

## COVID-19 Return to Campus

By September 2021, it is anticipated that:

- COVID-19 transmission will be low, and more importantly serious infections will be uncommon. COVID-19 is a virus that is unlikely to be eliminated in the population. However, COVID-19 can be managed in the same manner as other common respiratory infections.
- All staff, faculty, and students will have had an opportunity to be fully dosed of the COVID-19 vaccine. As immunization programs succeed, their positive effects will build at the population level, reducing transmission in communities, decreasing serious outcomes of COVID-19, and thereby even protecting unvaccinated individuals.
- Based on guidance from local health officials and other jurisdictions, controlled environments such as post-secondary educational settings are lower-risk sites for COVID-19 transmission. The multiple layers of infection prevention measures in place will help Sofia University to open and available for learners.

While elimination of COVID-19 virus is not feasible in the near future, we can certainly adapt to living with COVID-19 as we do with other manageable seasonal ailments such as influenza. Immunization and prevention and exposure control measures are the tools we have to make everyone less vulnerable to getting COVID-19 or experiencing serious outcomes.

Preventing the spread of COVID-19 relies on everyone doing their part, including immunization, self-administered health checks, staying home when sick, wearing masks when appropriate, practicing hand hygiene, and maintaining strong public health measures such as monitoring, testing and contact tracing protocols.

As conditions improve through the summer some of the more restrictive public health measures affecting our personal and professional lives will be relaxed and replaced with other proven infection prevention and control measures. While no single layer of protection against COVID-19 is perfect, when multiple layers of protection are combined, the risk of transmission is significantly reduced. Due to the anticipated effect of the immunization program, the layering of core public health measures, and the tailoring of prevention and control measures, physical distancing will not be required in our classrooms.

Core measures that are expected to remain in place for September, unless otherwise determined by public health officials include:

- Completing a daily COVID-19 self-assessment and not attending campus when ill.
- Following handwashing and hygiene protocols.
- Maintaining up-to-date campus COVID-19 Safety Plans.
- Continuing daily cleaning protocols in all indoor setting and on high touch surfaces; and
- Requiring non-medical masks in indoor common areas depending on the rate of COVID-19 transmission.

Some federal travel restrictions may remain in place this fall, but it is anticipated that international students entering the US to study will continue to be permitted entry to attend Sofia University.

### Campus Logistics:

- Daily self-assessment of COVID-19 system. Individuals experiencing symptoms should stay home, self-assess to determine if COVID-19 testing is needed and contact local health authorities or their healthcare provider for medical advice as necessary.
- Manage the safe flow of pedestrian traffic within buildings and confined areas. We will use directional arrows in hallways for traffic flow and denoting building entrances and exits
- Furniture for informal or non-educational/non-study use should be organized to discourage crowding.
- Faculty, staff and students will be encouraged to minimize the time spent in confined spaces (coffee rooms, copy rooms, washrooms etc.).
- We can anticipate the required use of non-medical masks in indoor common areas including our lobbies, hallways, washrooms, kitchen, break rooms. Classrooms, libraries and workspaces.
- We will ensure that our building ventilation systems are in good operating condition, that our HVAC systems are operating and maintained in accordance with State regulations.
- Barriers or partitions may continue to be used in busy client-facing settings (e.g., reception, and may also be considered in smaller, open spaces where multiple workstations are in close proximity.
- Hand hygiene will be actively promoted. Hand sanitation stations will be placed at regular intervals throughout the common spaces and at the entrances/exits to all public spaces.
- Educational spaces, public spaces and high touch areas will be cleaned routinely

### Faculty and staff:

We acknowledge that some faculty and staff may feel anxious or hesitant to return to campus even with the updated safety procedures we are implementing. Formal requests for medical accommodation will be considered on the basis of the individual circumstances. Each Sofia employee is asked to consult with their supervisors to assess how they can continue to complete their roles and responsibilities and provide the service and support required in order to service our students and ensure Sofia's academic quality and integrity, its financial sustainability and regulatory compliance.

### Student Supports/Accommodation:

Sofia will follow established accommodation mechanisms to ensure that students who cannot physically be on campus as required by their programs of study (e.g., they are ill, adhering to quarantine rules, self-isolating etc.) are not significantly disadvantaged in their study. We will not require medical documentation from students for absences.

- Sofia will be establishing mental health supports critical to a full return in-person class presence.
- We will adhere to travel advisories with respect to international students.

Sofia University has implemented a one-year tuition and fee freeze for domestic programs.