



UVA WISE

RETURN TO WISE: COVID-19
FALL 2020 PLAN

University of Virginia's College at Wise

JULY 27, 2020

This plan is under review by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

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A Return to Wise

Guiding Principles

Over the course of the spring semester and summer months, the College has been busy at work developing a plan for fall semester 2020. This plan represents input and recommendations from UVA Wise students, staff and faculty. More than 300 UVA Wise students responded to a survey about their preferences for learning and communicating in this new environment.

Health, safety and wellness for our entire community is the foundational principle of the Return to Wise plan. Continued academic excellence and student achievement are also guiding principles in our approach to reopening. The last principle includes building a strong and supportive community for everyone to live, learn and work.

The Return to Wise plan is consistent with Governor Ralph S. Northam's Executive Orders, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), the Centers for Disease Control, and the Commonwealth's Higher Education Guidance.

The future course of the COVID-19 pandemic is unknown. Therefore, the College's approach seeks to be adaptable and flexible to respond to evolving needs and circumstances. UVA Wise is prepared to modify existing plans based on guidance from local, state and federal bodies as it becomes available.

UVA Wise COVID-19 Taskforce

A UVA Wise COVID-19 Taskforce has been established to coordinate the College's response to the pandemic. The Taskforce membership represents a cross-section of College employees who are responsible for operations, human resources, medical services, mental health counseling, communications, housing and student life, athletics, teaching and information technology. The Taskforce, among other duties, will monitor the virus on campus and coordinate the response the College's response with VDH. Taskforce members include:

- Stephanie Perry, Director of Human Resources and COVID-19 Taskforce Chair
- Grant Baker, Sr. Systems & Security Administrator
- Johnnie Bledsoe, Nurse Practitioner, UVA Student and Employee Health Clinic
- Josh Justice, Chief Housing Officer and Dean of Students
- Genna Kasun, Director of Marketing
- Joe Kiser, Director of College Services
- Erik Lemley, Associate Athletic Director for Internal Operations
- Sara Schill, Lead Counselor
- Kathy Still, College Spokesperson and Director of Communications
- Robin Woodard, Chair, Natural Sciences and Associate Professor of Biology

Two advisors to the COVID-19 Taskforce include:

- E. Sue Cantrell, Virginia Department of Health, LENOWISCO District Director
- Barry T. Meek, University of Virginia, Associate University Counsel

Health, Wellness, and Prevention

The first line of defense against COVID-19 is prevention. As members of the campus community return to offices, classrooms and residence halls, there are a number of safeguards and precautionary measures expected of all students and employees, as outlined below.

Face Masks/Cloth Face Coverings

It is vital that we all do our part to prevent the spread of COVID-19. One of the ways we can do this is through the wearing of face coverings. [UVA Policy SEC-045](#) states that face coverings must be worn by all faculty, staff and students while inside a College facility, building, or any other College property while in the presence of others (e.g., common work spaces, meeting rooms, etc.).

The College will provide two cloth face coverings for each employee and student.

Employees may obtain face coverings from the UVA Wise Office of College Services located in the Resource Center building.

Students will receive a “Return to Wise” kit upon their return to campus. The kit will include two cloth face coverings, a small bottle of hand sanitizer gel, a no-touch key tool, and a pouch to hold these items.

Exceptions to the use of face coverings are allowed in the following scenarios:

- A person working in a private office who is safely distanced from others (at least six feet)
- A person eating or drinking at a food and beverage establishment on the College campus
- A person seeking to communicate with a hearing-impaired person, for which the mouth needs to be visible, provided they are safely distanced
- Any person who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance
- A student in their assigned, on-campus residence
- A person in need of College medical services may temporarily remove the face covering
- Anyone with a health condition that keeps them from wearing a face covering and qualifies for a reasonable accommodation as defined by the American Disabilities Act (ADA), the Office of Occupational Safety and Health, or the CDC. Students should direct requests for accommodation to Whitney Wells, Director of Disability Services. Employees should direct requests for accommodation to Stephanie Perry, Director of Human Resources. Their contact information is available in the section of this document titled Contacts and Resources, page 14.

Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action in accordance with relevant College and University policies and procedures.

Handwashing

According to the CDC, handwashing is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Effective handwashing includes wetting, lathering, scrubbing, rinsing and drying hands. Handwashing is recommended after contact with high-touch surfaces, such as doorknobs, or after one has been in a public venue.

