

Averett University's Comprehensive Spring 2022 Health and Safety Plan

**Last modified Dec. 20, 2021*

Averett University remains committed to providing a safe and memorable on-campus experience for the spring 2022 semester. We will continue to rally together to keep ourselves, visitors to our campus and people in our greater community healthy.

Keeping with many of the best practices we implemented last semester, we are confident in our plans for a safe and enriching semester with the help of each person on campus. The primary tenets of this plan include:

- All on-campus Averett students and employees are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 for Spring 2022. This requirement includes all students who come to Averett's campuses – both residential and commuter – as well as all employees on our campuses, including third-party on-campus business partner employees.
- Face coverings will continue to be required in classroom spaces, in the dining hall, in the Office of Health Services and during large indoor events. They are strongly recommended while otherwise indoors, but no longer required for vaccinated individuals.
- COVID-19 PCR testing for all on-campus students and employees prior to returning to campus for the spring semester, and possibly at various intervals throughout the semester.
- While LiveSafe daily reporting will no longer be required, symptom monitoring and reporting will continue through the health triage line phone number.
- Continuing classes and activities on campus with as close to pre-pandemic normal operations as possible.
- Relying on the Office of Health Services for campus COVID data monitoring, reporting, and mitigation efforts.
- Continued monitoring of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Governor of Virginia's recommendations regarding COVID-19.

As the global pandemic continues to evolve, so could our campus mitigation efforts. We will continue to update our campus regularly with any adjustments to this plan, should they be needed.

Table of Contents

Background	Page 2
A Safe and Healthy Campus Guiding Principles	Page 3
HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS	
Vaccines	
COVID-19 Testing	
Face Coverings	
Symptom Reporting	

STUDENT QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION

- Quarantine
- Isolation
- Access to Academic Adjustments

HEALTH MONITORING AND RESPONSE

- Contact Tracing
- Campus Outbreak Management
- Shutdown Considerations if Warranted
- Health Care Services and Local Health Partnerships

COMMUNITY SPACES, CAMPUS EVENTS AND VISITORS

- Athletics
- Business Partners on Campus
- Dining on Campus
- Facility Rentals
- Transportation
- University Events
- Visitor Protocols

Academics and Classrooms

Page 8

- Classroom Safety Precautions
- Meeting with Faculty During Office Hours
- COVID-19 Academic Accommodations: Students
- COVID-19 Academic Accommodations: Faculty
- Science Laboratories
- Fieldwork, Clinicals, Off-Campus Learning and Community Engagement

Background

The Averett University Spring 2022 Health and Safety Plan focuses on a safe return to campus for all students, faculty, staff, volunteers and visitors. The Core COVID-19 Campus Team is comprised of the following team members:

- Dr. Tiffany Franks, President
- Ms. Cassie Jones, Executive Director of Marketing and Communications
- Mr. Don Aungst, CFO/COO *(COVID-19 Campus Coordinator)
- Ms. Ginger Henderson, Chair of Equestrian Department and Faculty Division Chair
- Ms. Kathie Tune, Director of Human Resources
- Ms. Lynsey Corriher, Sr. COVID-19 Case Manager and Meeting and Event Coordinator
- Ms. Meg Stevens, Vice President, Director of Athletics and Campus Operations
- Ms. Stacy Gato, Vice President for Enrollment Management
- Ms. Tammi Devlin, Director of Health Services
- Dr. Timothy Fulop, Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Dr. Venita Mitchell, Vice President for Student Engagement and Senior Student Experience Officer

This team will continue to meet on a regular basis in the spring to deal with COVID-related matters and adjust on-campus operations and health and safety protocols that meet or exceed health and safety guidelines. We continue to

work very closely with local health officials and statewide higher education leaders to stay informed of the most current recommendations and to implement best practices.

We are applying the same multifaceted approach to communicate elements of our planning through continual updates to the campus community, including students, employees, the Board of Trustees, alumni and community members.

The University's website [Alert page](#) serves as the central portal for all COVID-19 information, and visitors to the [averett.edu](#) site are immediately directed there from a gold notification bar at the top of the site for easy access. In an effort to keep our campus informed, we developed a COVID-19 dashboard that links from that Alert page. The dashboard is updated daily with student and employee data relevant to COVID-19 activity on campus, including: the date; current positive cases in isolation; current number awaiting test results; current number in quarantine; total recovered cases since the first day of classes for the spring 2022 semester; the total number of positive cases reported since the first day of classes; and the percentage of on-campus students and employees who are vaccinated.

