



GALLAUDET WAY-FORWARD REOPENING PLAN 2020

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY FALL 2020





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Context and Key Decisions

Gallaudet offers a truly unique, on-campus experience that can be found nowhere else in the world.

The university is rooted in the richness and vibrancy of American Sign Language and the many cultures, traditions and experiences of deaf people across the spectrum of identities. Students learn in an unparalleled bilingual environment. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Gallaudet has made great strides in developing and offering this educational experience completely online. While everyone seeks to return to face-to-face campus life and interaction, the health and safety of the community must always take precedence.

Responding to COVID-19

Gallaudet's response to the pandemic has been led by the COVID-19 Leadership Team (C-19LT). This group includes the President's Executive Team, as well as campus public health and safety experts and other key leaders in the campus community. The C-19LT identified seven principles that guide Gallaudet's response to the pandemic and related decision-making. These principles mirror and express the three imperatives of our 10-year vision, *The Gallaudet Promise: Excellence in Learning and Discovery, 2020-2030* of bilingual mission, belonging and equity, and innovation for impact.



Guiding Principles

- Cherish each member of our community
- Focus on your health, safety and well-being
- Equitably meet each person's needs
- Commit to open communication for all
- Promote language vibrancy and valuing our bilingual community
- Value innovation, creativity and adaptability
- Commit to academic continuity and accessibility
- We are in this together

Responding to COVID-19 (cont'd)

The C-19LT is closely monitoring the ongoing status of the Washington, D.C., reopening phases and the prevalence of COVID-19 infections in the area. All progress toward reopening Gallaudet's campus will be contingent on the continuing improvement of the public health situation in the city.

The plan to safely open the District of Columbia, described in ReOpen DC contains clear recommendations about the gateway criteria required in order to move between phases within the District.

D.C. Health is monitoring four primary areas:

Level of community spread

Transmission rate

Testing capacity

Ability to test all priority groups

Health care system capacity

Sufficient capacity without a surge

Public health system capacity

Sufficient contact tracing capacity

This reopening plan addresses a set of required actions set forth by the District of Columbia that will enable the university to welcome a small number of students and employees back on campus for the Fall 2020 semester. Doing so will begin the transition from Phase One, in which we operate fully remote; to Phase Two, a hybrid model of on-campus and remote services. Once measures are put in place, Gallaudet will begin a return to campus that will be quite unlike what has come before.

Dismantling Inequities

Equally as important to the university's reopening efforts is a commitment to creating a campus that is anti-racist, anti-audist (audism is the belief that one is superior based on their ability to hear or behave in the manner they hear) and free from oppression. Intentionally dismantling the systems that perpetuate these inequalities is work that is complex, profound and ongoing.

It is work that will require a deep-seated commitment and the participation of all members of our community. It is work that we are committed to doing because systemic inequities influence the impact of COVID-19 on our community members. Dismantling these inequities is also central to assuring that health and safety planning and practices will be equitable for all members of our community.

Key Decisions for Fall 2020

On-campus health and safety procedures and protocols

All on-campus health and safety procedures and protocols will meet or exceed Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for college and universities and will reflect other, evolving professional guidance. All individuals on campus will be required to adhere to the following physical distance guidelines:

- Maintain at least a distance of 6 feet between individuals inside buildings and in all public spaces;
- Avoid close contact with other people;
- Use face coverings or face masks on campus any time a person is in the presence of others in public settings or where physical distancing is difficult to maintain (e.g. meeting rooms, labs, common indoor workspaces);
- Remain at home, or in a residence hall room, if they have a fever or other symptoms associated with COVID-19; and
- Operate at a maximum of 25% building capacity in office spaces in accordance with DC's Phase Two guidance.



Phase Transitions

Gallaudet will largely remain in Phase One, which includes remote instruction and work during the Fall 2020 semester. Moving to Phase Two, a hybrid approach to remote and on-campus activities, will begin in designated operational areas of the university when it is safe to do so.

Any on-campus activities will be limited to only on-campus students and/or employees, will generally include 10 people or less, and will adhere to D.C.'s current reopening plan as well as guidance for colleges and universities.

