



## ELISABETH HAUB SCHOOL OF LAW

Dear Students,

Since I last wrote to you about the pandemic in December, we have been closely watching the spread of COVID -19 in the Westchester area and around the country. Throughout the fall semester, we managed to hold a strong line against the virus. It was not easy, and I am grateful for your vigilance that helped us keep our Law School open.

COVID – 19 is gaining traction in New York and across the country. While this is not a reason to panic, it is a warning as we begin the opening of the residence hall. In order to move forward with our plan to open the residence hall on January 19 we must stay on guard. Our shared commitment to health and safety is more imperative now than ever.

The Spring 2021 semester will begin on Saturday, January 16, 2021, with the January start program beginning on January 7. **All classes will meet remotely through Saturday, February 6.** Dining and other in-person services will operate from the start of the semester. In-person classes will begin on Monday, February 8. Please be sure to review the academic calendar [here](#), as it will look different than it has in the past.

As you prepare to return to campus for Spring 2021, there are few things you need to keep in mind in order to access campus in the upcoming weeks. This email contains information regarding your:

- **pre-arrival test requirement to access campus** (for commuters and residents)
- updated COVID-19 **policies** for campus life including new policies and accountability measures
- **vaccination** information
- and reminders about **quarantine requirements** if you've been outside New York State or the bordering states in the 14-days prior to your campus arrival

We have also compiled a set of [FAQs for the Spring 2021](#) return for both commuter and residential students. It is imperative you review this email and the FAQs otherwise you may be

unexpectedly restricted from entering campus.

### **Pre-arrival test requirement for commuters and residents**

All students are required to submit a negative COVID-19 PCR test result in order to return to campus for the spring semester. The date of your test (not the results) must be no more than 7 days prior to the first day you will be on campus. After you upload your result, Pace will verify your results, clear you to access campus, and send you confirmation that your test results were verified. This process can take anywhere between 24-72 hours depending on the volume of test results. Please plan ahead.

All students, staff and faculty physically returning to campus for the Spring semester are required to submit the results of a **COVID-19 PCR test taken on, or after January 11, 2021**. To access the Mediat system, please use your Pace credentials (portal userid/password).

- Test needs to be conducted within 7 days of your anticipated date of return.
- If tested positive within the last 8 weeks (PLV and LAW) or 90 days (NYC), upload your positive test result (you will not be required to re-test unless you are outside of that time frame).
- Please contact the University Health Care unit in NY or on the Pleasantville campus for further direction: New York (212) 346-1600 / Westchester (914) 773-3760.

The mediat portal link is: [www.pace.edu/patientportal](http://www.pace.edu/patientportal).

The instructions to upload results is: [Mediat Instructions](#).

- Please limit your exposure to others after you are tested by limiting gathering with others, participating in activities, etc. so that your test results are an accurate representation of your health from the time you receive the test to obtaining your results and arriving on campus.
- Instructions for uploading your result can be found in the testing section of our [FAQ page](#). For questions related to uploading your test (including information on what to do if you've tested positive in recent months), please visit the testing section of our [FAQ page](#) for more guidance. For questions related to test results, please contact your campus University Health Care unit: New York (212) 346-1600 / Westchester (914) 773-3760.
- Commuter students will not be granted access to campus until results are submitted and verified.
- In addition to the pre-arrival test results, as an additional precaution, all residential students will receive a rapid test upon arrival to campus. This test is the lower nasal self-administered swab. **Students who test positive using the campus rapid test (and came from a distance of 100 miles or less) will need to complete their isolation off-campus and follow their local department of health instructions. Students who test positive using the campus rapid test who came from more than 100 miles away will be housed in an isolation room on campus.** Students quarantining in the Pace provided off-campus accommodations will be tested before completing their quarantine.

