



Dear Students,

Welcome back for Spring 2021! It has been far too long without you on campus and we are so excited to have our Griffin family back together again. When we think back to March 2020, I cannot imagine any of us thought that come January 2021 we would still be in the midst of a global pandemic. The campus we will be returning to in Spring 2021 will not be the same campus we were forced to leave in March 2020. It will be a place where the rules of physical distancing will govern our interactions and where every member of the community will be wearing a mask. We are living and learning in a new world with new rules, but the spirit that has always guided Chestnut Hill College will still be with us. While there will be challenges to being physically together again, I am confident that we can all place the collective goal of in-person education and on-campus living above our individual needs in order to help create a healthy semester. We have all made sacrifices over the course of the last year and these will continue, but we also see a light at the end of the tunnel. Returning to life on campus is an important step in continuing on our educational and personal journeys.

This letter contains several important items for students to review in preparation for a successful return to campus. While lengthy, we ask that you take time to review these guidelines and expectations, as they are designed to assist in a healthy and safe living and learning environment. You may want to consider saving this message for future review as it contains details that will help you navigate your return for Spring 2021. Specifically, this letter contains sections related to:

- Quarantine prior to arrival
- Spring 2021 COVID-19 arrival and surveillance testing
- Universal masking
- Contact tracing
- Quarantine/isolation protocols
- Policies and expectations for Spring 2021
  - Interim Addendum to Student Code of Conduct: COVID-19 Procedures and Expectations
  - COVID-19 Honor Code

### **Quarantine Prior to Arrival**

Prior to arrival on campus students are asked to self-quarantine at home for ten (10) days. In this case, a self-quarantine means only leaving for essential activities such as work, food shopping, or other necessities. Individuals are also asked to practice universal masking and social distancing when they do need to go out. Please avoid gatherings, parties, or other social events during this time as these could later bring infection to campus. It will take all our efforts to create a safe and healthy spring semester for our community, and this important step will assist us in creating a successful beginning.



### **Spring 2021 COVID-19 Arrival and Surveillance Testing**

The College will be providing, at no cost to students, arrival and surveillance testing beginning with move-in for resident students. Research has shown that asymptomatic surveillance testing is a key component of limiting the spread of COVID-19 in settings such as colleges. Participation in this testing will be required. Students agree to the confidential reporting of the results to the College, without objection. Students will be tested upon arrival to campus and randomly selected for weekly surveillance testing throughout Spring 2021. Each week, students who are selected for random surveillance testing will receive an email containing instructions on how to prepare for their test (ex. No eating or drinking for 30 minutes prior to test) and when and where to go for testing.

### **Universal Masking**

Students will wear face coverings (masks) according to CDC guidelines at all times when they are on campus and not in their residence hall room; this includes but is not limited to academic spaces, the dining hall (except when eating), offices, and lounges. Research has shown that mask wearing is a key mitigation strategy to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

### **Contact Tracing**

Chestnut Hill College has trained a group of staff to be contact tracers. Contact tracing includes participating in a phone conversation to elicit close contacts (less than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes in a 24-hour period) so those individuals can also be quarantined and tested. Research has shown that contact tracing, in addition to surveillance testing, is a key component to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in settings such as colleges. Information obtained through contact tracing will remain confidential and contacts will not be told the name of the person who tested positive. Information will only be shared with those individuals trained by the College to serve as contact tracers in efforts to maintain a healthy community. Anything shared with the contact tracer, including situations that are a violation of the Chestnut Hill College Student Code of Conduct, will only be shared with the contact tracing team and will not be used for later adjudication. However, knowingly and intentionally withholding information from a contact tracer will be considered a violation of this Interim Addendum and may be subject to adjudication. Students are expected to fully and honestly cooperate with contact tracers; their job is to help keep the campus healthy and they have been specifically trained to have these important conversations with students.

## Quarantine/Isolation Protocols

Upon suspicion of a possible case, the following protocols will be followed; please note the protocols are slightly different for resident and commuter students:

### Resident Students

- Resident students who have a positive diagnosis or who are symptomatic pending test results will be directed to immediately return home if they are able to drive or a family member can safely transport them. Students are strongly encouraged to travel home if social distancing and infection prevention recommendations can be maintained in the home.
  - Prior to moving onto campus, resident students are encouraged to think through their plan should they need to isolate or self-quarantine. Being sick, scared, and away from home, while also being moved from their “home” residence hall space may not be the most comforting situation for students and having a plan in advance that is safe and accessible can relieve many of these anxieties.
- Resident students should avoid going to a private home in which persons with high risk conditions reside.
- Resident students who are already at home when they receive a positive test result or become symptomatic, should stay home and not return to campus. Resident students who are at home should still call the Student Health COVID-19 Warmline for instructions.
- Resident students who are symptomatic or who had a possible exposure and are pending test results and who cannot arrange for immediate transportation home will be isolated in Loyola Lodge on the College’s SugarLoaf campus at the corner of Germantown Avenue and Bells Mill Road.
- Resident students who are being asked to isolate will be asked for close contacts using the CDC definitions:
  - For symptomatic individuals: Within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more, 48 hours prior to symptoms and up until the time of quarantine
  - For asymptomatic individuals: Within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more for the 14 days prior to testing and/or quarantine
- Students who are in isolation or quarantined will have support for basic needs (food) as well as remote access to student support services including, but not limited to, Academic Advising and the Counseling Center.
- Students who are isolated but asymptomatic or only experiencing mild symptoms (i.e. they feel well enough) may continue to participate in courses remotely.
- Student Health Services will check-in, via phone, each morning between 10:00 am – 11:00 am and Student Health Services or Residence Life will check in each evening. Students must answer their phone so Student Health Services is able to check in on how they are feeling and assess if additional intervention is needed. Failure to comply with this may result in the student being asked again to travel home.

- In cases of emergency, quarantined students will contact Campus Safety and Security for assistance at 215-242-7777.

#### Commuter Students

- Commuter students who have a positive diagnosis or who are symptomatic pending test results must stay home and not come to campus.
- Students who have a positive diagnosis or who are symptomatic should be isolated from others upon symptom onset/diagnosis. Students are not permitted to return to campus until cleared via the criteria listed below.
- Commuter students who are being asked to remain in isolation off-campus will be asked for close contacts using the CDC definitions:
  - For symptomatic individuals: Within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more, 48 hours prior to symptoms and up until the time of quarantine
  - For asymptomatic individuals: Within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more for the 14 days prior to testing and/or quarantine
- Students who are asked to remain off campus will have remote access to student support services including, but not limited to, Academic Advising and the Counseling Center.

Students who are in isolation but asymptomatic or only experiencing mild symptoms (i.e. they feel well enough) may continue to participate in courses remotely.

### **Policies and Expectations for Spring 2021**

#### **Interim Addendum to Student Code of Conduct: COVID-19 Procedures and Expectations**

Chestnut Hill College is welcoming students back to campus for Spring 2021 with a mixture of in-person, hybrid, and online classes. The re-opening of campus includes welcoming students back to the residence halls and an open invitation to participate in co-curricular activities in new and novel ways. Chestnut Hill College is taking steps recommended by public health authorities to minimize the risk of spreading this disease on campus. These steps rely heavily on community responsibility and efforts of all faculty, staff, and students in order to minimize the risk to our community. While we all must do our part to help protect each other, Chestnut Hill College cannot and does not guarantee a COVID 19-free environment, and there remains a risk that you may contract COVID-19 if you come onto campus to live and/or attend classes.

In order to minimize the risks associated with COVID-19, the procedures and expectations below are incorporated into the Chestnut Hill College Student Code of Conduct and are applicable to all students. Your compliance with these requirements is essential to assisting the College in minimizing the risks to you and other members of the community. Please note that these procedures and expectations are accurate at the time of sharing this Addendum; these procedures and expectations may be updated at any time in order to ensure compliance with the latest directives from federal, state, and local authorities. Updates will be shared via @chc.edu email and updated on the College website.



### General Principles:

- Students are subject to all guidelines for individuals related to the COVID-19 pandemic established by the United States [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC).
- In addition, the [Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#) and the [City of Philadelphia](#) have both issued guidelines for personal behavior during the COVID-19 pandemic and you must comply with such guidelines at all times. Students understand that both sets of these guidelines may change, and it is your responsibility to ensure that you understand and comply with these guidelines at all times.
- From time to time the College may implement additional requirements restricting student behavior and students agree to comply with such requirements as a condition of enrollment at Chestnut Hill College.

