



Addendum to RIC COVID-19 Response Plan
RIC Fall Opening 2021
8/30/21

I. INTRODUCTION

This document describes how Rhode Island College (RIC) will safely welcome students, faculty and staff back to campus this fall. Fortunately, Rhode Island College has the benefit of an extensive COVID-19 response plan that was prepared last year. Our dedicated and talented students, faculty and staff implemented that plan with great success, and RIC stood out among its peers for delivering academic programs and providing student activities while protecting against the spread of the coronavirus. Now, as RIC plans for a safe and welcome return to in-person teaching and learning for the fall semester we must take reasonable steps to continue to provide for everyone's health and safety, as the virus is not eradicated and variants are on the rise.

Five committees were assembled made up of faculty, staff and students. They were asked to develop our fall plans focused on specific areas:

- Community Health
- Academics
- Student Life
- Human Resources
- Campus Space Use

Each were guided by recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), specific to institutions of higher learning (IHE). These plans have been reviewed by the RIC COVID-19 Response Team, the RIC COVID-19 Steering Committee, President Frank D. Sánchez, and the President's Executive Cabinet. The report was further informed by review and comment received on the draft document from individuals throughout the RIC community. Their input is greatly appreciated.

This report contains general rules and guidelines for the fall opening and covers most campus-related activities. There are also accompanying FAQs covering topics that have emerged from various faculty, staff and student forums in the last several weeks.

II. DELAYED START OF THE FALL SEMESTER

The RIC administration, in consultation with the Commissioner of Postsecondary Education and the Chair of the Council of Postsecondary Education has moved to delay the start of classroom instruction on the RIC campus from Monday August 30, 2021 to Wednesday September 8, 2021 to allow additional time for students to come into compliance with RIC's vaccination mandate. Although this will cause some disruption to the academic

calendar, efforts to assure that every student on campus is in compliance with our vaccination policy is paramount to protecting the health of our community.

While this decision modifies academic instruction, it does not disrupt normal campus operations. Accordingly, the campus remains open to business as usual. The revised Academic Calendar can be found here: <https://www.ric.edu/academics/academic-calendar>

NOTE: clinical placements in Nursing and Medical Imaging, student teaching in the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development and field placements in the School of Social work are not delayed and will begin as planned.

III. PLANNING FRAMEWORK

RIC will continually monitor COVID-19 variants and indicators of disease prevalence in the greater Rhode Island community and on campus to assess the level of risk to the campus. The Office of Health Services has developed four risk levels:

Low (Blue)

Moderate (Yellow)

Substantial (Orange)

High (Red)

NOTE: The CDC has developed indices to determine risk levels for states and territories, including Rhode Island, based upon total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past seven-day period. With the opening of the semester, RIC will adopt the CDC risk level to guide our COVID-19 responses. As of August 30, 2021, we are in the High (Red) risk level and will implement mitigations accordingly. As the semester advances and RIC-specific COVID-19 case data become more available, RIC will determine its own risk levels, with the guidance of RIDOH, comprised of the CDC's information on Rhode Island as a whole and RIC's case level extrapolated to 100,000 individuals over a seven-day period. This will include all students, faculty and staff. By supplementing the CDC's state information with RIC-specific information, we will have the advantage of perhaps being able to reduce some mitigations if the campus community has much lower incidence than the rest of the state, and equally important, maintain or implement higher levels of mitigation if the campus rate exceeds the state rate. As an added precaution, at no time will the RIC designation be lower than the state's by one level.

Throughout the semester, RIC will consult with the Department of Health on a regular basis to discuss COVID-19 incidence data and trends to assure that we are taking all appropriate measures to protect the health of the RIC community. If at any time there is a significant increase in COVID-19 incidence or severity within the RIC community, we shall seek their guidance as to whether or not it would be appropriate to operate as a predominantly remote campus for some period of time, as we had in Spring of 2021. Additionally, the administration will regularly monitor any operational disruptions caused by COVID-19 (e.g., due to illness, isolation and quarantine driven absences) to determine if specific campus operations need to be adjusted in order to continue operations safely. Based upon the level of disruption, responses could range from take-out only dining to moving to remote instruction.