Remote instruction

The university will deliver instruction remotely during the Fall 2020 semester. This decision was made after careful consideration of all possible models for safely and effectively delivering instruction during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Nearly all faculty have been meeting with the faculty online training team to:

- 1 | Be more effective and engaging in their remote instruction (with most becoming certified in online instruction);**
- 2 | Design sign language-vibrant learning experiences for their students;**
- 3 | Design learning experiences that are multicultural and trauma-informed; and**
- 4 | Better use Gallaudet's learning content platform to optimize connecting with students and monitoring student engagement and success.** Students will also engage in a similar online training program to prepare them to learn and engage remotely.

Campus residency

The university is planning to have up to 100 students reside on campus this fall. Priority will be given to students who have no or unsafe housing situations and who need campus-based support for learning, prioritizing DeafBlind students. We anticipate this initial group to be 50-60 students and we are planning for their arrival prior to the start of the semester, which begins Aug. 31. As health and safety conditions permit, the university plans to invite students to apply to be part of a small cohort who will serve as peer health ambassadors and/or anti-racism ambassadors. These students will have a key role in creating a healthy, safe and equitable campus environment and preparing additional students to return to campus when it is safe to do so in 2021. Students who return to campus during the Fall 2020 semester will also be learning remotely.

Ongoing monitoring of health context

Gallaudet will continue to monitor the local and national health context. The university will submit an amended reopening plan when it determines it can safely expand the number of students and/or employees on campus, shift to a hybrid instruction model that includes campus-based classes at the university, or the Clerc Center is prepared to shift to a hybrid or in-person instruction model, and resume on-campus living for MSSD students.



The Kendall Demonstration Elementary School and the Model Secondary School for the Deaf

The Clerc Center, Gallaudet's birth-to-21 program, includes the Kendall Demonstration Elementary School (KDES) and the Model Secondary School for the Deaf (MSSD). Both schools will begin with remote instruction, with the most likely scenario being they will remain fully online for the first semester, through mid-January 2021.

The Clerc Center will plan to transition to a hybrid instructional model when sufficient health and safety measures are in place.

Preventing the Spread of COVID-19

Monitoring and Metrics

Gallaudet will undertake a number of measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on campus.

Any student accepted to live in the residence halls will be required to have a COVID-19 test within seven days of coming to campus and must provide documentation of a negative test result. If a student has not been tested prior to arriving on campus, Gallaudet will assist the student in getting tested. Initial test results will be used to establish a baseline rate for ongoing monitoring.



Required Self-assessments

Anyone residing on campus as well as those wishing to enter the campus will be required to complete daily self-assessments and temperature checks. This includes employees, vendors and visitors. Monitoring will be done through either an online questionnaire or mobile phone/tablet app. Those with a fever and/or other symptoms of COVID-19 will not be allowed to come to campus. They will then be required to go for testing if they are required to be on campus. Otherwise, they should quarantine at home following those procedures.

Potential positive COVID-19 cases will be tracked and the District of Columbia Department of Health will be notified of confirmed cases. All information will be tracked and securely maintained. If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, they will be required to consult with a health care provider and isolate themselves. All persons residing on or wishing to enter campus must follow Gallaudet's protocols for temperature or symptom monitoring.

Minimizing Spread on Campus

In addition to monitoring measures, students arriving on campus will be subject to an initial 14-day period where their movements are limited. Shared spaces will be closed during this period and students will be expected to isolate themselves.

If a member of the Gallaudet University (GU) community tests positive for the virus that causes COVID-19 and a health care provider determines that they do not need to be hospitalized, the following steps will be taken to prevent the disease from spreading on-campus:

- The COVID-19 Response Team (CRT) will contact the D.C. Department of Health point of contact to ensure results have been reported and to initiate contact tracing.
- A student or staff member living in the residence halls testing positive will be required to immediately report positive test results to the COVID-19 Response Team and to their resident assistant. The Student Health Center will also report any positive results they receive to the CRT.
- Students and on-campus staff will be provided a room in a separate building for isolation, as well as services that include daily check-ins for health and wellness, and meal delivery.
- Visitors will not be permitted into isolation rooms
- Students who are confirmed to have COVID-19 will be required to stay in their isolation rooms on campus until:
 - At least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first started; AND,
 - At least one day (24 hours) after their fever resolves (without medication) AND other symptoms (such as cough, shortness of breath) have improved.