If handwashing is not possible, the CDC recommends the use of hand sanitizers made of 60% alcohol or more. Hand sanitizing stations will be stocked and located throughout buildings on campus.

Social Distancing

Social distancing of six feet is required at all times.

Safety Barriers

Plexiglas safety barriers have been installed in services locations throughout campus including the Bookstore, the Offices of Admissions, the Registrar and foyers of administrative and academic departments.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols

All academic and non-academic buildings will be cleaned and disinfected by campus Housekeeping staff on a routine basis. High touch-point areas such as door handles will be cleaned and disinfected at regular intervals throughout the day.

Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected prior to the start of classes each morning. Wipes and disinfectants will also be available for individual use to sanitize office spaces, classrooms, desks, and residential areas.

Screening, Testing and Contact Tracing

Screening and Testing

UVA Wise's current screening plan will require students, faculty and staff to track symptoms on a daily basis using a mobile application ("app"). This app helps the College detect the potential for viral spread, and also allows for information-sharing with the campus community. All full-time employees and students are provided with an iPad device and will have the means to participate in symptom tracking and daily attestations. All symptom tracking and screening will be done with strict adherence to privacy rights granted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

The symptom tracking app is currently under development and will launch as soon as it is available in August 2020. For students returning to campus in July for athletics or residential advisor training, daily screening may include a paper-based screening process that assesses each student for fever, cough or other symptoms.

Students or employees who report symptoms will be required to undergo COVID-19 testing in coordination with the Health Clinic located on campus which is a part of the UVA Health System.

Any student or employee who tests positive must self-isolate for 10 days. Any student or employee who has come into contact with someone with a confirmed positive test for COVID-19, must quarantine. Residential students will be quarantined or isolated in Martha Randolph hall. Students and employees who reside off-campus must quarantine or self-isolate at home.

Some people who contract COVID-19 are asymptomatic. Therefore, daily symptom tracking through the screening app is limited in its utility. This is why it is important to be vigilant in practicing all the protective measures such as wearing face coverings, handwashing, and maintaining social distance. These practices not only protect individuals; they protect all members of the campus community.

At this time, testing strategies continue to evolve across higher education and organizations across the United States. UVA Wise will coordinate with the University and the Virginia Department of Health if modifications are necessary in screening and testing plans.

Contact Tracing

Once an individual has tested positive for COVID-19, the Virginia Department of Health will conduct contact tracing and case management. Anyone who has been exposed to the virus will be contacted by the Virginia Department of Health.

Closure and Shutdown Considerations

UVA Wise will be open on a primarily in-person and face-to-face basis in the fall 2020 semester. However, if public health conditions become severe on campus or in or around the region, the

College will enact measures to protect the health and safety of campus employees and students.

Campus Outbreak Protocol

In the event that public health measures worsen, UVA Wise is prepared to shift to 100% online or virtual delivery of course instruction. In addition, to mitigate a campus outbreak, protocols may include reduction or elimination of any and all campus gatherings. Campus facilities will be closed and private events will be cancelled. Admissions visits will be held virtually. Essential and non-essential business travel of employees and students will be prohibited unless express written permission has been obtained by the UVA Wise Chancellor. UVA Wise will consult with VDH on additional safety and health measures to mitigate a campus outbreak.

Campus Closure and Shutdown Considerations

UVA Wise will consider several factors in the decision to close or shutdown campus including the following:

- Rate of infection on campus
- Rate of infection in surrounding localities and counties in Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky
- Hospital intensive care capacity in the immediate service area
- State and federal guidance for institutions of higher education
- Sufficient testing resources on and off-campus
- Sufficient quarantine and isolation spaces on campus for residential students
- Sufficient contact tracing resources in place with the Virginia Department of Health

Any decision(s) pertaining to closure will be made in close consultation with the Virginia Department of Health. The LENOWISCO District Director serves on the UVA Wise COVID-19 Taskforce as an advisor, and will assist the College in making sound public health decisions.

All major decisions regarding COVID-19, including the need for closure, will be clearly communicated to campus employees and students via multiple channels. UVA Wise will utilize College email, text, auto-call, and its website to communicate major updates and directives.

Medical Care

UVA Student and Employee Health Clinic

The University of Virginia Health System operates the Student and Employee Health clinic on the UVA Wise campus. The clinic follows all UVA protocols including rigorous procedures for safe and high-quality care and treatment.

