

### **Accountability and Community Standards**

A return to campus is exciting and allows students, faculty, and staff to enjoy some of the personal and social interaction that many of us have missed. However, the ongoing pandemic means that things will be very different, and it is crucial to the health and safety of the entire MCPHS community that each and every individual commits to following best practices around physical distancing, PPE, and other public health guidance. The University is dedicated to helping all our students, faculty, and staff follow these guidelines. While things that used to seem ordinary—like large gatherings, handshakes, and hosting guests—won't be possible, MCPHS faculty and staff are hard at work developing programming and protocols to ensure that on-campus community members have as enriching and fulfilling an experience as possible.

That said, a successful and healthy semester requires personal responsibility and teamwork. As the nation's most comprehensive health sciences University, MCPHS has a unique obligation to lead the way in health safety. To protect all our students, faculty, and staff, the University has established standards of behavior to which all community members are expected to adhere. MCPHS is relying on all members of our community to assist with embracing these standards of behavior. Members of the community should speak up if they encounter someone not following public health best practices. Informal, personal interventions, such as saying, "Please don't forget to wear your mask," or reminding others with a supportive tone that masks need to cover the nose and mouth, can be effective. Public health is everyone's shared responsibility, and we hope our community of healthcare leaders act as role models.

Individuals who refuse to follow the standards set forth may be reported for non-compliance to the Office of Student Affairs (students) or the Office of Human Resources (employees), and they could be disciplined under the appropriate handbook provisions.

These standards may change as the pandemic situation evolves. Updates will be communicated to all community members.

#### **Mask Policy**

Everyone on campus is required to wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth when indoors. This includes classrooms, restrooms, open office and common spaces, hallways, meeting rooms, libraries, and other indoor spaces. Masks are also required outdoors when six feet of physical distancing cannot be maintained. We follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), state and local guidance with this protective measure.

- Students, faculty, and staff may use masks provided by the University or supply their own.
- Employees may remove masks when alone in their own offices or enclosed workspaces.
- Students may remove masks in their own residence hall rooms or apartments.
- Students, faculty, and staff should have a mask with them whenever they are on campus.
- Students, faculty, and staff who enter facilities without a mask will be asked to put on their mask; if they do not have one with them, they may be supplied with one if available.
- Students, faculty, and staff may remove masks when actively eating or drinking when sitting at a table.
- Vendors and contractors who are approved for campus entry will be expected to honor these guidelines and provide their own mask to keep the community safe.

## **Physical Distancing Policy**

Since people can spread the virus before having symptoms, it is important to keep a physical distance from others when possible. Guidelines for physical distancing include:

- Staying at least six feet apart from other people to the greatest extent possible.
- Wearing masks in shared spaces.
- Not gathering in large groups.
- Limiting group meetings – utilize distance communication tools like Zoom or Teams.
- Staying out of crowded places and avoiding mass gatherings.
- Observing all signage for directional pathways, elevator use, and room capacity.

## **Hygiene Protocols**

In addition to wearing masks, be sure to wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, and wash your hands before touching your face.

## **Cardinal Compact for MCPHS Community**

As a member of the MCPHS University community, I have a personal responsibility to protect my own health and the health and well-being of others. A healthy community requires my commitment to specific daily habits and behaviors.

I commit to:

### **Protect Myself**

- Perform daily health checks and seek medical advice immediately if I have a fever, dry cough, loss of taste or smell, or other symptoms of COVID-19
- Wash my hands regularly with soap and water, and/or use hand sanitizer
- Keep my personal and shared common spaces clean
- Perform COVID-19 testing as required by the University

### **Protect Others**

- Wear a mask properly indoors, in classrooms and offices, and in any space where I cannot maintain a six-foot physical distance from others
- Maintain appropriate physical distancing
- Cover my mouth and nose with a tissue when I cough or sneeze and throw that in the trash, or cough or sneeze into my elbow rather than my hands if I don't have a tissue
- Stay home when I don't feel well

### **Protect MCPHS University**

- Abide by current gathering limitations on and off campus
- Participate in testing and contact tracing as appropriate
- Stay informed and monitor University news and announcements about COVID-19
- Follow any guidance or directives from University or health authorities

It is my responsibility to abide by these behaviors for the benefit of myself and others in the MCPHS community.