The University utilizes its two weekly internal e-newsletters (one for students, and one for employees) to share COVID-19 updates and reminders to campus. Both include a designated section for such at the top of each week's edition, and will include a "Nurses Corner" section moving forward. More urgent notifications are shared by campus-wide emails and supplemented by team discussions from University leadership. External messages are also shared on Averett's [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) pages, and when appropriate, with media. Finally, all messaging is reinforced through faculty and staff meetings.

Ahead, you will find details regarding the following two sections: A Safe and Healthy Campus and Academics and Classrooms.

A Safe and Healthy Campus

Our top priority remains to create a safe and healthy living, learning and working environment, and to protect and support the health, wellness and safety of our entire Averett Family.

We are taking measures across our campuses to make sure everyone remains as safe as possible. Health and safety protocols include a vaccine requirement, face coverings in some locations, symptom monitoring and reporting, and COVID-19 PCR testing at various intervals throughout the semester.

Guiding Principles

The University works closely with local health officials and is following all current health and safety guidelines and staying abreast of best practices. While we look to students and employees to practice self-care and socially conscious behavior, the University is committed to taking all reasonable steps to provide a healthy environment for living, learning and working. Our guiding principles are embedded in recommendations by the CDC, consultations with VDH and the Governor's executive orders related to the pandemic.

Our guidelines will be continuously evaluated and updated. In order to nurture a supportive community, the University will proactively address with students and employees how our campus will continue a culture of care for everyone while facing the impacts of COVID-19.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS: STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES

Vaccines

At Averett, we believe the COVID-19 vaccine is the best way for us to keep one another safe and ensure a thriving Averett campus experience. COVID-19 vaccines have proved to be safe like other vaccines, and as an educational institution, Averett strongly supports science, reason and neighborly care.

All on-campus Averett students and employees are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 for Spring 2022. This requirement includes all students who come to Averett's campuses – both residential and commuter – as well as all employees on our campuses, including third-party on-campus business partner employees. Students and employees are required to show proof of vaccination. Averett will continue to follow CDC guidelines recommending vaccinations.

Averett strongly encourages its campus community to receive their booster shots, when the timing is clinically compatible. Please note, this recommendation could change based on a number of health care factors and regional case activity.

According to the CDC, COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, and help fully vaccinated people resume many pre-pandemic activities. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is a safer choice than getting the virus, and studies have shown that vaccination provides a strong boost in protection, even in people who have recovered from COVID-19. To learn more about the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccination, click [here](#).

COVID-19 Testing

All on-campus students, faculty and staff are required to submit results of a negative PCR COVID-19 test to health@averett.edu or via the LiveSafe app no more than three days prior to returning to campus for the spring semester. Rapid (antigen) tests will not be accepted.

The on-campus testing kiosk will be available again starting Monday, Jan. 3; employees returning that day may test at the kiosk by end of day Tuesday, Jan. 4. While awaiting results, employees should be diligent with masking and limiting in-person meetings unless distancing at least six feet from others is possible.

For the spring semester, anyone with an approved exemption will be required to have a PCR test done weekly which will be submitted to the health services office every Wednesday. These results can be uploaded via the LiveSafe app or emailed to health@averett.edu. As we continue to closely monitor the campuses' COVID-19 infection rates, this guidance is subject to change.

Athletes will continue to follow the NCAA guidelines regarding testing.

Face Coverings

We will continue to monitor the transmission rates of the COVID-19 virus in our surrounding area; however, since we have reached over a 90% vaccination rate, we have decided to do a trial run on loosening our masking requirements for the spring semester. This change of course will continue to be closely monitored and revisited, especially as new variants are continually developing and changing.

Face coverings will continue to be required for all, regardless of vaccination status, in classroom spaces, in the dining hall, in the Office of Health Services and during large indoor events. They are strongly recommended while otherwise indoors, but no longer required for vaccinated individuals.

Those with approved exemptions will continue to be required to wear face coverings at all times when indoors. This modification is based on an honor system and the expectation is that everyone is acting in the best interest of the health

and safety of our community. This protocol continues to be the CDC recommendation and therefore, unless CDC changes their guidance, will not change on our campus.

All visitors will be required to wear face coverings when indoors on campus.

Symptom Reporting

LiveSafe daily reporting will no longer be required, and the green check will no longer be needed to attend classes or enter the café. Rather, anyone experiencing symptoms, regardless of vaccination status, should call the health triage line directly at 434-203-3781, at which time the nurse will advise on next steps. Employees are required to notify their supervisor or division head if experiencing symptoms that result in their staying home. The health triage line number will also be easily accessible via the LiveSafe app.