Testing for antibody levels will not be done through Gallaudet

Due to limited research on length of natural immunity in individuals, antibody testing will not be measured. Should antibody testing become more reliable and peer-reviewed, antibody level tracking could be implemented at a later date.

Student Health, Wellness and Safety

Training and Education

Prior to returning to campus, students will receive information about campus living, maintaining their health and safety, and COVID-19 risk and prevention. Students will then be asked to sign a pledge that acknowledges their role as a member of the Gallaudet community, and that they must do their part to keep the university and their fellow community members healthy and safe. This includes adhering to health and safety requirements as well as expectations for being a part of the Gallaudet and larger Washington, D.C., communities. Once students are on campus, they will participate in training that will review general COVID-19 information, ways to stay healthy, and strategies to keep their community safe.

The orientation will reiterate guidelines for physical distancing, use of face coverings and other personal protective equipment (PPE), hygiene and cleaning protocols, daily self-monitoring protocols, and an opportunity to answer student questions. This training will be arranged in a way that reflects the 14-day isolation period at the start of the semester.

Ultimately, Gallaudet's goal is to create a model where students lead the way forward for the campus and broader community.

A cohort of approximately 30 students will become peer health ambassadors and will complete an intensive online training program that includes becoming a certified peer educator. Because Gallaudet will be conducting virtual learning, the peer health ambassadors will provide support and training to all of our students virtually and for those peer health ambassadors who are located in the DMV area. They also will provide support and training to the small cohort of students who will reside on campus this fall.

When Gallaudet moves to a hybrid or face-to-face model for learning in the future, these student ambassadors will orient future cohorts of returning students and will serve as leaders to further a culture that reflects a collective commitment to health and safety, as well as one that is equitable and free of racism.



Residence Life staff and student health ambassadors

Residence Life staff and student health ambassadors will meet with students regularly to discuss the campus and local landscape, any related changes in health and safety practices, and to address any questions emerging among students. Additional training will be added as needed.

Health and safety reminders will be prevalent on campus via signage, social media and residence hall information updates.

High-Risk Students

Out of an abundance of caution, all campus plans and protocols for Fall 2020 are designed as if all students on campus are in the high-risk category and from hot-spot locations. We will note which students are coming from “hot spot” locations but will require all students to adhere to a 14 days isolation period once they arrive on campus. During this time movement on campus will be limited and all shared spaces will be closed. All on-campus students will reside in single room suites with a private bathroom. They will be required to complete daily self-assessment and temperature checks and campus food service will operate on a take-out basis only.

Student Health Services

Student Health Services (SHS) will be available to students residing on campus to meet their health and medical needs by appointment only. Both in-person and telehealth services will be available. They also will be able to provide limited services to students suspected of coming in contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, as well as students demonstrating symptoms of or testing positive for COVID-19. This includes limited on-site testing.

SHS also will complete an assessment of students to determine the best course of action in the event a student test positive. This could range from returning to their residence hall room with symptom monitoring, moving to a room designated for isolation, recovering at home or another off-campus setting, or referring the student to the emergency room if the student’s health warrants it. SHS also will provide virtual check-in services for any students living in an isolation room. While Gallaudet is exploring expanded on-campus medical services, SHS does not currently have the capacity to care for students with moderate or severe symptoms, or on an around-the-clock basis. Staff are expected to receive care from their health care provider and cannot be seen at SHS except on an emergency basis.



Employee Health, Wellness and Safety

Current university operations and staffing remain in Phase One, meaning that all students and staff members are fully remote except for essential services, including those that are necessary to support students residing on campus.