The clinic is located in Cantrell Hall and is staffed by a full-time Family Nurse Practitioner. The clinic features three examination rooms and a telemedicine room, where virtual consultations with physicians and medical professionals can occur.

Students are not charged for a visit to the Health Clinic. However, students are responsible for any co-pays and deductibles for labs sent to a third-party laboratory such as LABCORPS.

Employees may use the UVA Student and Employee Health Wise Clinic which is a UVA preferred provider for Aetna. Insurance will be billed for employees. Any questions regarding billing should be referred to Patient Financial services at 434-297-5416 or Human Resources at UVA Wise.

The campus clinic is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. All health matters requiring hospitalizations, emergency care or in-patient services will be referred to local providers or the regional health system, Ballad Health.

Ballad Health System

Ballad Health is a healthcare system serving 29 counties of Northeast Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, Northwest North Carolina and Southeast Kentucky. It operates 21 hospitals, including three tertiary medical centers, a dedicated children's hospital, community hospitals, and three critical access hospitals.

Ballad Health and UVA Wise are in regular and close contact. Ballad Health recently donated face coverings to UVA Wise, one for each employee, to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. If the need arises, Ballad Health and UVA Wise are in a position to coordinate care and referrals for affected employees and students, along with VDH.

Virginia Department of Health

The Virginia Department of Health maintains a list of COVID-19 testing sites throughout Virginia via <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-testing/covid-19-testing-sites/>

Collaboration between UVA Wise and Virginia Department of Health

UVA Wise will maintain regular contact with VDH to report COVID-19 updates on campus, including new initiatives, policies and communication practices. VDH LENOWISCO District Director Dr. Sue Cantrell serves on the UVA Wise COVID-19 Taskforce as an advisor and will receive weekly status updates from the Taskforce on mitigation measures and emerging issues on campus. Outside of this weekly contact, the COVID-19 Taskforce Chair and Director of Human Resources, Stephanie Perry, will serve as the primary point of contact and will liaise directly with VDH as needed when cases arise and to address a host of health and safety issues.

Instruction and Academics

Classrooms

UVA Wise has surveyed and measured all classrooms to ensure social distancing is possible. The College has determined that many of our smaller classrooms will not be usable. Small classrooms that do not allow for at least six feet of distance between students have been taken offline and are not available for use. For the remainder of the classrooms, the College is

removing some desks so that the number of students who can safely fit in a classroom is clear. For fixed desks, the College will place signs, tape, or other notices to make clear where students can sit.

All classrooms will be stocked with cleaning supplies which are also available at a central points in buildings.

Failure to comply with the face covering policy or social distance requirements in the classroom may result in disciplinary action in accordance with relevant College and University policies.

[Courses and New Block Schedule](#)

UVA Wise normally operates on a 16-week academic schedule from August to December each fall. For the fall 2020 semester, the College has converted courses to 8-week blocks. In the event that the College must transition to 100% online or virtual instruction due to the pandemic, course blocks enable students to focus on fewer classes while learning from home. Some courses will continue to be taught over a period of 16 weeks due to the nature of the course content, e.g. nursing and education. Course blocks also allow the College to adjust to the decreased availability of classrooms due to social distancing.

[Online and Virtual Instruction](#)

Some individuals in vulnerable populations, including both faculty and students, may not be able to participate in a group setting for classroom instruction due to health or other reasons. Therefore, UVA Wise has made provisions for anyone who cannot return to campus to be able to participate in academic programs regardless of their location. Classrooms will be equipped with video cameras. Lectures will be recorded to provide course content to those who need to participate remotely.

[Engagement with Students](#)

Faculty will continue to hold face-to-face or virtual office hours so that students have the opportunity to meet individually and receive academic support, feedback on assignments and study suggestions for test preparation.

Some students will require special accommodations and will not be in the classroom. These students will be required to provide relevant documentation to evaluate and provide appropriate accommodations. In the event a student cannot join a class in-person, faculty will livestream, record, or voiceover a PowerPoint for each class to enable full participation.

[Training Resources](#)

UVA Wise will provide training, resources and refreshers for both students and faculty in the use of the hardware, software and web-based resources for online teaching and learning. A suite of trainings and resources were developed in spring 2020 during the initial shift to exclusively online instruction and remain available on our [COVID-19 webpage](#).

Travel

In accordance with the [UVA COVID-19 Travel Notice](#), all University international and non-essential domestic travel is prohibited for the foreseeable future. Requests for exceptions to the [Travel Policy](#) will be evaluated.

