



COVID-19 FAQ for Faculty/Staff

**FAQ with asterisk are answered in the case of vaccinated individuals. For unvaccinated guidance, please visit the [CDC website](#) directly.*

For our full campus protocols, please refer to the Together for Community: COA Safe Campus Plan and the [Fall '21 Classroom Protocols](#).

Does COA require masks indoors?

COA is following the recommendations of the US CDC to mask in shared spaces indoors during periods of high or significant local (countywide) COVID-19 transmission. Protocols may change throughout the academic year based on transmission rates and medical and scientific recommendations. This protocol and others are updated regularly on coa.edu/covid19.

What should I do if I see someone not wearing a mask in a public space?

Kindly and gently inform them that masks are required in indoor shared spaces and outdoor congested spaces. If they do not have a mask, you can let them know about the mailboxes with free masks around campus.

Can I ask students (or fellow COA employees) if they are vaccinated?

Out of respect for everyone's privacy, please do not ask other COA community members if they have been vaccinated. Someone may share that information with you unsolicited, which is fine, but we may not ask. If you have concerns, please contact Amanda Mogridge 207-801-5624.

Other than members of the COA community, only vendors, admissions tours, contractors, or pre-arranged personal or course visits from people outside the COA community are allowed on campus. Visitors are expected to be vaccinated, and in some cases, such as library staff, they may be asked for proof of vaccination to use indoor facilities.

I don't feel well, what should I do?*

If you are having [symptoms consistent with COVID-19](#), isolate and get a COVID test. Testing is now free in Maine according to the Maine.gov website. [Here is their list of local testing sites](#). A BinaxNow Rapid Antigen Test purchased from Walgreens and performed at home or provided by a qualified provider (like Walgreens or your doctor) are accepted for testing symptomatic cases and provide results in as little as 15 minutes.



If your test is *negative*, you should still stay away from others until you feel better. It is also recommended to contact your primary care physician to ask about follow-up testing and length of isolation.

If you test *positive* with a rapid antigen, confirm it with a PCR test and contact COA COVID-19 coordinator Amanda Mogridge at 207-801-5624. You will need to isolate for a minimum of 10 days from when you began feeling ill, and if you still aren't feeling well after 10 days, continue to isolate until you have had no fever without using fever-reducing medications for 24 hours.

More detailed guidelines can be found on the [CDC website](#).

I've come in [close contact](#) with someone who tested positive, what should I do?*

If you are *not having* symptoms, you should wear a mask in all indoor spaces, get a COVID test 3-5 days after your suspected exposure, and stay masked until you test negative.

If you are *having* symptoms, isolate yourself from others, follow the guidance in the response above for folks who don't feel well, and contact Amanda Mogridge at 207-801-5624.

A student has told me they don't feel well or they have come into [close contact](#) with someone who tested positive, what should I do?

Advise them to isolate and contact Amanda Mogridge 207-801-5624.

What if a student in my class tests positive?

According to our [Fall '21 Classroom Protocols](#) document, all in-person classes that the infected student is part of will shift to online status, or some equivalent alternative arrangement, until such time as the class is tested and cleared to return to inperson status by the coordinator.

Are there any unvaccinated people on campus?

A very small number of people have approved vaccination exemptions. These folks are expected to take their own health and safety, as well as the health and safety of the community, as a serious priority. These folks will be part of the weekly surveillance testing program and are required to wear face coverings at all times when in shared spaces.



Will we have to wear masks indoors all term?

Maybe? As stated above COA is following the recommendations of the US CDC to mask in shared spaces indoors during periods of high or significant local (countywide) COVID-19 transmission. When transmission rates change in our county, we will need to reassess our classroom protocols. Check coa.edu/covid19 for updates.

What is going on with testing?

Baseline testing will occur at the beginning of the term for all community members. You will be asked to make an appointment during your designated testing day via the Coverified app. Results from each testing group will be available within 24-48 hours via the CoVerified app. For example, if you test on September 7, your results should be in the app on September 8 or 9. Thereafter, beginning September 20, surveillance testing will occur on Mondays. You will be notified by the COVID Coordinator if you have been selected for testing each week.

I saw someone walking around outside without a mask.

Masking is recommended outdoors in congested areas, and otherwise is up to the comfort of each person in outdoor situations. Someone can be vaccinated but still want to be careful by wearing a mask outside, even though according to our protocols masking is only required inside. Be kind.

The CoVerified app isn't working.

The CoVerified app is linked to your campus single sign on. If you are having issues with your single sign on login, please contact the IT helpdesk at helpdesk@coa.edu. If you are having other issues within the CoVerified app, like you aren't seeing testing times even though you were asked to sign up for a time, contact Amanda Mogridge 207-801-5624.

Have a question other than above? Send it to covid19coordinator@coa.edu.