

WPU COVID-19

Screening, Testing and Contact Tracing Plan

Fall 2021

Institutions of higher education (IHE), working together with local health departments, have an important role in slowing the spread of diseases, and protecting vulnerable students, staff, and faculty to help ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. The COVID-19 vaccine is now readily available and is the best prevention measure against serious complications associated with this illness.

While there will be some level of risk as operations resume for reopening New Jersey's universities and colleges, state guidelines have been created to help mitigate those risks and safeguard our campus, employees, students, and student-athletes.

Screening

For Fall 2021, all students, faculty, and staff are required to fill out a **WP COVID-19 Symptom or Exposure Reporting Form** found in WPconnect in the event of one of the following situations:

1. If you have been in close contact (close contact is defined as closer than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes in a 24-hour period) with an individual who has tested positive in the past 14 days. This must be reported whether you are vaccinated or not.
2. If you are exhibiting symptoms that are consistent with COVID-19. This must be reported whether you are vaccinated or not.
3. If you have travelled internationally and are not vaccinated.

A student who answers "yes" to any of these questions will be sent an email message to stay home and the Counseling, Health and Wellness Center (CHWC) will be notified. The students will receive further instructions from the medical team and will not be permitted to return to on-campus activities or classes until cleared by CHWC.

An employee who answers "yes" to any of these questions will be sent an email message to stay home and Human Resources will be notified. The employee will receive further instructions from the Benefits Department and will not be permitted to return to campus until approved by Human Resources.

Testing Due to Exposure or Symptoms

William Paterson University requires all faculty, staff, and students to notify the University (CHWC for students and Human Resources for employees) if they are exposed to COVID-19 or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

Exposures:

If you are unvaccinated and exposed to COVID-19, you will be required to stay home, get tested approximately 5 to 7 days from the last exposure, and quarantine for 14 days. Even if your test is negative, you are still required to complete the 14 day quarantine. During this time, you will not be permitted to attend classes, work, or participate in any on-campus activity. If you are a resident student, you will be moved to a separate space to quarantine. You will only be permitted to leave your residence hall to pick up food or medicine.

If you are fully vaccinated and exposed to COVID-19, you should get tested 3 to 5 days after exposure, and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until you receive a negative test result. If symptoms develop during the 14 days, you must notify the University and stay home until cleared to return.

Symptoms:

If you are exhibiting symptoms, you should be referred for COVID-19 diagnostic testing. Students can be tested at a local healthcare provider or CHWC and may call 973-720-2360 for an appointment. Employees with symptoms should get tested through their medical provider, pharmacy, or local urgent care. All results must be shared with CHWC (students) or Human Resources (employees).

Results:

Negative Viral Test:

If you test negative for the virus that causes COVID-19, the virus was not detected.

- If you have symptoms of COVID-19:
 - You may have received a false negative test result and still might have COVID-19. You should isolate away from others. You are not permitted to return to work or school until you are cleared by CHWC (if a student) or Human Resources (after consulting with your own medical provider).
 - Contact your healthcare provider about your symptoms, especially if they worsen, about follow-up testing, and how long to isolate.
- If you do not have symptoms of COVID-19, and you were exposed to a person with COVID-19:
 - If you are unvaccinated, you must self-quarantine at home for 14 days after your exposure.
 - If you are **fully** vaccinated, you do not need to self-quarantine at home. However, while on campus or in public, you must wear a mask, social distance, and monitor for symptoms.

Positive Viral Test:

If you test positive for the virus that causes COVID-19, take the following steps to protect others regardless of your COVID-19 vaccination status: Isolate at home and isolate away from others for at least 10 days.

If you do not have any symptoms, you should still isolate at home for at least 10 days.

If you develop symptoms, continue to isolate for at least 10 days after symptoms began as long as symptoms have improved, and no fever is present for at least 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medications.

Contact your healthcare provider as soon as possible if you are more likely to get very sick (if you are an older adult or having underlying medical conditions) or if your symptoms get worse.

You are not permitted to return to campus unless cleared by CHWC (students) or Human Resources (employees).

Surveillance Testing

William Paterson University has required COVID-19 vaccination for all students with the exception of those students who are enrolled in a WP Online program.

Students were permitted to apply for a religious or medical exemption. Students who have been granted a religious or medical exemption are subject to regular testing. Failure to comply with testing requirements will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

For Fall 2021, William Paterson University has contracted with Bergen New Bridge Medical Center to provide testing for our University community members who have been approved for a medical or religious exemption, with a focus on populations most at risk for COVID-19. The University has developed a priority-based testing plan to ensure that our campus has a systematic approach.