## **Updating our COVID-19 protocols, policies, and accountability for all students**

As the case count continues to rise across the country, and even in New York, we will continue with precautions and policies in place to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 on campus. We have also added new policies and updated some of the consequences for those who do not follow the COVID-19 precautions. Five of the most important precautions include:

- **Weekly campus COVID-19 testing.** All residential students will be tested on a weekly basis beginning January 25. Commuter students will continue to be tested randomly as was done last semester. Congregate living settings such as residence halls are a priority for more frequent testing. Students who miss their testing will receive one warning. The second time a testing appointment is missed will result in possible removal (or restriction) from campus.
- **Reduce your travel off campus to visit others when at all possible.** With the number of rising cases and concerns around variants of the virus that spread more easily, I implore you to consider limiting your travel off campus and spending time (especially without face coverings) with others. I understand many of you have internships, jobs, family care responsibilities, and so forth. However, now more than ever, we need to do more to limit the amount of exposure to others without face coverings and physical distancing.
- **Complete the Pace Safe App each day you are on campus.** First thing when you wake up on campus (or before you come to campus), you should complete the COVID-19 symptom screening app. Last semester it was also required for all students to complete the COVID-19 symptom screening to access campus and buildings. However, there were many residents who did not complete this once they were on campus or only when they needed to access certain buildings. This has been a great tool for students to monitor their symptoms, which helped report some exposures last semester. For students who are found not in compliance of completing the app at least 4 days per week while on campus, there will be conduct consequences that could result in removal (or restriction) from campus. For commuters, this is only required for you to complete to access campus, but we still highly encourage you to complete more often for your own benefit (regardless of how often you visit campus).
- **Continue the use of face coverings and physical distancing.** This precaution remains to be one of the most important actions we can take to limit the spread of COVID-19. Although we strongly encourage you to limit your travel and exposure to others outside of campus, if you cannot do so, you should consider increasing the use of face coverings and distancing when you are with others (even friends and family, especially if you do not live with them).
- **Continue to limit guests on campus and in residence halls.** Although I am deeply concerned about the impact of isolation on all of us, we need to continue with this restriction of guests. (I, myself, have not visited any family or friends since before Thanksgiving including winter holidays and New Years -- isolation concerns are real and I acknowledge that.) We will review this if we start to see our cases decline locally and on campus in addition to having an accurate understanding of our campus health and infection rates.

### **New York State quarantine requirements for commuters and residents**

- If you are quarantining on your own because you have been outside of New York or bordering states during the 14-days prior to your campus arrival, please ensure you follow the quarantine requirements of New York (or the bordering state in which you are completing quarantine). This often means that you are staying inside (unless you have private property where no one else will access), limiting your exposure to others, not leaving your residence or accommodation except for medical reasons, and following the testing requirements if you qualify for release from quarantine earlier than 14 days.
- Residents: Residential Life & Housing sent a form to all residential students that was due last Friday (1/8) to report your intentions of quarantining on your own, in a Pace-provided off-campus accommodation, or no need for quarantine because you will not have left the bordering states for 14-days prior to your campus arrival.
- If you have not been outside of New York or the bordering states leading up to the 14-days prior to your campus arrival, then you should not have to worry about quarantine requirements. However, *you still need to obtain a negative COVID-19 PCR test result in order to access campus for the first time.*

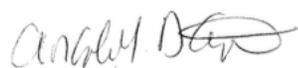
These measures are our first line of defense against the virus. We all miss socializing but the risk is real. I urge you to hold yourselves and each other accountable. Again, once you have moved into residence, we urge you to remain on campus and not travel outside the contiguous states for the semester. If you do, you will be subject to new quarantine restrictions. Failure to comply with the quarantine restrictions may result in immediate suspension from the residence hall.

Remember to wear your face coverings, physically distance and you must engage in on campus weekly testing. We will send students home this spring for conduct violations as necessary in order to protect our community.

I know you are tired of the pandemic and the issues it has presented for your education and the health and safety of your family members. *We are all very tired.* However, we must double down on our pandemic precautions and support each other.

Let us begin and end strong.

As always,



Angie D'Agostino  
Dean for Students & Campus Affairs