

Distancing Practices and Procedures

Returning to Grounds for the 2020 Fall semester requires every member of the community to practice distancing and wear facemasks or face coverings. Together, these are the most effective ways to combat the spread of COVID-19. Distancing requires:

- **A minimum of six-foot separation**, judged from head to head, for any contact longer than 10 minutes, unless closer proximity is allowed by physical barriers. Ten-foot separation is required while actively exercising. Separation is recommended even for shorter contacts.
- These rules apply in classrooms, labs, dining halls, lounges, gyms, and other communal spaces. They are not negated by **the wearing of face coverings**, which are required except for: dining; exercising; children under the age of two; a person seeking to communicate with a hearing-impaired person, for which the mouth needs to be visible; and anyone with a health condition that keeps them from wearing a face covering.
- Even with social distancing and masks, **gatherings** are limited to 50 persons.
- **Limited occupancy** with rotational schedules will be used to maintain distancing in public spaces. Dining, for example, is planning to reduce seating capacity by 50 percent, provide marks for distancing, maintain counts at entrances and exits to control occupancy, and add outside locations for food pick-up.
- **Physical barriers** will be provided in library study-spaces, at public-service locations (such as dining-hall cashiers, help desks, customer-service points of access), and, to the extent possible, between bathroom sinks, stalls, and beds in residence hall rooms.
- **University buses and vehicles** will limit occupancy and/or provide physical barriers.
- **Guides** will be posted on floors and walls to provide reminders for separation.

The campaign to internalize and observe these restrictions will be led by students. Leadership groups such as L2K and Meriwether Lewis Fellows will design social-norming campaigns and lead discussions on how to promote and enforce good distancing behavior. Only student leadership and buy-in will make these guidelines effective, so we rely on the UVA traditions of student self-governance and responsibility to make them work.

For additional information, visit ReturnToGrounds.virginia.edu