The following update to the #FortifyFranklin plan is effective August 19th, 2021. It is subject to change as conditions warrant and/or as we receive additional data about the campus and broader community environment, guidance from healthcare professionals, and recommendations issued by federal, state and local public health and government officials.

We will evaluate this policy regularly, as we hope to relax the policy as soon as our consulting physicians deem it safe to do so. The best way to accomplish that is through vaccination.

Community members are asked to monitor their health and symptoms of COVID (listed below). Students experiencing these symptoms should self-isolate and contact the Campus Nurse. Faculty and staff experiencing these symptoms should self-isolate, contact their healthcare provider, and secure testing as recommended.

Most common symptoms include:

- Fever
- Dry cough
- Tiredness

Less common symptoms:

- Aches and pains
- Sore throat
- Diarrhea
- Conjunctivitis
- Headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- A rash on skin, or discoloration of finters or toes

Most common symptoms of the delta variant include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Dry cough
- Fatigue

Less common symptoms:

- Body aches
- Muscle or joint pain
- Shortness of breath
- Congestion
- Diarrhea
- Nausea
- Chill
- Dizziness

Vaccination

Franklin College is strongly encouraging students to be fully vaccinated prior to returning to campus in the Fall. We are emphasizing the importance of both personal choice and collective responsibility. Those who choose not to vaccinate must still do their part to ensure the safety of

others on campus as we return to normal activities; this includes both entry testing and ongoing surveillance testing.

Testing

Fully vaccinated students*+ will not participate in surveillance, entry, or reentry testing unless they develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

**Fully vaccinated athletes may still have to participate in testing in order to meet NCAA requirements.*

+If a booster becomes recommended, already vaccinated students may be required to receive the booster to continue to be considered "fully vaccinated."

Unvaccinated students will be required to participate in entry, re-entry, and surveillance testing. Both PCR and antigen rapid testing protocols may be enacted throughout the academic year. When possible, the cost of testing will first be billed to the students' insurance. **If insurance coverage does not apply, the student will bear financial responsibility for the cost of testing (unless the student has an approved religious or medical exemption for the vaccine).** The College does not accept responsibility for insufficient insurance coverage or disputes between third party testing laboratories and insurance claims.

A random sample of approximately 25% of the unvaccinated, non-athlete student population will be tested every two-weeks. Testing protocol for athletes can be found in the athletic supplement to the Fortify Franklin plan. Students may opt to provide their own negative test result from the same testing window and from an approved testing site if they prefer. Students who do not comply with testing protocol will have their internet and card access turned off until they make arrangements for testing. Continued or habitual non-compliance will be regarded as a conduct violation and adjudicated as such. Rate and frequency of surveillance testing may increase or decrease to reflect the local environment.

Masking

EFFECTIVE AS OF AUGUST 12, 2021: The COVID infection rate in Johnson County has moved into the "orange" advisory level, reflecting a significant increase in positivity rate. Since students are returning to campus and we have not yet fully assessed the level of vaccination among them, the advice of our consulting physicians is that we return to a policy of **requiring masks indoors,** with the following exceptions, per previous policy:

- Individual is outdoors.
- Individual is working inside an office or room that is not shared with anyone else.
- Student is taking a shower in an individual stall or brushing teeth at a sink.
- Student is inside a residential room or a Greek-house bedroom.
- Individual is eating or drinking during meal time; students may not eat or drink in classes or in other spaces where masks are otherwise required.
- Individual is granted medical exception(s) approved by the college.

We will evaluate this policy regularly, as we hope to relax the policy as soon as our consulting physicians deem it safe to do so.

A faculty or staff member, or resident, may ask any individual (vaccinated or unvaccinated) to wear a mask when entering their private office or residence hall room.

ALL students, faculty, and staff must have a mask on their person or otherwise readily accessible at ALL times.
We will continue to monitor both the external environment and the level of vaccination among the campus community, and our policies will be based on those metrics as analyzed by our consulting physicians and recommendations issued by federal, state and local public health and government officials.

EFFECTIVE IF/WHEN CURRENT POLICY CHANGES DUE TO POSITIVITY RATE DECREASE AND/OR CAMPUS VACCINATION RATE INCREASE:
Fully vaccinated students, faculty, and staff will not be required to wear masks indoors or outdoors, unless as requested by a professor during class or requested by the inhabitant of a private office or residence hall room prior to entry. However, any group traveling in a college vehicle or on college business with any unvaccinated individual, will require masking for everyone in the vehicle, regardless of vaccination status. Masking protocol is subject to change at any point as recommended by our healthcare partners.

