



## **COVID-19 community expectations for the 2022-23 academic year**

Updated 5.31.22

\*Subject to change based on evolving guidance and science\*

College of the Atlantic is committed to providing a safe, thoughtful, academically inspiring environment for our students, staff, and faculty. Together, with grace and empathy, we will co-create our community of human ecologists during the 2022-23 academic year. We will adapt to the protocols and guidelines that come with our efforts to stay safe, and we will find ways new and old to communicate, connect, and create.

College of the Atlantic is committed to serving our students by using science-informed plans to reduce the spread of COVID-19, accommodate vulnerable members of our community, respond to incidents of COVID-19 infection, and protect each other and our community. We seek to limit the transmission of the virus through vaccination, isolation, testing, and a strong community commitment to the wearing of masks and other public health measures as appropriate.

COVID-19 is an extremely contagious respiratory disease that the World Health Organization has declared as a global pandemic. With the aid of local, regional, and national health, scientific, and educational partners, COA is closely monitoring developments relating to the coronavirus, and the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff, and community are our priority.

### **Health and safety expectations for all community members**

To facilitate a safe and productive campus environment, COA has established health and safety protocols and policies that all students, faculty, staff, and visitors are expected to follow. This means complying with national, state, and local health guidelines and requirements, and following those measures COA deems safe and appropriate for our campus, including being vaccinated against COVID-19.

Care and compassion for each other must be core to our community. Now, more than ever, the decisions we make have consequences not only for ourselves, but for those with whom we live and work, with whom we share space and resources, and those around us in the wider community. While COA can establish policies and protocols, they are only effective when each member of our community recognizes them as shared responsibilities. Working together, we can minimize the risk of COVID-19 infections at COA. Please review the following expectations carefully.

- COVID-19 vaccinations



- College of the Atlantic students, staff, and faculty are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in order to be on campus for the 2022-23 academic program.
  - Full vaccination is complete initial dose plus at least one booster dose
- All students are required to submit proof of vaccination or apply for a medical or religious exemption.
  - [Submit proof of vaccination via email to registrar@coa.edu](mailto:registrar@coa.edu)
  - Exemption request forms can be located on [the student portal](#) and at [coa.edu/covid19](http://coa.edu/covid19).
- If the vaccine is available in your area, it is our full expectation that you will arrive on campus fully vaccinated, unless you have an approved exemption for medical or religious reasons.
- If this requirement presents an issue to you, you should [contact the COA COVID-19 coordinator](#) to discuss your situation.
- Anyone on campus during the 2022-23 academic year who is not vaccinated will be required to follow the appropriate guidelines of the US Centers for Disease Control and any protocols set out by COA.
- Face coverings
  - Face coverings are one of the most important protective measures that we can take to reduce risk during times of high COVID-19 transmission.
  - N95, KN95, or equivalent face coverings may be required in shared indoor spaces, at the discretion of the COVID-19 response team.
  - Face coverings can be removed while eating or drinking.
- Hand washing and health etiquette
  - All members of the COA community are expected to perform appropriate hand hygiene upon their arrival to campus and regularly throughout the day.
    - Wash with soap and water for 20 seconds, and/or
    - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 60-95% alcohol



### **COA Together for Community agreement**

- I understand that I am an integral part of COA's commitment to offering in-person engagement and learning.
- I am vaccinated against COVID-19 or have been approved for a medical or religious exemption.
- I will follow any and all health and safety directives that COA requires that may limit the spread of COVID-19, including but not limited to, proper use of face coverings, frequent and adequate handwashing and hand sanitizing, and isolation when needed.
- I will wear a mask in any space indoors or outside as required by COA or by the State of Maine.
- I will follow all signs and posted guidelines about safety protocols or other restrictions implemented by COA.
- I will not travel to COA campus if experiencing any symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
- I understand that failure or refusal to comply with COA's safety policies could result in discipline, up to and including dismissal from COA.
- I understand that COA is open for use by other members of the COA community, vendors, and contractors, and that contact with other individuals may increase my risk of contracting COVID-19.
- I understand that people infected with COVID-19 may be asymptomatic and yet capable of spreading the virus to others.
- I fully understand and appreciate both the known and potential dangers of using the facilities, services, and programs of COA and understand that use by me, despite COA's reasonable efforts to mitigate such dangers, may result in personal exposure to COVID-19.