step along the way so that this is not a surprise.

20. Will there still be a COVID-19 dashboard online?

No, the College does not intend to publicly release a dashboard beginning in the fall semester. If the situation on campus or in the community changes with an increase in transmission, we will provide updated statistics.

21. Do I need the yellow wristband to prove that I'm vaccinated?

The wristband shows our collective support for the vaccination and safety of our community and is optional to be worn by vaccinated individuals. One may be obtained from the Human Resources Office once employees provide a copy of their vaccination card. It is not used as a passport for entry. Similar to the signs across campus indicating "my mask protects you, your mask protects me", the wristband gives a visual display that we are individually doing our part to keep one-another safe. We thank you for participating.

22. When will the College be sharing more information?

We will begin releasing more information in the coming weeks. Zoom forums will be scheduled for faculty, staff, students and parents to share new developments. Guidance will be released prior to Cardinal Days so that we can begin educating new Cardinals of the expectations on campus.