Throughout the pandemic, RIC has benefitted from the tremendous understanding and cooperation of the entire community and we expect this will continue until we are through this difficult chapter. However, as this lingers, frustration and fatigue are to be expected. This may lead to persons occasionally not being fully mindful of the rules we have established to assure safety, be it masking, distancing, etc. If you do encounter a person or persons not in full compliance, we would ask that, if comfortable, you offer a polite reminder of the rules. However, if you are not comfortable doing so, or your reminders are not acted upon, we ask that you please do not take any enforcement actions into your own hands. Rather, during day-to-day operations, faculty and staff can contact Human Resources if there is an issue with a fellow employee. HR will make the appropriate follow-up. If there is an issue with a student, faculty, staff and students are to contact Student Health Services who will work in conjunction with Student Affairs to address any behaviors in need of correction. If you are at an organized event, please approach the nearest RIC staff at the event who can address the issue. Of course if you are met with belligerence or feel threatened at any time, please contact Campus Police.

The sections that follow represent RIC protocols for opening in the fall and, where appropriate, each risk level. When this plan is finalized, it will be posted on the RIC website, and concise FAQs will be developed for target audiences (e.g., faculty, staff, students, visitors) to assure that all are appropriately and fully informed.

IV. COMMUNITY HEALTH

Vaccinations – Students

- All students are required to be fully or partially vaccinated prior to coming to campus, and this information must be uploaded into the MediCat portal.
- Religious and medical exemptions are available.
- Students who are not fully or partially vaccinated and do not have an exemption will receive a “Student Health Services Hold ” and cannot report to campus.
 - These students will be informed that they may not attend in-person or hybrid classes and may not participate in any events on campus (with the exception of vaccination clinics).
 - They may, however, enroll in fully remote classes.
- NOTE: Having partially vaccinated students or students exempted from the vaccination mandate on campus does impact distancing requirements. In a classroom, a higher percentage of partially vaccinated students or exempted students may require six-foot distancing, rather than the three-foot distancing allowed with fully vaccinated individuals. This may impact the location or modality of a specific class. The provost is currently working with deans, department chairs and faculty on these issues. Therefore, students are asked to please double check the location and modality of their class prior to coming to campus. The delayed start should lead to more vaccinated students, resulting in few such changes.

Vaccinations – Faculty and Staff

- All staff and faculty are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated.
- The RIC administration is in discussion with the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner concerning the implementation of a vaccination requirement for faculty and staff.

For the good of the entire community, we are counting on individuals to do their part to protect everyone's health, rights and confidentiality. RIC will be hosting vaccination clinics on campus open to faculty, staff and students:

Monday August 30

2. Vaccination Clinic 9:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m., Student union

Tuesday August 31

3. Vaccination Clinic 9:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m., Student union

Wednesday September 1

4. Vaccination Clinic Noon - 4:00 p.m., Donovan Dining Center - President's Dining Room

Masking – Students, Faculty and Staff

- The RI Department of Administration has issued a mask mandate for all state offices and facilities (effective August 13, 2021). All Rhode Island College employees and visitors must wear a face covering regardless of vaccination status when entering or working in any on campus building/office. Any employee that has a health condition that prevents them from wearing a mask should contact the Office of Human Resources for further guidance. If you do not have a mask or forget to wear a mask to work, please consult with or notify your supervisor. The college will provide masks when necessary; however, supplies are limited.

Low (Blue) Transmission:

- Fully vaccinated individuals are not required to wear masks on college grounds, including workspaces and common areas, but may do so if they wish.
- Partially vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals are required to wear masks on college grounds:
 - Indoors at all times.
 - Outdoors whenever it is not possible to maintain a distance of three feet from other individuals.

Moderate (Yellow)/Substantial (Orange)/High (Red) Transmission:

- All individuals are required to wear masks on college grounds:
 - Indoors at all times.
 - Outdoors whenever it is not possible to maintain a distance of three feet from other individuals.

Asymptomatic Testing – Students

- All students will be required to have a negative COVID-19 test no more than 72 hours before arriving on campus for the first time this semester.
- Unvaccinated students are required to participate in weekly asymptomatic COVID-19 testing.
- Vaccinated students will be required to participate in COVID-19 surveillance testing. A randomized protocol is under development with guidance from the Department of Health.
- COVID-19 testing will be done in Sweet Hall in the fall. COVID-19 testing on campus will be provided Monday-Friday, 10:00 am – 1:00 p.m., no appointment necessary.

Asymptomatic Testing – Faculty and Staff

- Faculty and staff, regardless of vaccination status, are encouraged to participate in surveillance testing.
- COVID Testing will be done in Sweet Hall Dorm in the fall. COVID-19 testing on campus will be provided Monday-Friday, 10:00 am – 1:00 p.m., no appointment necessary.