The university is planning for the following measures for Fall 2020:

- COVID-19 health and safety training, and management will be required for all employees prior to returning to campus. This training will include, but is not limited to, physical (i.e., social) distancing, PPE, symptom screening and testing, hygiene and sanitation, and self-quarantining. Additional training also will be provided as needed for any employees currently working on campus.
- PPE such as masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and other necessary materials will be provided to employees in accordance with guidance from the CDC and the District of Columbia Department of Health. This includes clear masks for more accessible communication. Employees will be required to wear equipment in public spaces on campus in accordance with this guidance.
- Physical distancing guidelines will be followed and physical distancing of a minimum of 6 feet will be implemented in office and meeting settings.
- The temporary policy on the use of annual leave, sick leave, remote work and related issues during the COVID-19 pandemic will remain in effect.
- Designated buildings, rooms, offices and other campus facilities identified for use will undergo routine and deep cleaning. In addition, adjustments will be implemented as necessary or prudent to promote physical distancing while facilitating effective visual communication. Adjustments may include plexiglass barriers, touchless door closures and other changes. Requests to add additional spaces will be considered based on need, as well as resource availability.
- Signage will be posted throughout campus reminding people of the need to wear PPE and to maintain physical distancing requirements. Signs also will include reminders of recommended health, safety and hygiene practices.
- Daily self-monitoring and temperature checks will be required via a mobile/tablet app or an online form provided by the University. This includes reporting being ill or demonstrating COVID-19 symptoms.



Transitioning to Phase Two

The university is working to transition to Phase Two, which includes a hybrid approach to operations that includes both on-campus and remote working.

The extent of the transition is dependent upon the university having key health and safety measures in place to ensure adherence to CDC and District of Columbia guidelines, as well as Phase Two reopening requirements and subsequent guidelines issued by the mayor's office, most recently on July 22, 2020.

Community Health, Wellness and Safety

Access to Gallaudet's campus will continue to be limited during the Fall 2020 semester.

Visitors, including students residing off campus, will only be permitted on campus for specific, pre-approved reasons. Anyone entering campus will be required to complete a health self-assessment and temperature check, and individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 will not be permitted on campus. Anyone moving about on campus will be required to use face coverings and, as necessary, other PPE where required, adhere to physical distancing protocols, and follow other campus health and safety guidelines and requirements.

For the health and safety of on-campus students, visitors will not be permitted in the residence halls. Except those areas designed to allow for physical distancing and cleaned and maintained for use during Phase One, all common areas including the campus chapel will remain closed.

Signage will be posted throughout campus reminding people of PPE and physical distancing requirements, as well as recommended health, safety and hygiene practices. Stickers will be placed on floors to demonstrate 6 feet of spacing.



Adherence to cleaning protocols will be assessed regularly

A schedule to clean and disinfect any in-use public restrooms and other spaces will be established. Hand sanitizer will be readily available throughout campus. During move-in and move-out periods, hygiene and safety protocols will be in place.

Residence Halls and Other Residential Spaces

During Fall 2020, all residence hall suites will be single occupancy and all students will have a private bathroom.

The number of students per floor will be limited to maintain physical distancing. Rooms used for isolation or quarantine purposes will be located in a different residence hall from where other students are residing. All residence hall staff also will reside in single-occupancy suites or apartments. There will be no shared bathrooms during the fall semester. Public bathrooms will either be closed or cleaned in accordance with CDC guidelines. Floor lounges and lobbies will be reconfigured to allow small groups of students, usually five but if space allows up to 10 individuals, to socialize while adhering to physical distance requirements. Any furniture not conducive to physical distancing, such as sofas, will be placed in storage.

Students will be provided with clear masks to facilitate communication. DeafBlind students and individuals communicating with DeafBlind students will be provided with additional PPE that they will be required to use when interacting. Signage will be posted and provided to students for the use of any allowable shared spaces. Students will be advised against the sharing of personal materials and equipment and will be educated about cleaning protocols for before and after use.