Fall 2020 Academic Calendar Highlights

- Convocation ceremony – August 11, 2020
- Classes begin – August 12, 2020
- Fall celebration – October 2, 2020
- Semester ends, including finals – November 24, 2020
- Residence halls close – November 25, 2020 10 a.m.

Housing and Dining

Move-In

UVA Wise residential students will return to campus over a period of five days, from Wednesday, August 5, 2020 through Monday, August 10, 2020. All move-ins will be scheduled to enable appropriate social distancing and sanitizing in between moves. Visitors assisting students with their move will be limited to two people, and will be required to follow campus guidelines including but not limited to wearing face coverings, maintaining social distance, and practicing personal hygiene. Important move-in information and instructions will be shared by the Office of Housing and Residential Life via UVA Wise email.

Residential Life

Residential Assistants (RAs) will receive specialized training to maintain a current and thorough understanding of COVID-19 policies, procedures and practices.

Residential programming will be modified this year with safety and health considerations guiding all programming and interactions in the residential halls.

Until further notice, lounge spaces in residence halls will not be available for use. Common area furniture will be off-limits and is not permitted for use.

Martha Randolph Hall

Martha Randolph Hall will be reserved for residential students in the event they must be quarantined or isolated. Martha Randolph Hall is a two-story, suite-style residential living unit with 46 bed spaces.

Cases involving self-isolation or quarantine will be managed in close coordination with the Virginia Department of Health. Meal deliveries to students in quarantined housing will be coordinated between the Offices of Dining Services and Student Affairs.

Dining Services

UVA Wise Dining Services has been working closely with the Virginia Department of Health LENOWISCO District on all operational matters and has been inspected for use. The Office of Dining Services has made modifications to the facility to adhere to social distancing standards. Clear signage will be posted to direct patrons through the facility. Dining Associates are undergoing training and are required to meet all health and safety standards and protocols.

Student Life and Programming

Student Handbook

This year, the Student Handbook has been updated to include a “COVID-19 & Student Responsibility” statement. It is the responsibility of the student to read, understand and follow the expectations outlined in the Student Handbook, which pertains to curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular settings such as student organizations and fraternities and sororities.

Students who violate the outlined policies, procedures, and practices place the College community at risk and may be cited and referred to the Student Conduct process.

First Year and Transfer Student Orientation

Orientations for first year and transfer students have been moved online. The Virtual Orientation process has begun, and includes an orientation module, math assessment module, and virtual advising with faculty advisors. For more information, visit the Orientation webpage at www.uvawise.edu/orientation

Re-orientation for Returning Students

All new and returning students will be required to complete a virtual orientation and training designed to reinforce policies, procedures and practices that are required of all UVA Wise students in the fall 2020 semester, including but not limited to the Return to Wise plan. The training will include information about daily symptom tracking and COVID-19 prevention strategies. The training will also address the importance of community cohesion and clearly prohibits stigma, prejudice, or bias on the basis of one’s perceived or actual COVID-19 status.

Mental Health Counseling

The pandemic has taken a toll on individuals’ mental health in an environment where fear, uncertainty, new routines and norms, financial difficulty and disrupted social networks are prevalent. To help students address concerns, anxiety, or coping skills, the UVA Wise Counseling Center continues to provide counseling and mental health services with Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs). In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, both in-person and virtual counseling sessions are available for currently enrolled UVA Wise students. Since the pandemic, UVA Wise had made available virtual counseling sessions via licensed Zoom sessions. For more information, please visit

<https://www.uvawise.edu/student-life/counseling-services/>

Athletics

UVA Wise is an NCAA Division II institution and a member of the South Atlantic Conference (SAC). In addition to guidance from the Commonwealth of Virginia, the College is in close consultation with the NCAA and the SAC to make determinations on fall sports.

At this time, UVA Wise fall sports are anticipated to resume. The College has modified facilities to ensure health and safety in training rooms, arenas, and locker rooms. It will be decided at a later date whether spectators will be allowed in the stands at athletic events.

