



**WASHINGTON
& JEFFERSON**
COLLEGE

W&J Commitment to Community | 2021-2022

W&J College continues to prioritize health and wellness of our community members as we embark on the 2021-2022 academic year. We are excited to be together and to embrace on-campus learning and activities, but the ongoing public health situation, including increased risk levels in Washington County and the surrounding region, reminds us that it has never been more important to consider how our actions, as individuals and as a community, affect others.

The Commitment to Community reinforces our mutual responsibility for community care and respect. Our W&J mission is to be responsible citizens of uncommon integrity who lead by example. Thus, the following statement expresses our individual and shared health and safety expectations.

As members of the W&J Community, I will:

- Protect the overall health of the campus community by recognizing that personal inconveniences or behavioral adjustments are a minimum expectation to keep myself and others safe, especially the most vulnerable within our community.
- Accept personal responsibility to make decisions that will limit my exposure and the exposure of others to COVID-19, including wearing a face covering indoors, washing or sanitizing my hands regularly, and cleaning/sanitizing shared common areas before and after use.
- Regularly monitor myself for symptoms of COVID-19 such as a fever of 100.4 F (38 C) or higher, dry cough, difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat and/or loss of taste or smell. If symptoms are present, I will stay home and report my health status to Student Health (students) or your supervisor/HR (faculty and staff).
- Help my peers maintain a commitment to the health and safety of others. Recognizing that everyone is navigating a challenging and uncertain public health situation, I will not immediately assume negligence or malicious intent when someone forgets or falls short of expectations. Instead, I will politely remind them of our collective commitment to wear a mask while indoors and maintain healthy practices. Behaviors that blatantly disregard safety and potentially put others at risk will be addressed by the appropriate campus authorities.
- Be respectful and responsive if another community member asks me to increase my public health efforts, including in settings where expectations are more relaxed (e.g., my assigned residence hall and commons area spaces). I will respect that others may have differing levels of comfort with risk and will be responsive to requests to observe greater diligence within shared space.
- Be supportive if a member of the community refrains from participating in activities such as events, dining and athletic competitions, and/or chooses to wear a mask, where not required, even if they are fully vaccinated.
- Refrain from bias-based discrimination. The COVID-19 pandemic has provoked **cognitive bias** and discriminatory behaviors in society targeting people of certain ethnic backgrounds and/or those perceived to have been in contact with the virus. COVID-19 can and does impact individuals of any nationality, ethnicity, race, and gender. I will treat my peers, faculty, staff, and colleagues with the respect every human being deserves and not promote, participate in, or allow bias to impede others' participation in our community.
- Live the values of self-governance in doing my part to create a stronger, more inclusive, and safer community. My actions will reflect my care for the W&J community and I will continually examine how I can contribute to the well-being of others in this challenging time.

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