At this time, Bergen New Bridge will be conducting nasal and saliva PCR tests. Results will be available within 24 to 48 hours. Individuals who have been tested for COVID-19 will access their results via the Bergen New Bridge Medical Center portal. All positive results will be reported to the Counseling, Health, and Wellness Center (CHWC) and the Department of Health for contact tracing.

Testing will be held every Wednesday from 2 to 6 p.m. Individuals must be referred for testing, including any faculty or staff. If this time does not work for these individuals, they must make other arrangements with Counseling, Health and Wellness. Contact CHWC at 973.720.2360 to make an appointment.

*If individuals are required to participate in the testing program and have had COVID-19 in the past three months, they must first contact CHWC at COVIDCHWC@wpunj.edu or call 973.720.2360.

NCAA Athletic Testing:

For Fall 2021, all student-athletes who have received an approved exemption are required to participate in weekly COVID-19 testing. These exempt student-athletes need to participate in testing during the designated testing day in order for them to be eligible to participate in their sport that week. Only students who receive a negative test will be permitted to participate. Coaches and athletic trainers who have an approved medical or religious exemption will be part of this testing program as well.

Club Sports:

Students who have an approved medical or religious exemption who wish to participate in club sports must participate in the weekly testing program. In order for these exempt students to participate in their sport, they must participate in weekly testing.

Residential Students:

All residential students who have been approved for a religious or medical exemption are required to participate in the weekly testing program. They will be required to test on site through Bergen New Bridge Medical Center. Residential students will receive information about testing via email from Residence Life staff. Students who do not comply with weekly testing and miss two testing days will be removed from housing. If resident students are not able to be tested on the designated day, they must make other arrangements with CHWC at 973.720.2360. All residential students may be subject to surveillance testing, whether vaccinated or not, if there is an outbreak within the residence halls or if conditions warrant such testing.

Academic Programs:

Certain academic programs, due to the nature of their classes or clinical work, may be at more risk for contracting or spreading COVID-19. Therefore, all exempt students in such programs will be required to test weekly. Failure to comply with testing requirements will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Faculty and staff in these programs who have an approved exemption are also required to participate in the required testing. These programs include but are not limited to:

Kinesiology, Music (performance-based), Communication Disorders, and Nursing.

All students that have been approved for an exemption are subject to weekly testing. When they are contacted, they are required to comply. The frequency will be determined by CHWC and may vary during the semester.

General Student Population:

Students who may have been exposed to COVID-19 may get tested through the Bergen New Bridge testing program. These individuals must be screened and referred for testing by the CHWC medical team. All students in need of testing must reach out by calling 973.720.2360 or by email at COVIDCHWC@wpunj.edu.

Employees:

Employees who are exposed to or may have contracted COVID-19 while performing their in-person job responsibilities will have access to the Bergen New Bridge testing program. All employees must be referred for testing by the benefits team in Human Resources in collaboration with CHWC. Any employee who is requesting testing should contact Human Resources at payroll@wpunj.edu or CHWC at COVIDCHWC@wpunj.edu.

Insurance:

The Bergen New Bridge Medical testing program will utilize an individual's health insurance plan to cover the cost of testing. Anyone who has health insurance is required to use it. All full-time students are required to have insurance as part of their enrollment. If students are unsure if they have school-sponsored insurance, they can verify coverage through this website:

<https://www.aetnastudenthealth.com/en/school/686212/index.html>

Testing Location/Hours:

All testing will take place in University Commons 168 A & B and will be held on every Wednesday from 2 to 6 p.m.*

*These days and times are subject to change due to demand or the needs of our campus.

Note: Students who are having symptoms must be screened and referred by the Counseling, Health and Wellness Center medical team. Students in need of testing must reach out by calling 973.720.2360 or by email at COVIDCHWC@wpunj.edu.

Contact Tracing

William Paterson will continue to partner with public health officials to support contact tracing. The University has established relationships with local health departments and will coordinate with local officials to effectuate prompt and accurate contact tracing to help mitigate spread of COVID-19.

All community members who test positive for COVID-19 must cooperate with contact tracing efforts. All employees and students who test positive will be asked to complete a contact tracing form to be submitted to local health officials to help to expedite contact tracing.