



Policy Name:	COVID-19 Policy on Visitors, Face Masks and Facilities Use		
Associated Form(s):	N/A	Policy Number:	2022-13
Reviewed:	1) Non-Academic Policy Review Committee 2) COVID-19 Task Force	Approved:	August 12, 2022
Approval Authority:	President <i>Timothy L. Hall</i>	Adopted:	August 13, 2022
Responsible Executive(s):	Vice President of Operations and Facilities	Revised:	January 2021, June 2021, September 2021, December 2021, January 2022, April 2022
Responsible Office(s):	Facilities 2) Campus Safety	Contact(s):	1) Director of Operations 2) Executive Director of Campus Safety

## **I. POLICY STATEMENT**

In order to continue to protect the health and safety of the entire Mercy College community during the COVID-19 pandemic and to prevent and control the spread of the virus, the College has implemented the following rules and procedures for visitors coming to any Mercy College campus or location (hereinafter “College facilities”), limitations on facilities use by alumni and external organizations, and face mask requirements in certain circumstances. The College reserves the right to make changes to this Policy at any time, at its discretion.

## **II. FACE MASKS**

Currently, masks are not required in Mercy College facilities **except in the following circumstances:**

- A) Any employee, student, contractor or vendor who has received an approved exemption from the COVID-19 vaccine and the booster if eligible, is required to wear masks while indoors at all times except in private offices.
- B) Faculty, staff and students in certain programs, such as in the health sciences, may be required to wear masks at the discretion of the program and faculty where health and safety dictates, or may be required at an off-campus facility.
- C) Anyone who enters the Student Health Office must wear a mask.
- D) Anyone who is required pursuant to current guidelines relating to those who tested positive for, or have been exposed to, COVID-19 must wear a mask pursuant to those guidelines.

The College strongly recommends that in addition to the above circumstances, community members wear masks when in large crowds, particularly when indoors, and when they are not feeling well.

## **III. VISITORS TO CAMPUS**

Currently there are no restrictions for individuals who are invited to campus to enter College facilities, **except in the following circumstances:**

### **A) Guests to Residence Halls**

- All invited guests who are visiting any Mercy College residence hall are required to show proof of full COVID-19 vaccination.
- Guests who will be staying overnight in any of the College’s residence halls shall be required to provide proof of full vaccination and a booster shot, if eligible.

- Full vaccination means: two weeks after their second dose of the Pfizer, Moderna Vaccines or Novavax, or the single dose of the Johnson and Johnson vaccines.
- Boosters: individuals are eligible for boosters 2 months after receiving the J&J vaccine or 5 months after receiving the second Pfizer, Moderna or Novavax dose.

Acceptable proof of the vaccine include the CDC vaccine card (or copy of the card), the Excelsior Pass, the NYC COVID Safe App, or the CLEAR Health Pass.

#### B) Alumni Restrictions

Mercy College alumni who regularly use Mercy College facilities, including but not limited to the gym and libraries, must provide proof of full vaccination and booster if eligible. To do so, they must apply for an alumni card by submitting proof of the COVID-19 vaccination and booster [online](#). Alumni can contact the Office of Alumni Relations at [alumni@mercy.edu](mailto:alumni@mercy.edu) or 914-674-7759 if they have any questions. Alumni must abide by the terms and conditions of all Mercy College policies, including the College's general [Visitors Policy](#).

#### C) Visitors with COVID-19 or COVID-19 Symptoms

Visitors shall refrain from coming to any Mercy campus location if they are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days, or have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 10 days. Any visitor who shows signs or has a positive COVID-19 test after a visit to Mercy College should email [healthalert@mercy.edu](mailto:healthalert@mercy.edu) to inform the College when they were on campus and who they met with.

#### D) Disclaimer

COVID-19 continues to remain a highly infectious, life-threatening disease and a global pandemic, that has killed more than 1,000,000 Americans. While COVID-19 vaccines are widely available to those six (6) months and older, COVID-19, including its variants, still remains a significant threat. Mercy College continues to implement comprehensive safety measures to help to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19.

Despite the College's best efforts to control the spread of the virus, the College cannot guarantee a virus-free environment. As such, visitors to campus voluntarily assume full responsibility for any and all risks of illness or injury associated with their exposure to COVID-19, and completely absolve Mercy College, its trustees, officers, employees, agents, and contractors from any and all legal or financial responsibility, including, but not limited to, any personal injury, disability,

illness, damage or death from exposure to COVID-19, whether such exposure occurs before, during or after the visit at any campus of Mercy College.

#### **IV. CAMPUS EVENTS AND FACILITIES USE**

Mercy College reserves the right to limit any events, gatherings and meetings that will take place on or off-campus, and to impose restrictions it believes are necessary to maintain the health and safety of the community. Currently, there are no COVID-related restrictions in place for on campus events, gatherings and meetings for Mercy and non-Mercy related purposes; however, the College will be monitoring for any trends and uptick in COVID cases and shall amend this policy if needed.

If there are any questions about this Policy, please contact the General Counsel at (914) 674-7544, or [kbowes@mercy.edu](mailto:kbowes@mercy.edu). Any exceptions to this Policy must be reviewed and approved by the President in writing.

***The College maintains the discretion at all times to modify this policy, including but not limited to, denying access to Mercy's campuses in order to maintain the health and safety of the College community in light of the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic.***