



Fall 2021 Reopening Plans and Vaccine FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Q. Will Canisius require students, faculty and staff to be vaccinated for the start of the fall semester?

A. Canisius will not require vaccines for members of our campus community at this time. All students, faculty and staff are strongly encouraged to get a Covid-19 vaccine. There may be some programs and activities that will require it because of close contact or travel requirements.

Q. I'm living in the residence halls. Are there any special requirements?

A. Because of the close proximity of residential students in shared living spaces, there are additional expectations. The college will require either proof of vaccination or the results of a negative Covid-19 test administered within 72 hours of moving back into the residence halls.

- Students should upload proof of vaccination by July 31 to the student health portal at [MyCanisiusHealth](#).
- Covid-19 test results should be uploaded immediately upon receipt to the student health portal. Students should be "swabbed" within 72 hours prior to arriving on campus.

Q. What if I am planning to move into a residence hall, am unvaccinated, and do not have proof of a negative PCR test? What happens?

A. Students who arrive without proof of vaccination or a negative PCR test will be given a rapid antigen test upon registration. If the test is negative, students will be able to move into their room and participate in orientation activities and/or begin classes as long as a face covering is worn and they maintain social distancing. A PCR test will also be administered to confirm results. If a student tests positive, they will either return home to isolate or be moved into on-campus isolation if they live more than 250 miles from campus.

Q. I am a commuter student, what are the protocols?

A. Commuter students (graduate or undergraduate level), are expected to upload proof of vaccination to the student health portal at [MyCanisiusHealth](#). If you are a commuter student and have not received the Covid0-19 vaccine, you are expected to wear a mask and distance yourself from others while on campus, including classrooms.

Q. How much of our community has been vaccinated?

A. Based on survey results, we know that approximately 83% of students who responded have been vaccinated and more than 90% of faculty and staff who responded have been vaccinated. The medical community is still working to understand how much of the population should be vaccinated to reach herd or population immunity, which is why it is important to continue taking precautions on campus, including wearing face coverings and social distancing.



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Q. What programs or activities will require vaccination?

- A. “Close contact programs” will require vaccination because of the potential for viral transmission. At this time, students in the following programs must be vaccinated. Other programs may be added to this list:**
- The college’s athletic conference, the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC), will be mandating that all student athletes must be vaccinated as a condition to being allowed to compete. The MAAC will be issuing guidelines for obtaining exemptions in a limited number of cases.
 - The college’s Physician Assistant Studies Program also will be mandating the vaccine for students because of the requirements of so many of the program’s clinical rotation sites.
 - Other close contact activities include medical mission trips for pre-med students and campus ministry immersion trips.
 - We have not yet made a decision on when we will resume study abroad programs, but when resumed, they are likely to have vaccine requirements as well.

Q. I’m not vaccinated. Do I have to continue to wear a mask and distance myself?

- A. Yes. While New York State has generally lifted all restrictions for colleges and universities, the CDC has said that for campuses where there is a mix of vaccinated and unvaccinated people, wearing a properly fit face covering and socially distancing yourself is strongly encouraged. If you are unvaccinated, you protect yourself and others from possible transmission.**

Q. If I am a student athlete and arriving on campus early this summer, what can I expect?

- A. The MAAC will require vaccination of all student athletes for participation in competition. The MAAC also will issue guidelines for obtaining exemptions in a limited number of cases. The Athletic Department will be working with each team individually to ensure compliance with the guidelines.**

Q. How will you know if I am vaccinated?

- A. Students who are vaccinated should upload proof of their Covid-19 vaccine here: [MyCanisiusHealth](#) by July 31, 2021. If we do not have evidence of your vaccine, you are considered unvaccinated and the applicable protocols will be implemented.**

Q. Will periodic testing or screening be required?

- A. Broad surveillance testing as it existed last year will not be required. However, any student who has direct exposure or is experiencing Covid-19-related symptoms, must be tested at the Student Health Center or another off-campus site.**

Q. If I am unvaccinated and have known exposure to Covid-19, what will happen?

- A. Any student who has not been vaccinated and is exposed to Covid-19 or exhibits symptoms of Covid-19, must be tested by the Student Health Center and quarantine for 10 days.**



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Q. If I test positive for Covid-19, what will happen?
A. Any student who tests positive for Covid-19 (regardless of vaccination status) or exhibits symptoms suggestive of Covid-19, whether vaccinated or not, will need to isolate according to CDC and New York State guidance. If you live within 250 miles of the campus, you will be expected to return home and complete your quarantine or isolation at home.
Q. If I have to go into quarantine or isolation, how will I continue my studies? Can I switch to online learning?
A. Unlike this past academic year when instruction was “multi-modal” (meaning that students could easily flip between being live in the classroom or online, depending on their quarantine/isolation status), there will be no similar arrangement in the upcoming year. Quarantined or isolated students will need to make arrangements with individual faculty members to make up missed classes, work, and tests.
Q. If we have a mixed community of vaccinated and unvaccinated people, what will happen in classrooms, labs, auditoriums, gyms and studios?
A. Anyone who has not been fully vaccinated will be expected to wear a face covering and distance themselves from others in all campus buildings, during classes or while attending campus events. Faculty may require all students, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a mask during classes.
Q. I have questions about living on campus. Who should I call?
A. Please contact Residence Life at 716-888-8300.
Q. I have health related questions or need assistance with vaccination or testing. Who should I call?
A. Please contact the Student Health Center at 716-888-2610.

Additional Online Resources

From the Centers of Disease Control

- [When You've Been Fully Vaccinated](#)
- [Myths and Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
- [Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#)



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Local Opportunities for Vaccination

- <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>
- <https://www2.erie.gov/health/index.php?q=covid-19-vaccine-information>

Major and independent pharmacies are also offering the vaccine and testing. Please visit their websites or a location near you for more information.

Covid-19 Testing Information

- <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-testing>
- <https://www2.erie.gov/health/index.php?q=covid-19-testing-information>