### Expectations:

- Students will wear face coverings (masks) according to CDC guidelines at all times when they are on campus and not in their residence hall room; this includes but is not limited to academic spaces, the dining hall (except when eating), offices, and lounges.
- Students will maintain a physical distancing of six feet between themselves and other individuals while on campus.
- Students will clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces in their residence hall room before and after another person enters the room. Students will also assist in disinfecting classroom desks, fitness center equipment, common area keyboards and library tables prior to use in order to increase self-protection.
- Students will adhere to procedures outlined and posted in the Fitness Center.
- There will be no guests permitted in the residence halls until further notice. This includes students from other residence halls, Chestnut Hill College commuters, and individuals not enrolled at Chestnut Hill College.
- Students will engage in frequent hand-washing and follow proper sneeze and cough etiquette, as recommended by the CDC.
- Students will avoid large gatherings and abide by local, state, and federal travel restrictions.
- Students will engage in a daily self-assessment and temperature check to screen for symptoms of COVID-19. If a resident student has a temperature or any symptoms of COVID-19 as described by the CDC, they will immediately inform the Director of Student Health Services and stay in their room until they receive additional directives. If a commuter student screens as potentially being positive they should not travel to campus and should contact the Director of Student Health Services at 215-248-7111.
- Students agree to participate in COVID-19 surveillance testing. Students who are randomly selected to be tested are required to follow the instructions as outlined when they are contacted. Students agree to the confidential reporting of the results to the College, without objection. Research has shown that asymptomatic surveillance testing is a key component of limiting the spread of COVID-19 in settings such as colleges.



- Students are required to cooperate with contact tracing conducted by Chestnut Hill College and/or the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. Contact tracing includes eliciting close contacts (less than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes in a 24-hour period) so those individuals can also be quarantined and tested. Research has shown that contact tracing, in addition to surveillance testing, is a key component to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in settings such as colleges. Information obtained through contact tracing will remain confidential and contacts will not be told the name of the person who tested positive. Information will only be shared with those individuals trained by the College to serve as contact tracers in efforts to maintain a healthy community. Anything shared with the contact tracer, including situations that are a violation of the Chestnut Hill College Student Code of Conduct, will only be shared with the contact tracing team and will not be used for later adjudication. However, knowingly and intentionally withholding information from a contact tracer will be considered a violation of this Interim Addendum and may be subject to adjudication.
- If required by the College, students agree to go home or remain in self-quarantine for a time period determined by the College, in consultation with public health authorities, and/or move to a different room in order to receive medical care and/or self-quarantine.

The above conditions may change, and students agree to follow all College directives related to COVID-19 and public health requirements. Any failure to adhere to any of the above directives is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct that may result in sanctions, including immediate removal from Chestnut Hill College housing and/or suspension/dismissal from the College.

### **COVID-19 Honor Code**

The COVID-19 Honor Code is a social compact between Chestnut Hill College and its students, faculty, staff, and third-party vendors. Of equal importance, the COVID-19 Honor Code is an agreement amongst the members of our community designed to create an environment where personal integrity, community responsibility, academic excellence, and care for the Dear Neighbor are prioritized and valued. Living, learning, teaching, and working in times of COVID-19 call upon us all to be stewards of responsible behavior in all facets of our shared academic and co-curricular experience. We all must work together to create a campus that is physically distant but socially connected and engaged.

To that end, as a member of the Chestnut Hill College community, I pledge to:

- Make decisions that support my health and the health of all members of our community, especially those who are most vulnerable. Specifically, I will:
  - Stay home or isolated in my residence hall room if I am sick or may have been exposed to COVID-19;
  - Follow College procedures for notifying appropriate parties if I am sick or may have been exposed to COVID-19;
  - Wear a face covering when I am indoors for both my own protection and the protection of other members of our community;

- Maintain a physical distance of 6 feet while outside on campus and at College sponsored events;
  - Practice good hygiene including frequent hand washing and sneezing and coughing etiquette;
  - Be mindful that my behaviors off-campus (traveling, attending large gatherings, and/or not following CDC guidance related to reducing the spread of COVID-19) impact the Chestnut Hill College community and I will do my part to avoid situations where the risk of spreading COVID-19 is heightened.
- Uphold the values of academic integrity and speak out against academic dishonesty of all forms in both in-person and online course settings.
  - Support help seeking behaviors from my peers and colleagues by reducing the stigma associated with COVID-19.
  - Hold members of our community accountable by politely reminding them of these expectations and seeking help from the appropriate members of our community if needed.

The Chestnut Hill College COVID-19 Honor Code is provided to support our community values and is an added level of accountability to each other as we all navigate unfamiliar territory. The COVID-19 Honor Code is not in place of applicable policies in the Student Code of Conduct, Employee Handbook, or Faculty Handbook. Members of our community are expected to abide by all policies outlined related to COVID-19, but we also recognize that the unique circumstance of living, learning, teaching, and working during a global pandemic call for an additional level of accountability to each other as members of the Chestnut Hill College community.

### **Conclusion**

The challenges we face from COVID-19 are challenges that we will face together. We know that a successful reopening will require the vigilance, cooperation, and dedication of everyone at Chestnut Hill College. We look forward to working together as a community in order to ensure a safe, successful, and exciting return!

Peace,



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