



# Commitment to Shared Responsibility

*Spring 2022*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Choosing to be a member of the Sterling community means that each of us must be vigilant and persistent in protecting our own health, wellness, and each other, on campus and in the greater community. By pledging my Commitment of Shared Responsibility, I will take responsibility for my own health, the protection of others, and to help keep the Sterling community safe from the spread of COVID-19 and other infections as identified and instructed by the College.

I understand that COVID-19 protocols may continue to change as the pandemic situation itself changes, and I will comply with all protocols as they evolve.

I understand that violations of the public health and safety protocols, including any future COVID-19 public health and safety directives from College or other local, state or federal officials, may result in my immediate removal from campus for the duration of the COVID-19 or public health crisis in addition to any sanctions assigned through the College's conduct policies and processes.

The Commitment to Shared Responsibility will be an addendum to our College's Policy of Dangerous and Disruptive Behavior. When behavior constitutes a serious disruption or danger to the living, working, or learning environment that the College seeks to create, the College may respond in a number of ways, from providing needed supplies and support, to mediation, to separating the individual from the institution, if necessary.

I will take the necessary steps to protect myself and others, including the following:

## **PRE-CAMPUS ARRIVAL**

1. I understand that state-mandated public health guidelines and Sterling guidelines may continue to change as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve globally, and I will follow these guidelines as they are communicated to me by Sterling's Student Life and Wellness team.
2. I will not come to campus if:
  - I have any COVID-19 symptoms as defined by the [CDC](#).



- I am unvaccinated and I have been in close contact with someone who is positive for COVID-19 (The CDC defines “close contact” in these circumstances as “*anyone who was within six feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours before the person began feeling sick until the time the patient was isolated.*”)
  - I have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days.
3. I will follow all health and safety precautions during travel. If I am unvaccinated against COVID-19, I will limit stops to only those that are necessary, practice physical distancing from others whenever possible, always wear a face covering, and use frequent and proper hand hygiene (i.e., washing hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water or using hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available). I will travel to the Sterling campus as directly as possible and will arrive on campus at my designated arrival time.

### **POST-CAMPUS ARRIVAL - Testing, Contact Tracing, Health Monitoring**

I will comply with all COVID-19 testing protocols as directed by the College and/or local, state, or federal officials. I understand that protocols may change as the pandemic situation itself changes, and I will comply with all protocols as they evolve.

- I understand that, due to the public health emergency, COVID-19 test results will be shared with Sterling Wellness Center, the Vermont Department of Health, and other health-related agencies as necessary following strict HIPAA confidentiality guidelines.
- I will comply with all confidential contact tracing protocols as directed by the College, the Vermont Department of Health, or other local, state, or federal officials, including supplying the names and contact information of other individuals with whom I have been in recent, close contact, to the contact tracer.

### **ARRIVAL DAYS TESTING SCHEDULE**

All Craftsbury students must be PCR tested at the start of the semester. All testing will be conducted at Strong Hall in the woodshop on **Monday January 17, 2022.**



**If I am unvaccinated, or if I have not shared proof of vaccination status:**

- I will wear a mask at all times while indoors (including classrooms and common spaces in residences), except in my private room or when alone in a shower or bathroom.
- I will not consume meals in the dining hall.
- "I will share a twice-monthly negative COVID-19 test result with the Director of Wellness Services. (around the 1st and 15th of each month.) Testing, transportation, and fees are the employee and/or student's financial responsibility.
- I will maintain a contact journal that lists the names of other people with whom I have been in close contact each day. "Close contact" is defined as contact with any person closer than six feet for at least 15 minutes. A journal is not required for situations where there is already a record of individuals at a certain location (e.g., classes or other scheduled events where the list of participants is ordinarily recorded). I agree to share this information with the contact tracer to assist with the contact tracing process.

**Regardless of whether I am vaccinated or unvaccinated:**

- I will monitor myself for COVID-19 symptoms at all times. In the event that I am sick with any illness I will notify the Director of Wellness Services and the Dean of Community. I will quarantine in my dorm room (or in my off-campus residence, as applicable) until I receive further guidance from the Director of Wellness Services or other appropriate health official.
- I will wear a mask and physically distance while indoors in off-campus public places, such as the grocery store, or in indoor situations in which the vaccination status of others is unknown.

**QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION**

For Commuter Students:

- If I am unvaccinated and experience any symptoms of illness, or if I believe that I have been in [close contact](#) with someone who is positive for COVID-19 regardless of my vaccination status, I will notify the Director of Wellness Services immediately for guidance. I will comply with all isolation, quarantine,



and other procedures as directed by the College or other local, state, or federal officials. I agree to self-quarantine in my private residence to avoid exposing others, to undergo COVID-19 testing, and to refrain from physical contact with others except to receive medical care. If I receive a positive COVID-19 test at any time, I agree to follow all health directives from the College or other appropriate medical provider. I understand that I may be required to participate in contact tracing and subsequent COVID-19 testing and symptom monitoring during the isolation period.

For Residential Students:

- If I experience any symptoms of illness, or if I believe that I have been in **close contact** with someone who is positive for COVID-19, regardless of my vaccination status, I will notify the Director of Wellness Services and the Dean of Community. I will comply with all isolation, quarantine, and other procedures as directed by the College or other local, state or federal officials, including requests to self-quarantine in my room to avoid exposing others, to undergo COVID-19 testing, and/or temporary transfer to isolation housing and refraining from physical contact with others except to receive medical care.
- While in self-quarantine, I will stay in my bedroom and will not leave that room for any reason except to use the bathroom or in case of a health or other emergency. When leaving my room to use the bathroom or in case of an emergency, I will wear a mask at all times (except for when personal grooming, shower, etc), and I will adhere to strict physical distancing requirements around others. I will have no visitors. I understand that meals will be delivered to me. When in quarantine, I will submit my daily symptom report directly to the Director of Wellness Services.
- If I receive a positive COVID-19 test at any time, I agree to follow all health directives from the College or other appropriate medical provider. I understand that I will be required to participate in contact tracing, symptom monitoring and reporting, and possible subsequent COVID-19 testing during the isolation period.

## **HYGIENE**

- I will frequently and thoroughly maintain hygiene by regular hand washing, at least 20 seconds, with soap and warm water or using hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.



- I will at all times avoid touching my face with my hands.
- I will not share utensils, glasses, pens or pencils, laptops, keyboards, microphones, toothbrushes, or other similar personal products.
- I will responsibly dispose of any sanitizing or disinfecting wipes and related materials.
- I will cover my mouth and nose with tissues or use the inside of my elbow when I cough or sneeze. I will throw all tissues in the trash and immediately wash my hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.
- I will keep my residential space clean and will clean shared spaces and surfaces before and after use (e.g., bathrooms, classroom tables and desks, and study spaces). I will use cleaning supplies provided by the College to clean shared spaces.



## **UPDATED COVID HEALTH POLICY**

### **Spring 2022, updated January 7, 2022**

#### **Masking and Distancing and Self Monitoring**

The Delta and Omicron variants continue to be spreading in Orleans County and surrounding areas. All community members will continue to wear masks when inside any building that is not their own home or residence hall. The College is encouraging use of multi-layered Kn95 masks, and will provide a limited number of Kn95 masks for community members this semester. To assist in detection and management, the College will also engage a strategy of providing rapid antigen home tests, to enable testing at first sign of symptoms and for potential close contacts.

To track prevalence of Covid-19 in our area, you can look at the [Vermont Department of Health Dashboard](#), or the [Mayo Clinic's Vermont Coronavirus Map](#). Until our county and surrounding counties are no longer "red" or "orange" on the Mayo Clinic map (meaning percent positivity has dropped below 1%) we will keep in place the following masking and distancing protocols:

- All members of the Sterling community, regardless of vaccination status, shall mask and distance to the best of our ability while together in shared indoor public spaces, such as houses that you do not live in, classrooms, the library, Dunbar, Dunbarn, etc.
- **Sterling STRONGLY recommends the use of KN95 and N95 masks.**
- We realize distancing is not always possible. Continuing to mask, however, gives us an extra layer of protection against transmitting COVID.

Masking is not required when alone in a room, or when more than 6 feet from others in **your own residence hall**. However, always have a mask on hand, in case another person enters the space, or comes within 6 feet of you. Always wear a mask in shared public spaces (houses that you do not live in, classrooms, the library, Dunbar, Dunbarn...).

