
BACK TO 'BERG

FALL 2021



M Muhlenberg
College

August 11, 2021

Muhlenberg

To the Muhlenberg Community,

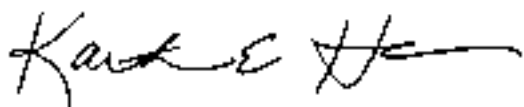
I am excited to be able to share this updated guide as we prepare for our return to campus in time for the Fall 2021 semester. For the first time since last spring, we will bring all of our students, staff and faculty back to campus. As the course of pandemic continues to ebb and flow, the health and safety of our campus community remains the priority and safety precautions and protocols will remain in place, as appropriate.

Muhlenberg is a residential college—it is the core of who we are and central to our mission. We've heard overwhelmingly from our students and their families, as well as staff and faculty, that they want to be back in community on campus.

We must remain vigilant regarding ongoing developments of the pandemic. We continue to remain nimble and evaluate options, collecting information from faculty and staff from across the institution and weighing guidance from the local, state and federal sources. We have built strong relationships with public health authorities from the Allentown Department of Health, the Lehigh Valley Health Network and the St. Luke's University Health Network to provide insight and guidance in our decision making. This measured approach—which includes the perspectives of a diverse group of faculty and staff who served on the campus planning group—has helped us successfully navigate bringing the community back to campus. From our experience with first-year students last fall to inviting everyone back in Spring 2021, we have been able to develop, implement and refine our plans in ways that have kept our community as healthy and safe as can be amidst COVID-19. While we look forward to a fall that is closer to normal, flexibility must remain central to our planning processes.

Each of us must continue to accept personal responsibility to follow the guidelines established by the College and do our part to care for our community. This guide provides an overview of our **COVID-19 policy**. Please make sure that you check our **COVID-19 information website** for ongoing updates.

I am grateful to everyone in our community for their commitment to Muhlenberg—each of you contributes to the strength of our College.



Kathleen E. Harring
President



IN COMMUNITY

As our entire community returns to campus, you will find some of the protocols and measures put in place last year remain, while others have been modified or removed. We will continue to adjust our guidelines as needed as the pandemic evolves. Please refer to muhlenberg.edu/COVID for the latest information.

COVID-19 Vaccination

- » All students must complete a COVID-19 vaccination series prior to their return to campus and upload their vaccination card to through the College Health Portal.
- » Students may apply for an exemption by contacting Health Services to request an Immunization Exemption Form, which is reviewed by an independent committee.
- » All faculty and staff must complete a COVID-19 vaccination series. Faculty and staff may apply for a medical or religious exemption.

Important Measures that Remain in Place



- » Sanitizing and cleaning classrooms and public spaces continue to be part of our daily routine.



- » Hand sanitizer stations remain available across campus.



- » Touchless faucets, soap dispensers, paper towel dispensers and toilets/urinals in restrooms.



- » Use of Berg ID at various venues around campus will continue. Be sure to have your ID with you at all times.



Masking on Campus

Masking on campus will remain variable in response to the active conditions of the pandemic and COVID-19 variants.

- » The Fall 2021 semester will begin with face coverings required indoors in all College owned buildings and facilities. This applies to all faculty, staff and students regardless of vaccination status.
- » Unvaccinated community members should wear a mask in all indoor settings and in crowded outdoor settings.

Ongoing Campus Guidance

- » Physical distancing at 3 feet is encouraged whenever possible.
- » Capacity for on-campus spaces (classrooms, lounges, dining spaces, public areas, event venues, etc.) will continue to follow active Pennsylvania state guidelines. Currently, we are at full capacity.
- » Faculty and staff may require individuals to wear a mask in their private offices or classrooms, including in the event of a change in College mask policy.
- » Students are responsible for providing supplies and for cleaning and disinfecting their rooms.
- » The College will continue to follow CDC guidelines for vaccinated and unvaccinated travel, both domestic and international.
- » Visitors are welcome on campus. Non-Muhlenberg visitors are not permitted in residence halls at the start of the semester. This restriction will be reviewed 3-4 weeks after the start of the semester to determine any possible status change. Please review the [2021-22 COVID Visitor Policy](#) for the full guidelines regarding housing.
- » Unvaccinated guests must wear a mask at all times indoors and in crowded outdoor settings. Individuals who invite guests are responsible for communicating Muhlenberg's current COVID policies.
- » Students, Faculty & Staff approved for a COVID vaccine exemption are required to participate in mandatory weekly testing. Please consult the [Muhlenberg COVID Information website](#) for testing protocols.

MOVING FORWARD

While bringing our community back to campus, we will continue to follow the most current guidance from public health officials. We recognize this is a dynamic situation that requires us to respond and adapt to developments as conditions demand. The College will be ready to alter our course, as appropriate.

Conditions that may cause us to alter campus guidance include, but are not limited to:

- » A surge in COVID-19 cases
- » Pennsylvania and Federal government guidelines/mandates
- » Guidance from local health authorities





What you can count on from the College:

- » Health & safety of the campus community remain our priority.
- » Decision making will stay true to our **Guiding Principles**
- » Continual Monitoring of COVID-19 cases, locally and beyond

Questions & Resources:

We look forward to better times ahead. For additional information on our path forward, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of the following;

covid-19@muhlenberg.edu
president@muhlenberg.edu
hr@muhlenberg.edu
provost's_office@muhlenberg.edu
jillwalsh@muhlenberg.edu
brynnmariedorsey@muhlenberg.edu

[Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#)
[Allentown Bureau of Health](#)
[PA Department of Health](#)
[CDC](#)



MulesCare
We're all in this together