There will be a set schedule and procedures for students to move in and out of the residence halls to maintain physical distancing and to allow for regular cleaning of equipment and high-traffic areas. The use of face coverings will be required and signage with health, safety and hand-washing guidelines will be posted. Hand sanitizer stations will be prevalent throughout all residence halls.

Students will complete an initial health and safety orientation and will receive ongoing reminders regarding the appropriate and required use of face coverings in all public spaces. The orientation will include information about health and safety requirements within the District of Columbia. Students will be encouraged to remain on campus. Any student traveling outside of the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area should notify the Residence Life office before leaving. Students will be required to quarantine for 14 days upon returning to campus. Any student who chooses to leave campus for the Thanksgiving break will not be permitted to return to campus for the remainder of the semester due to the short duration before campus closes for winter break.

Changes to food and laundry services

Food service will be available for take-out only. There will be a schedule for the use and cleaning of laundry facilities.



Student Pledge

[Click the link here to download & open file.](#)



Facilities Operations

Shuttle and Community Transportation

Gallaudet may provide limited shuttle service in the fall as the need warrants. Passengers and drivers will be required to use face coverings and follow physical distance protocols. Capacity will be limited and physical distancing within the vehicles created.

Community members using public transportation or bike-share programs will be reminded to follow health and safety protocols including the use of face coverings and physical distancing. They will be asked, as will all employees, to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer when they arrive on campus.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Protocols will remain in place for regular and deep cleanings in accordance with CDC and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance. Custodial staff are a part of the university's essential personnel and have maintained buildings per these guidelines since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Buildings that have been occupied for essential purposes are routinely cleaned and disinfected on a daily basis. All locations will be cleaned a minimum of seven days prior to reopening. After that, the custodial team will provide a clear schedule of maintenance cleaning for common areas and instructions and supplies for private areas.

Buildings, specific rooms and areas where a person with COVID-19 has spent time will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The scope of cleaning and disinfecting will be based on the contamination and risk potential as determined by EHA and the COVID-19 Response Team in coordination with impacted departments, GU facilities, and housing and food services as applicable. Detailed protocols are in place for deep cleaning and disinfection.

The university's Manager of Environmental Health and Safety has registered to receive both CDC and EPA updates. Upon receipt of new information, plans and protocols will be adjusted to reflect the most recent guidelines and will be disseminated to the impacted department and groups on campus. Training also will be provided to staff as needed.



Campus Postal Services

The campus post office is managed by an outside vendor and operates on limited hours. The university requires the vendor to comply with all university COVID-19 health and safety protocols. In addition, COVID-19 policies include the following:

- All staff members must wear masks and gloves when handling mail and helping customers at the window.
- All staff members must have their temperature checked at the beginning of their shifts.
- All post office surfaces must be cleaned with a disinfectant every 30 minutes.
- All staff must change their gloves every 30 minutes.
- All staff must follow procedures for the receipt, handling and distribution of mail and packages.

Instruction, Clinical Training and Learning Spaces

Instruction

Instruction will be fully remote during the Fall 2020 semester. There are no scheduled in-person, on-campus classes or activities.

Should there be a request for a one-time gathering in a classroom space, participants must get approval in advance and adhere to posted reduced occupancy limits that ensure a minimum of 6 feet of space between people. Classroom furniture will be arranged accordingly. Anyone in a classroom space will also be required to use a face covering and, as needed, additional PPE.



Faculty Research Labs

The university remains in Phase One for all research activities. In this phase, the following guidelines apply:

- All in-person research involving human subjects is suspended.
- No research activities may be conducted on campus unless approved.

In preparation for Phase Two of reopening and the partial return to research activity on campus, the university is identifying which faculty and other research personnel need to be on campus. Along with assessing the need for on-campus research activity, the following protocol has been developed to assist researchers in requesting access on an as-needed basis to on-campus laboratories, offices, and academic facilities that might be required for their research.