- All members of the Sterling community shall self-monitor for [symptoms consistent with COVID-19](#) at all times, and notify the Director of Wellness Services and the Dean of Community if they experience any sickness. All Sterling students will quarantine in their dorm room (or in off-campus



- residence, as applicable) until receiving further guidance from the Director of Wellness Services or other appropriate health official.
- All members of the Sterling community shall mask and physically distance while indoors in off-campus public places, such as the grocery store, or at off campus gatherings.
  - Masking is not required outdoors, however maintaining distance is strongly recommended. In cases where outdoor activities will require close, sustained proximity to another person, masking is required regardless of vaccination status.

**Unvaccinated folks, or those that have not shared proof of vaccination status:**

- Must wear a mask at all times while indoors (including classrooms and common spaces in residences), except in private rooms or when alone in a shower or bathroom.
- Must mask outdoors when unable to remain 6 feet distance from others.
- Must not consume meals or snacks in the dining hall.
- **Must share a *twice-monthly* negative COVID-19 test result with the Director of Wellness Services. (around the 1st and 15th of each month). Testing, transportation, and fees are the employee and/or student's financial responsibility.**
- Must maintain a contact journal that lists the names of other people with whom they have been in close contact each day. **"Close contact" is defined as contact with any person closer than six feet for at least 15 minutes.** A journal is not required for situations where there is already a record of individuals at a certain location (e.g., classes or other scheduled events where the list of participants is ordinarily recorded).
- When interacting with community groups, unvaccinated employees and students must mask outdoors when unable to maintain 6 feet distance from others. When indoors, may not participate unless the entire community group is vaccinated, and must wear a mask and distance as usual.

## **Isolation, Quarantine and Testing**

### **ANYONE with COVID-19 symptoms:**

- Any person, regardless of vaccination status, who experiences [symptoms consistent with COVID-19](#) should stay in their room or home if off campus, [self-quarantine](#), and contact the Director of Wellness Services who will determine whether they should be tested.
- If tested, a symptomatic residential student must stay in quarantine in their room with meals delivered until test results are obtained.
- If tested, symptomatic employees and commuter students must stay off campus until test results are obtained.
- Anyone, regardless of vaccination status, who tests positive for COVID, must [isolate](#) for 10 days starting at the date of the positive test. If symptoms develop, the isolation period may be extended.

### **FULLY VACCINATED people with NO COVID-LIKE SYMPTOMS following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID:**

- Folks who have had a booster shot, or completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months, OR completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months who have come into [close contact](#) with someone with COVID-19 should be tested on day 5 following the date of their exposure and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 10 days following the date of exposure. They should also self monitor closely for 14 days post-exposure for development of any symptoms, report symptoms immediately to the Wellness Team, and self isolate until PCR test results are obtained.
- Anyone, regardless of vaccination status, who tests positive for Covid, must isolate for 5 days. Isolation can end on Day 6, if:
  - they have two negative antigen tests performed at least 24 hours apart beginning no earlier than day 4, AND
  - they never had symptoms, or symptoms have improved and they feel better AND
  - they have had no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fevers AND
  - they wear a mask around others through day 10.



## **Unvaccinated folks with no COVID-like symptoms following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19:**

- Unvaccinated people who have come into [close contact](#) with someone positive for COVID must remain in quarantine with meals delivered to their room for 5 days. Quarantine can end on day 6 if:
  - they have no symptoms, and
  - they have one negative PCR or LAMP test on or after day 5, OR
  - two negative antigen tests performed at least 24 hours apart beginning no earlier than day 4, AND
  - they wear a mask around others through day 10.

## **Guests and Travel**

### **Guests to Campus**

- Unvaccinated guests must wear masks and physically distance themselves from others inside any building.
- Guests must [sign in](#) with whichever department or person they are visiting. Hosts are responsible for the conduct of their guests.
- Guests of students must sign in with a student leader. Students are responsible for the behavior of their guests. Students whose guests do not follow guidelines will become ineligible to live on campus.

### **Travel**

- All employees and students, regardless of vaccination status, who travel outside Vermont must obtain a PCR test 7 days after returning, and provide the results to the Wellness Team.
- All employees and students, regardless of vaccination status, must mask and practice strict 6 feet distancing at all times until negative test results are obtained.

### **College Vans**

- ALL individuals, regardless of vaccination status, must wear masks when riding together in a van for more than 15 minutes.



- Unvaccinated individuals must be masked and fully distanced from any other unvaccinated person when riding in a school van, with windows open.
- No more than two unvaccinated individuals may ride in a van at once.

Please be in touch with any questions. As always, THANK YOU for your care and consideration as we continue to navigate this pandemic together.

Favor and Clare