STUDENT QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION

Quarantine

Non-vaccinated asymptomatic students exposed to a person with known or suspected COVID-19 infection should immediately call the Averett Health Triage Line at 434-203-3781. Any student assessed by a health care provider or VDH and asked to quarantine, due to close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, will be required to return home. If a student is unable to return home due to travel limitations the health services and COVID case managers will work with the student for best options.

If someone is fully vaccinated (two weeks after the second dose of a two-dose series, or two weeks after the one-dose vaccine), they do not need to quarantine due to an exposure unless they are symptomatic. If they are experiencing symptoms after being exposed, they should get tested as soon as possible and confine themselves to their bedroom or dorm until the results return. Per the CDC recommendations, a PCR test 5-7 days after exposure, even though they are vaccinated will be required. If the results are positive, they will undergo a 10-day isolation based on their symptom onset date. The health services staff will review the isolation specifics as well as the guidelines for returning to campus after recovery.

Isolation

When a student is assessed by their health care provider and asked to engage in isolation due to a positive COVID-19 test, they will be to return home, if possible. If a student is unable to return home due to travel limitations, best practice protocol regarding isolation will be administered via the health services and COVID case managers will work with the student for best options, including provisions for the following:

- Appropriate notifications, including to the COVID Case Manager which, in consultation with VDH, should inform any exposed person(s) of their possible exposure to COVID-19 while on University property, while maintaining confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Averett will support students by providing counsel about their options, using appropriate health and safety protocols.

Access to Academic Adjustments

The COVID case manager will send an email to their instructors and advisor(s), notifying them of their current situation. For questions regarding academic support, students will follow established protocol with the Student Success Center team that includes multiple options like calling, emailing or scheduling a virtual meeting.

HEALTH MONITORING AND RESPONSE

Contact Tracing

The Director of Health Services will notify VDH if a student or employee tests positive for COVID-19 and vice versa. Per HIPAA and FERPA guidelines, health information is confidential and the name of the individual who tests positive will be released only on a need-to-know basis.

VDH performs a case investigation on anyone who tests positive for COVID-19. From that case investigation, a contact list is developed to trace all those who have been in contact with the infected person. The Director of Health Services and the Director Human Resources will support VDH in this process, and it is VDH that determines who is a contact, which is defined as someone who has had exposure within six feet for greater than 15 minutes. All cases and contacts are notified by VDH and given specific instructions on how to monitor their health, how to isolate/quarantine, and when isolation/quarantine will be completed. VDH will notify the University of all cases and contacts as well as the dates when the person who is in quarantine/isolation can be released.

Campus Outbreak Management

In the case of a campus outbreak, Averett would work in consultation with VDH to mitigate the spread.

The CDC defines a COVID-19 outbreak as "two or more patients with COVID-19 who are discovered to be linked, and the linkage is established outside of a case investigation and contact tracing (e.g., two patients who received a diagnosis of COVID-19 are found to work in the same office, and only one or neither of them was listed as a contact to the other)."

Shutdown Considerations if Warranted

Averett has an Emergency Response Team that follows the protocols and processes of Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) nationally used Incident Command System. The team developed a plan for dealing with a pandemic, including shutdown considerations if severe pandemic related conditions warrant dismissals or shutdown. The criteria and process for making dismissal or shutdown decisions is done in consultation with VDH. The plan also addresses reducing campus activities, identifying essential personnel, conveying a communication plan and other matters related to the pandemic incident. The incident commander would make a determination regarding appropriate actions based on consultation with VDH and other health and safety considerations.

Averett will continue to review the current pandemic plan, make appropriate revisions and adhere to best practices regarding protocols such as conducting periodic tabletop exercises regarding the plan throughout the academic year. VDH will be included in the tabletop exercise and scripted communications regarding a pandemic incident will be reviewed and approved.

Health Care Services and Local Health Partnerships

The Office of Health Services will offer an ever-evolving list of services. Averett has a direct relationship with Dr. Carl Winfield at Providence Family and Sports Medicine (173 Executive Dr., Danville, VA 24541). Dr. Winfield will serve as a provider for Averett students in his office, with appointments being made through the Director of Health Services.

Averett is working closely with VDH (326 Taylor Dr., Danville, VA 24541; 434-766-9828), as well as health care facilities in the coordination of all activities necessary to ensure the health of students, faculty and staff in the Averett community.