- Faculty who wish to conduct on-campus research will be required to submit a formal request to the Office of the Dean of Graduate School, Research, and Continuing and Online Education.
- The office will review each request on a case-by-case basis.
- Factors that will impact the approval of on-campus research will include:
 - Whether the research activity can be or can continue to be conducted off-campus.
 - The type of research that will be conducted.
 - A clear description from the researcher regarding how they plan to conduct research activities in a safe manner, including practicing physical distancing both in the lab and in other sites on campus.
 - The number of individuals who will be involved in the research activities, the frequency of these activities and whether human subjects are involved.
 - The location of the research activities on campus.
- Once approved, the office will communicate with DPS to inform them which researchers will be on campus and when. The Chief Operating Officer and facilities will be notified as well to coordinate cleaning and ensure building capacity remains below city requirements.

Student Activities and Athletics

Fall athletics and on-campus intramural sports have been cancelled. Should health and safety conditions permit, consideration will be given to resuming winter and spring sports.

Details about athletic practices, facilities, event scheduling, and athlete participation can be found at:

- **Athletes return to sports summary** — [July Update GU Athletics Summary Report.pdf](#)
- **Athletes return to sports plan** — [Athletics Return To Sports 2020-2021.pdf](#)

Events and Large Gathering Spaces

Gallaudet will limit university events in the fall and all activities at the beginning of the semester will be hosted virtually. Gatherings of students will be limited to 10 people or fewer. Should the university be ready to begin its Phase Two hybrid operations at some point in the semester, any necessary gatherings will reflect Washington, D.C., reopening restrictions and will be limited to students residing or employees working on campus.

Any public spaces used for events will be designated in advance to ensure appropriate design for physical distancing and cleaning in accordance with CDC guidelines. Event attendees must be free of COVID-19 symptoms and adhere to university health and safety requirements for physical distancing, the use of face coverings and additional PPE as needed.



Food Service and Dining

Limited food service will be provided only to students residing on campus. Food will be available for take-out only; there will be no in-service dining during Fall 2020. Food service locations and staff will adhere to health and safety protocols for food preparation and provision. Meals will be delivered daily to any student or staff member in isolation or quarantine.

Travel

Domestic and international university-sponsored travel will continue to be restricted. All requests for university-sponsored domestic travel must be approved in advance by a university officer.

Any student or employee returning from domestic or international travel, especially hot spots, will be required to quarantine 14 days. They also must complete daily self-monitoring checks and temperature checks.

Students leaving campus for Thanksgiving will not be permitted to return to campus due to the limited time period before the end of the semester.



Supplies and Equipment

Masks and other PPE will be provided to university students and employees in accordance with the following guidelines: Face Coverings—Rules



Persons who wish to request additional supplies of non-medical grade face coverings and other PPE for faculty and staff can contact DPS or Residence Life. Employees in need of N95 masks, surgical masks currently reserved for health care professionals, first responders, and other critical workers, or other PPE will be coordinated through the office of the Chief Operating Officer.

Containment and Mitigation

Since March 2020, the Gallaudet COVID-19 Response Team has tracked all potential and all confirmed cases on campus and within the campus community.

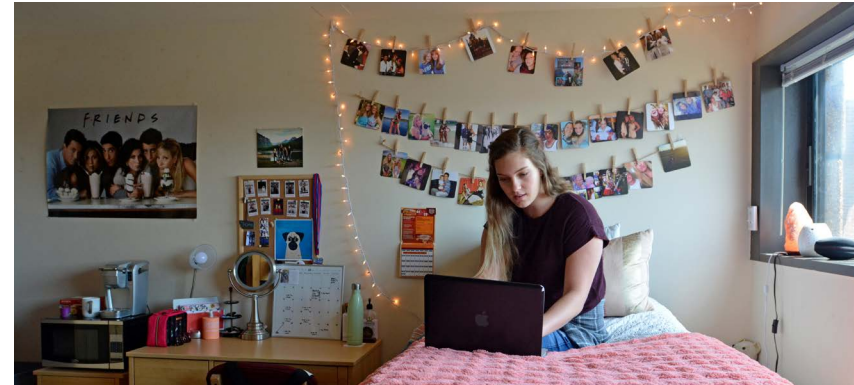
The university will continue to maintain this information and use self-monitoring and population surveillance methods to set a baseline and track infection rates on campus.