Unvaccinated students, faculty, and staff will be required to wear masks in classrooms and other indoor campus spaces. This includes while traveling in a college vehicle, or when traveling in a vehicle as part of a group on college business.

A faculty or staff member, or resident, may ask any individual (vaccinated or unvaccinated) to wear a mask when entering their private office or residence hall room. Unvaccinated students, faculty, and staff will not be required to wear masks outdoors where adequate social distancing is possible.

ALL students, faculty, and staff must have a mask on their person or otherwise readily accessible at ALL times.

Distancing

Fully vaccinated students, faculty, and staff will not be required to maintain physical distance.

Unvaccinated students, faculty, and staff should maintain physical distance when possible.

With few exceptions, we will no longer be able to maintain 6 feet of social distance in classroom environments. Classrooms will be spaced as much as possible given the full capacity of the room.

Quarantine and Isolation

Fully vaccinated students, faculty, and staff will not be required to quarantine if identified through contact tracing, unless they become symptomatic. Regardless of symptoms, fully vaccinated individuals identified through contact tracing will be required to wear a mask until producing a negative test within 3-5 days of exposure.

Unvaccinated students, faculty, and staff will be required to quarantine at home for 14 days if they are identified through contact tracing, whether or not they are symptomatic.

Franklin College will not provide quarantine and isolation space this academic year. Any student needing to quarantine or isolate will need to do so at home, or off-campus at their own expense. Franklin College will not provide food service to students who are in quarantine or isolation off-campus.

Any symptomatic unvaccinated student, faculty, or staff member and any positive, vaccinated student, faculty, or staff member will be required to isolate off-campus for 10 days.

Academic Absences and Accommodations

We cannot guarantee virtual access to courses for students in quarantine or isolation. Students should work with faculty directly, and the Center for Student Success as necessary, to keep up with coursework if they are ill or away from campus in quarantine or isolation. This policy is the same for any student illness.

Should a student desire virtual access for the duration of the isolation or quarantine period, they must appeal to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College via email. Emails submitted after 9 PM may not be responded to until the next business day. In the email, students will need to explicitly include:

- Which courses they are requesting access for, including course number and professor
- The dates for which they are requesting access (must coincide with data from the Campus Health Center)
- Any additional IT assistance needed to stay current with coursework, if applicable (e.g. hotspot)

Material from some courses, such as science labs, choirs/ensembles, and studio art classes may not be able to be shifted to a virtual format. In those cases, students are expected to contact the faculty member directly to develop a plan for how to complete this work upon return to campus. Once a request is evaluated and should it be granted, the VPAA will contact both the faculty member and the student via email to confirm authorization for virtual access.

Managing Unexcused Absences:
Students will be permitted, at minimum, to have one week's worth of unexcused absences in a class before attendance points can be deducted from their grade. The number of allowable unexcused absences is determined by the number of times the class meets per week. For example, if a class meets three times per week, a student can miss class three times without documentation before their grade is penalized.

Managing Excused Absences:
Absences for students who have a symptom (or symptoms) that aligns with COVID-19 and seek a healthcare consultation with either the campus nurse or an outside provider will be considered excused absences with appropriate documentation; this is true even if the healthcare provider determines the illness is not COVID-19 related. These absences will not count against the permissible one week's worth of unexcused absences.
Related, if a college official requires a student to isolate or quarantine, the corresponding absences will be considered excused and not count against the permissible one week's worth of unexcused absences. The VPAA's office will notify faculty of students in their courses who have been asked to isolate or quarantine so that they can track their attendance accordingly.
Faculty retain the right to be more lenient in their attendance policies but cannot be more restrictive than what is put forth in this policy.

Individual faculty or programs may require additional mitigation strategies based on the unique nature of their coursework or discipline. Faculty who wish to employ additional mitigation strategies beyond what is outlined in this document must consult with the VPAA prior to the start of the academic term for approval. The policies in this document are the default policies of

the institution, but you must also abide by additional, approved policies articulated in your professors' syllabi.