This includes the following:

- Weekly reports from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) that include summary information on the number of cases and contacts in the jurisdiction and district.
- Support in coordinating outbreak investigations that will include providing specific disease prevention and control recommendations to reduce the spread of disease.

- Assistance in identifying resources for diagnostic testing for Averett employees and students, including private and public testing.
- The Danville Health Department and Chatham Health Department (200 H G Mcghee Dr., Chatham, VA 24531; 434-432-7232) are designated vaccination sites. Most pharmacies and some health care providers also offer vaccinations.
- Telemedicine solutions for employees in conjunction with local health care providers can be used to ensure the continued delivery of high-quality care. For patients who meet certain clinical criteria, physician offices are offering telehealth appointments, which are virtual, face-to-face visits with a provider using a video conferencing service. [LiveHealth® Online](#) consultations are also available for University employee health plan participants.

COMMUNITY SPACES, CAMPUS EVENTS AND VISITORS

Athletics

Averett Athletics will also continue to monitor and adhere to any required NCAA, conference, local, state and national guidelines, and changes may be made to ensure safety for our student-athletes, staff and fans.

Business Partners on Campus

All business partners with employees on campus on a routine basis (e.g., bookstore, campus security, dining services and facilities) are to follow all health and safety protocol as Averett employees.

Dining on Campus

In the Dining Hall, hand sanitizer stations are available. Patrons of the dining hall will be expected to adhere to all University and public health and safety guidelines, and the use of face coverings when not eating and drinking will be required. Dining Hall employees must wear face coverings.

Facility Reservations and Rentals

Averett will comply with current CDC protocols regarding facility rentals and use of common space on all Averett campuses. Internal and external clients will be required to follow and abide by the University's health and safety protocols. We will promote use/rental of our spaces in compliance with guidelines mentioned above. This will include all meetings, events, camps, conferences, overnight stays, etc. for students, faculty, staff and outside entities. All visitors to Averett campuses will comply with the University's current health requirements.

Transportation

Averett University partners with the City of Danville Transit for shuttling students to and from campus locations throughout Danville. Users will continue to follow all City of Danville Transit guidelines.

University Events

During major indoor University events, everyone will be required to wear face coverings.

Visitor Protocols

Averett is open for all visitors including prospective students and their families. All visitors will be required to wear face coverings and follow any other COVID-19 related health and safety protocols and may be provided with a mask upon request.

Prospective students and their families must [register](#) for tours online. As a family views the registration page, open tour options are available for selection. Registrants will receive follow-up communication stating if the tour will begin in the Welcome Center in Booksellers or Averett Central. Tours include hand sanitizing stations as well as the addition of current health and safety guidance across our campuses to maintain safety of our faculty, staff, students and guests.

Academics and Classrooms

We are excited to welcome students back for a new semester. Classes in the Averett traditional program continue to be predominant face-to-face instruction with some protocols from our previous semester staying in effect for the spring. Faculty will provide accommodations for students who become sick and/or have to self-isolate through either synchronous or asynchronous participation in the course.

Classroom Safety Precautions

Classrooms will look similar to before the pandemic with the following caveats:

- Desks and seating will maintain at least a three-foot distance from each other.
- Students, faculty and staff will continue to wear face coverings inside classrooms.
- Students who are sick or are in quarantine will not be admitted into class.
- Any faculty member not adhering to the guidelines will be referred to the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Any student not adhering to the guidelines will be referred to the Vice President for Student Engagement.

Meeting with Faculty During Office Hours

Face-to-face office hours are expected of each faculty member, though a faculty member and student may agree to other options such as email, telephone and Zoom meetings. Likewise, advisors will also provide options for students in addition to face-to-face meetings in offices or elsewhere on campus.

COVID-19 Academic Accommodations: Students

Students who become sick and/or have to self-isolate will be able to stay in their class remotely. Sick students who cannot keep up with their schoolwork will be given time to make up their work and may also be considered for an Incomplete per policy if they cannot finish all work by the end of the semester.

COVID-19 Academic Accommodations: Faculty

Any faculty member who becomes sick or has to self-isolate for a period, if they are able to continue work, will teach remotely.

Fieldwork, Clinicals, Off-Campus Learning and Community Engagement

Students undertaking nursing clinicals and student teaching may be required to be vaccinated by the partner organization. Please check with the related academic departments.

All community engagement activities (student volunteering, service-learning and internships) will follow the same guidelines for face coverings, as well as any partner requirements.