Contact Tracing

A team of GU faculty and staff has completed an online contact tracing course (John's Hopkins or the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials' [Making Contact: A Training for COVID-19 Contact Tracers](#)) and will serve as on campus supervisors for interim Gallaudet contact tracers. Additionally, GU is in discussions with the Washington, D.C., Department of Health to train and contract with one to two contact tracers fluent in American Sign Language for the Gallaudet and greater Washington, D.C., deaf and hard-of-hearing community.

When someone on campus believes they have been directly exposed to a COVID-19-positive individual, they should immediately contact the COVID-19 Response Team (CRT) through a dedicated email at contact.tracing@gallaudet.edu. The CRT will guide the person through next steps, including testing and isolation. They will assist with access to testing for on-campus students. Gallaudet will also provide an isolation room for students and staff residing on campus until test results are known.

While waiting for test results, internal contact tracing will begin so that the team is aware of potential cases. If a person tests positive for COVID-19, a member of the CRT will immediately contact the D.C. Department of Health. The university's contact tracing team will work with the D.C. Department of Health to notify the individual's close personal contacts and advise on testing and quarantine. All cases will be followed for 14 days. Potential cases and confirmed cases will be tracked and monitored through CRT reporting systems.



Quarantine Preparations and Procedures

Gallaudet has identified a residence hall on campus for isolation purposes. Ten rooms have been reserved for isolation in a separate building from where other students and staff will be housed. The building will be secure and only essential employees will have access. The residence hall will be monitored and visitors will not be permitted to have in-person interactions with infected individuals, though virtual engagement will be encouraged.

Each room identified for isolation has a private bathroom and has no shared spaces. Cleaning supplies will be provided in each room with directions on cleaning protocol. Daily virtual check-ins of the person will take place that include a health and wellness check including communication interaction for mental health wellness. Students will be provided counseling support, if requested, through the university's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) department during the duration of isolation. Individuals will also be provided in-room delivery of all meals as well as any needed hygiene support. Quarantined students and/or staff will not be permitted in any public spaces.

A quarantine period will begin whenever there has been a known close exposure to an individual with confirmed COVID-19 or if a person becomes symptomatic. If a person then tests negative and has not had a fever for at least 3 days, they will be permitted to return to their residence hall room, but will be required to quarantine for the 14 day period. Their movement on campus will be limited and daily monitoring will be required.

Students or employees with confirmed COVID-19 will be required to stay at-home or, if residing on campus, in a university provided room until:

- At least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first started; AND At least one day (24 hours) after their fever resolves (without medication) AND respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath) improve.

If an individual tested positive, but never had any symptoms, they must wait until at least 10 days have passed since they tested positive before returning to the community.

At this time, Gallaudet can only quarantine students in need of symptom management and who do not require medical attention. Students requiring more significant care will be referred to their primary care physician and for more severe symptoms, they will be sent to a local hospital.



Quarantine period

Students or employees with confirmed COVID-19 will be required to stay at-home or, if residing on campus, in a university provided room until:

- **At least three days (72 hours) after their fever resolves** (without medication) and respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath) improve; and
- **At least 10 days have passed** since your symptoms first started, whichever occurs later.

If an individual tested positive, but never had any symptoms, they must wait until at least 10 days have passed since they tested positive before returning to the community.

Resurgence Plan

The Gallaudet COVID-19 Leadership Team will actively monitor ongoing COVID-19 developments within the Gallaudet community and the District of Columbia, especially in the northeast quadrant. Should the emergence of an outbreak on campus be suspected, the COVID-19 Response Team will work in close coordination with the District of Columbia Department of Health to take any necessary actions. Gallaudet will also review and adjust, as needed, the university's surveillance, testing, and monitoring protocols.

In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak on campus or within the District of Columbia, students who are living on campus will be given the option to move off campus or remain and be required to follow all District of Columbia and university stay-at-home orders. All on-campus events or gatherings will be cancelled. All shared spaces will be closed. As with Spring 2020, only essential personnel or those with a specific purpose will be permitted access to campus.