Co-Curricular Activities

Co-curricular programming and activities will resume in-person. Student organizations must still register their activities, but are not required to request permission for in-person events. There may be some additional restrictions placed on unvaccinated students to ensure safe participation or event-specific protocol based on the nature of the activity. If necessary for safety, some events may only be open to vaccinated students and/or be limited by maximum capacity. Any event-specific mitigation protocol will be communicated prior to the campus event.

Additional protocol for Residence Halls and Greek-Lettered Organizations will be available in a supplemental document.

Campus Events

Campus events and activities will resume in-person. It is still necessary to receive Cabinet-level approval for guests to host events or use campus facilities. The college's approved waiver of liability must be signed by groups or organizations hosting events on campus at the discretion of the Cabinet Officer who approved the event. Any event-specific mitigation protocol should be approved and communicated prior to the campus event.

Frequently Asked Questions

What documentation do I need to provide before arriving to campus?

- If you are fully vaccinated, submit documentation here.
- If you are un-vaccinated, or not yet fully vaccinated by your move-in date, and providing documentation of a negative COVID-19 test, submit documentation here.
    - Negative tests must be from a health care provider or testing site and cannot be an over-the counter at home test
    - Negative tests must be submitted within 5 days of your return to campus

When does the documentation need to be submitted?

- Documentation of full vaccination may be submitted at any point between now and the day before you move-in.
- Documentation of a negative COVID-19 test should be submitted within 5 days of your move-in date.
- If you become fully vaccinated after move-in, you may upload documentation of vaccination here.
- ***Students only need to submit ONE piece of documentation…NOT both.***

Can I submit an antibody test result in lieu of vaccination?

- No, unfortunately, there is not enough definitive scientific evidence to know how long natural antibodies last. Our healthcare partners do not recommend antibody testing as a viable substitute for vaccination and/or surveillance testing.

How much will students be charged for surveillance testing?

- The cost of testing will first be billed to the student's insurance. If the student is uninsured, or the student's insurance rejects the claim, the cost of the test will be borne by the student. In that scenario, the cost of testing will be approximately $50.00 per testing administration. A charge will be applied to a student's account at the time of administration. Students who are selected for surveillance testing will be charged for the testing even if they fail to participate, since testing is required. As always, students may supply their own test results from an approved testing site by the testing administration date if preferred; if a student provides their own approved test, they will not be charged for college testing. If a student has an approved medical or religious exemption from the vaccine, they will not be charged to participate in college testing.

How frequently will I be required to participate in surveillance testing?

- Since surveillance testing will be done at random, it is hard to determine the frequency of testing. We will aim to test roughly 25% of the non-vaccinated, non-athlete student population every two weeks. Athletes will follow the testing protocol required by HCAC and the Athletic Department.

What happens if I don't participate in surveillance testing?

- Students may opt to provide their own negative test result from within the same testing window and from an approved testing site if they prefer. Students who do not comply with testing protocol will have their internet and card access turned off until they make arrangements for testing. Continued or habitual non-compliance will be regarded as a conduct violation and adjudicated as such.

Can I submit a religious or medical exemption?

- Since we are not requiring the vaccine, students do not need to submit an exemption form in order to be exempt from vaccination. Exemption forms will not exempt students from participating in surveillance testing or other mitigation that may be required to ensure community safety. Students still interested in submitting an exemption should contact Nurse Tracey or Student Development.

I have been vaccinated and only want to live with another vaccinated student. What should I do?

- Contact Residence Life at Housing@franklincollege.edu.

May I bring unvaccinated guests to campus to help with Move-In?

- You are welcome to bring guests to campus to help you move-in. All guests must be 18 years or older OR a vaccinated 12- to 17-year-old who produces documentation of vaccination. We will ask all guests to wear masks when indoors.

May I have non-Franklin College guests on campus and in the residence halls?

- Yes, non-Franklin College guests over the age of 18 are allowed on campus and in the residence halls. Unvaccinated guests will be required to follow the same mask policy as unvaccinated students.

Do unvaccinated guests need to wear masks?

- Unvaccinated guests visiting campus at any time will be required to wear masks indoors.

When will mitigation protocols be lifted for unvaccinated students, faculty, and staff?

- Protocols will remain in place until we are advised by the CDC and our consulting physicians that mitigation is no longer necessary to ensure the safety of our campus community.

Do I still have to record my symptoms on the Campus Clear application?

- Fully vaccinated campus community members are no longer required to use the Campus Clear app. Unvaccinated campus community members must record their symptoms on the Campus Clear app daily.