International Student Considerations

UVA Wise will follow guidance from local, state and federal authorities on international student re-entry into the United States. The President of the United States has issued several proclamations prohibiting entry into the United States of foreign nationals who have been in any of the following countries during the past 14 days:

- China
- Iran
- European Schengen area (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Monaco, San Marino, Vatican City)
- United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland)
- Republic of Ireland
- Brazil

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/from-other-countries.html>

Some international students may encounter country-specific restrictions on travel to the United States, and some may be unable to travel to the United States for any number of reasons. All international students who wish to continue their studies at UVA Wise may do so at a distance, and are urged to contact the UVA Wise Office of the Registrar to make such arrangements.

Employee Information

Training

All employees will be required to complete a virtual training designed to reinforce policies, procedures and practices. The training will include information about daily symptom tracking, COVID-19 prevention strategies, and classroom management, among other areas. The training will also address the importance of community cohesion and will clearly prohibit stigma, prejudice, or bias on the basis of one's perceived or actual COVID-19 status.

Alternative Work Arrangements or Teleworking

If an employee believes he or she may need a special accommodation or an alternative work arrangement due to an underlying health condition or other reasons, the employee should contact their supervisor and Stephanie Perry, Director of Human Resources, to submit a request for an Alternative Work Arrangement under the [UVA Teleworking Policy](#) and Commonwealth of Virginia guidance. UVA Wise strives to create a safe and healthy work environment for all of its employees.

Faculty and Employee Assistance Program (FEAP)

Many individuals are experiencing chronic stress and mental health symptoms as a result of the adjustments the pandemic has demanded; the potential health risks of COVID-19; and the impact of home finances, sheltering in place, and social unrest.

All employees have access to FEAP for counseling and support. To schedule confidential Zoom or phone sessions, please visit: <https://uvafeap.com/appointments/>

Visitors and Community

Admissions

UVA Wise is open for admissions tours. To schedule a campus visit and tour, please visit the [Admissions home page](#), call 276-328-0102 or email admissions@uvawise.edu. For those who prefer a virtual connection, the UVA Wise Office of Admissions will schedule a conversation via text, phone or video call with admissions and financial aid counselors.

Use of Campus Facilities

UVA Wise has a well-established, year-round calendar of conferences and events. The conferences and events program provides opportunities during the academic year and in the summer months to host events ranging from weddings to pool parties and large regional conferences. These events and programs utilize the College's academic classrooms, indoor and outdoor recreational facilities, conference and meeting spaces, as well as residential facilities (during summer months) to accommodate the 8,000+ visitors to campus each year.

During the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, conferences and events on campus were cancelled or placed on hold. Soon, the College will reintroduce conference and event programming in accordance with public health guidance. For more information, contact Julie Scott, Director of the C. Bascom Slep Student Center by calling 276-376-1000 or emailing jba4f@uvawise.edu.

Winston Ely Health and Wellness Center

The Winston Ely Health and Wellness Center is open and following guidelines from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Major Events

All College events and gatherings are under review to ensure that the above College, Commonwealth, and CDC safety precautions, policies and procedures can be adhered to.

Contacts and Resources

UVA Wise Human Resources

Stephanie Perry, Director
COVID-19 Taskforce Chair
Phone: 276-328-0240
Email: sdh9y@uvawise.edu

UVA Wise Disability Services

Whitney Wells, Director
Phone: 276-328-0265
Email: wew3x@uvawise.edu

UVA Wise Office of the Registrar

Phone: 276-328-0116
Web: <https://www.uvawise.edu/uva-wise/administration-services/registrar/>

David J. Prior Convocation Center

Christopher Davis, Director
Phone: 276-376-4505 (office)
Email: cdd3s@uvawise.edu
Web: uvawise.edu/convocationcenter/

UVA Student and Employee Health Clinic

Phone: 276-376-3475
Web: <https://www.uvawise.edu/student-life/health-services/>

UVA Wise Counseling Center

Sara Schill, Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)
Lead Counselor
Phone: 276.376.3432
Email: srp4b@uvawise.edu
Web: <https://www.uvawise.edu/student-life/counseling-services/>

UVA Wise Bookstore

Scott Lawson, Director
Phone: 276-328-0211
Email: msl6r@uvawise.edu

UVA Wise Office of Communications

Kathy Still, Director and College Spokesperson
Phone: 276-376-1027
Mobile: 276-393-1818
Email: kls7ad@uvawise.edu

The Virginia Department of Health is a resource for all Virginians. For questions and information regarding COVID-19 in Wise County, please contact the Wise County Health Department:

[Wise County Health Department](#) (LENOWISCO District)

134 Roberts Ave SW

Wise, Virginia 24293

Phone: 276-328-8000