



Dear Canisius students:

I am pleased to follow-up on President Hurley's January 6 email with more specific information about plans to address the ongoing pandemic, especially the Omicron variant.

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

To attend face to face classes at Canisius College in the spring semester 2022, you must be fully vaccinated or have received a medical or religious exemption from the college.

The college is not requiring booster shots for attendance at this time although you are strongly urged to get a booster as soon as you are eligible and submit proof of your booster to Student Health.

### **Testing Requirements for Students Who Have Received Exemptions:**

The limited number of students who have received an exemption will be subject to periodic surveillance testing similar to that which was done in the fall. Testing appointment notifications will be sent to students via college email. Exempt students must check their college emails regularly to avoid missing their scheduled appointment.

Students who are exempt also will have to follow all of the protocols for those who are unvaccinated that were in place in the fall. These were outlined in the letter you received when you received your exemption.

### **FOR ALL STUDENTS (regardless of vaccination status)**

#### ***If You Are Feeling Ill:***

Symptoms of Covid-19 are similar to those of a cold or flu. Please, if you are feeling ill stay home, isolate and contact Student Health or your health care provider. You should also notify your faculty regarding coursework.

#### **If You Test Positive for Covid by either Rapid Antigen Test or Molecular Test (regardless of your vaccination status):**

- You must isolate for a full five days.
- To make counting isolation days easier, day zero (0) is the day your symptoms began or the day of collection of the positive test if you were not experiencing symptoms. Day one is the first full day after your symptoms started or the first full day after your test day if you are asymptomatic.

- You can return to campus after completion of the full five days of isolation if you have not had a fever for 24 hours without use of fever reducing medicine and your symptoms are resolving or improved or if you continue to be symptom free.
- You are not required to have a negative rapid antigen test to end isolation.
- If your symptoms have not resolved or you test positive on a rapid antigen test on the fifth day, you need to complete the full 10 days of isolation.

### **Isolation**

If you are a commuter, please stay home to isolate. If you are a resident student and your home is within 250 miles of the campus, you should isolate at home. If you are a resident student, and your home is greater than 250 miles from campus, Student Life will arrange for you to isolate on campus.

If on the sixth day you meet the criteria to end isolation (as noted above), you can return to campus with some additional requirements:

- You should wear a well-fitting mask over your nose and mouth at all times around others.
- You should not visit a restaurant or eat with others. For resident students this means that you should pick up your meals and not eat in the dining areas. Eating and drinking will continue to be prohibited in classrooms.
- You should not visit a gym or participate in athletic activities. For Canisius that means that you should not visit Penfold-Gareis Fitness Center or other fitness facilities on campus.
  - D1 athletes should report to their athletic trainers for guidance on return to play.

- You should not travel. This also means avoiding the college shuttle service.

### **Quarantine for Close Contact Exposures**

Canisius College follows all New York State Department of Health and Erie County Health Department guidance for determining quarantine after a Covid-19 exposure. The guidance for quarantine is determined by your vaccination status.

### **Not Boosted or Not Vaccinated: Close Contacts Must Quarantine**

If you had a close contact exposure, you will need to quarantine for five days IF you are 1) not yet fully vaccinated, 2) are fully vaccinated and eligible for a booster but have not yet been boosted, or 3) you have a medical or religious exemption. To help calculate quarantine, day zero is the last day you were exposed. Day one is the first full day after exposure.

- If you reside on campus and have a permanent address within 250 miles of the college, you will be required to go home and quarantine. If you are a resident and have a permanent address greater than 250 miles from campus, you will be assigned on-campus quarantine housing.
- While in quarantine, you should monitor for Covid-19 symptoms. If you develop symptoms, you must isolate and contact Student Health or your health care provider for guidance and testing.
- Once released from quarantine, you are required to wear a well-fitting mask over your nose and mouth for an additional five days while around others and continue to monitor yourself daily for Covid-19 symptoms.
- You do not need a negative test to return to campus after quarantine.

- New York State, however, recommends a Covid-19 test on day five, if possible. If you test positive, you must follow the guidance above for students who test positive for Covid-19.

### **Fully Vaccinated and Boosted: Close Contacts Do Not Need to Quarantine**

You will NOT need to quarantine IF 1) you are fully vaccinated and boosted (with the booster dose at least two weeks before the date of exposure) or 2) you are fully vaccinated and you not yet eligible for booster; or 3) you have had a confirmed case of Covid-19 in the preceding 90 days before exposure. You must wear a well-fitting mask over your nose and mouth around others while on campus and monitor yourself for symptoms for 10 days after the last date of exposure.

### **Important Information**

To help Student Health determine who must quarantine, please upload to [myCanisiusHealth](#) 1) copies of your primary Covid-19 vaccination series, if you have not done so already; 2) a record of a booster dose; or 3) a lab report indicating you had a confirmed case of Covid-19 in the preceding 90 days.

Please continue to adhere to all campus mitigation strategies, including: physical distancing, good hand washing hygiene, avoidance of crowds and large gatherings, staying home when sick, getting vaccinated and boosted, and wearing a well-fitting face mask over your nose and mouth while on campus.

Thank you to everyone for your continuing cooperation and flexibility as we slowly climb out of this pandemic together.

Sincerely,

Sandra M. Estanek, Ph.D.

Interim Vice President for Student Affairs

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