Should the university have shifted to Phase two hybrid operations, in some areas, there are several conditions that could necessitate a move back to Phase One. These include a lack of available quarantine space, inability to care for infected persons, and insufficient PPE supplies. If these conditions exist, or if there are high rates of community spread within the District of Columbia, and Gallaudet believes that the university is contributing to that spread, they would also trigger the university to move back to Phase One, which involves fully remote working.

Gallaudet will strictly adhere to any stay-at-home orders issued by the District of Columbia as was the case during Spring 2020. If such an order is issued again, access to campus will be restricted to only essential personnel. Only students with no alternate living options will be permitted to remain on campus. Students remaining will be required to adhere to the stay-at-home order.

Quarantined Individuals

Should Washington, D.C., declare a stay-at-home order, any individual currently in isolation on campus will remain in their designated room until such a time when they can return to their residence hall (see section on Quarantine Preparations and Procedures above). Necessary essential supports including medical and wellness checks will continue to be provided.

Should an individual's symptoms worsen, they will be referred to their primary care physician or sent to a local hospital in accordance with guidance from the District of Columbia Department of Health.

Coordination with the District of Columbia

Gallaudet's primary contact with the D.C Department of Health will be Dr. Rosanne Rushing, Director of Gallaudet's Public Health Program and co-leader of the Public Health and Safety committee (Rosanne.Rushing@gallaudet.edu, 202/400-1945). The second contact is Alicia Wooten, co-leader of the Public Health and Safety committee (Alicia.Wooten@gallaudet.edu).

Gallaudet will continue to monitor communications and briefings from the mayor's office and will work with the District of Columbia Office of Planning to support any required changes to the opening status of the university. Further, as a member of the Consortium of Universities in the Washington Metropolitan Area, Gallaudet will work with the District in regard to the health and safety of university and local communities.

To support deaf, hard of hearing, and DeafBlind students and individuals residing in the District, Gallaudet aims to partner with the D.C. Department of Health to provide accessible testing. The primary focus of this testing partnership would be to provide a testing experience free of communication barriers. This can be done through testers fluent in American Sign Language, the support of sign language interpreters, the use clear masks and related PPE, and professionals trained to work with DeafBlind individuals.

The university will work closely with the District of Columbia Department of Health in the reporting of COVID-19 positive cases and related contact tracing through the District of Columbia Department of Health systems including recommendation to hire Gallaudet community and/or contact tracers fluent in American Sign Language.

Plan if Washington, D.C., Declares a Stay-At-Home Order

Gallaudet will strictly adhere to any stay-at-home orders issued by the District of Columbia as was the case during Spring 2020. If such an order is issued again, access to campus will be restricted to only essential personnel. Only students with no alternate living options will be permitted to remain on campus. Students remaining will be required to adhere to the stay-at-home order. It is of the utmost importance to the Gallaudet community that the university work in concert with the District of Columbia Government and Department of Health to provide a safe environment for our community and the District of Columbia as a whole.

Codes and Regulations Requiring Flexibility

DeafBlind students who use manual or protactile communication as well as individuals communicating with them will require close, physical contact. As such they will not be able to maintain the six-foot physical distancing requirement. To address this, Gallaudet will establish a protocol that requires the DeafBlind student and anyone interacting with them to use university provided clear masks and full body PPE.

Spring 2021 Semester and Beyond

Gallaudet's plans to move to its Phase Two, a hybrid approach to instruction and expanded student on-campus living are in discussion for the Spring 2021 university semester as well as for the Clerc Center's demonstration schools. Any shift to Phase Two will be based on the local and national health landscape and will reflect guidance from the District of Columbia. Gallaudet will submit a revised plan reflective of any proposed changes for review and approval to the District of Columbia Office of Planning prior to any university-wide transition.



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“Making Contact: A Training for COVID-19 Contact Tracers.” Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. 2020.

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“ReOpen DC.” Washington, D.C. 2020.

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