Symptomatic Individuals – Students, Faculty and Staff

- Any employee or student who is experiencing illness or any symptoms related to COVID-19, including cough, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, headache, nausea or vomiting, runny nose, fatigue, recent loss of taste or smell and/or poor appetite, even if fully vaccinated, is asked to remain home.
 - Faculty and staff experiencing any of these symptoms should inform their supervisor and contact the Office of Human Resources for further guidance.
 - Students should call Health Services for COVID-19 testing and follow additional protocols that their specific academic programs may require, such as students in the School of Nursing.

Online Health Screening – Students

Low (Blue) Transmission:

- Fully vaccinated students are not required to participate in daily health screenings before entering campus or leaving their dorm room.
- Unvaccinated students will be required to participate in daily health screenings before entering the campus or leaving the dorm room. Students may continue to use the RAVE/Guardian Tracking system for this purpose or use the RIDOH's COVID-19 visual/verbal screening tool found at:
https://health.ri.gov/forms/screening/COVID19_Employee_Screening_Tool.pdf.

Moderate (Yellow)/Substantial (Orange)/High (Red) Transmission:

- All students will undergo daily health screenings before entering the campus or leaving their dorm room. Students may continue to use the RAVE/Guardian Tracking system for this purpose or use the RIDOH's COVID-19 visual/verbal screening tool found at:
https://health.ri.gov/forms/screening/COVID19_Employee_Screening_Tool.pdf.

Online Health Screening – Faculty and Staff

Low (Blue) Transmission:

- Fully vaccinated faculty and staff are not required to undergo daily health screenings before entering the workplace. Supervisor screenings are also not required.
- Unvaccinated faculty and staff will be required to undergo daily health screenings before entering the workplace. Employees may continue to use the RAVE/Guardian Tracking system for this purpose or use the RIDOH's COVID-19 visual/verbal screening tool found at:
https://health.ri.gov/forms/screening/COVID19_Employee_Screening_Tool.pdf.
Supervisor screenings are not required.

Moderate (Yellow) Substantial (Orange)/High (Red) Transmission:

- All employees will undergo daily health screenings before entering the workplace. Employees may continue to use the RAVE/Guardian Tracking system for this purpose

or use the RIDOH's COVID-19 visual/verbal screening tool found at:
https://health.ri.gov/forms/screening/COVID19_Employee_Screening_Tool.pdf.
Supervisor screenings may be reinstated.

Distancing – Students, Faculty and Staff

Low (Blue) Transmission:

- Fully vaccinated individuals will not be required to maintain physical distance from others while on the RIC campuses.
- Unvaccinated individuals must continue to maintain a physical distance of three feet from others at all times both inside and outside of any RIC space.

Moderate (Yellow)/Substantial (Orange)/High (Red)Transmission:

- All individuals must maintain a minimum physical distance of three feet from others while on RIC campuses.
- A physical distance of six feet will be required if there is a number of unvaccinated or partially vaccinated individuals congregated in a class, at a meeting or an event. (See appendix A: RIC Fall 2021 Guidelines for RIC Events.)

Isolation/Quarantine Students, Faculty and Staff

- Fully vaccinated individuals will not be required to quarantine. However, they will be required to isolate if they test positive for COVID-19.
- Unvaccinated individuals are subject to quarantine and isolation: faculty, staff and commuter students are to isolate or quarantine off campus, and resident students are to isolate or quarantine in their dorm room or off campus
- Resident student isolation will be in Sweet Hall. All students who are symptomatic will receive COVID-19 testing in the rear of Health Services. They may come by car or walk. Students will need to indicate in the MediCat system where they will be isolating (actual physical address) should they test positive for COVID-19. This will allow RIC to plan for contact tracing and to help identify alternative isolation sites should cases exceed available space in Browne Hall.

Communication: COVID-19 Student Report Form

Consistent with guidance from the CDC, state and local officials, RIC has implemented a tool for faculty and staff to report students with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19. Should a faculty or staff member learn of a student with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, they must [complete the Student Report Form](#) so that Health Services may be notified and follow up, as appropriate, with the student.

Travel

Substantial (Orange)/High (Red) Transmission:

- Faculty, staff and student travel will be limited while during Substantial (Orange) and high (Red) risk period.
- Faculty and students may travel when the purpose of that travel is deemed to be necessary for academic progress and cannot reasonably be postponed or handled remotely (i.e., to conduct research, to present research at an academic conference, to participate in an internship or academic experience required for graduation, or for a similar educational or co-curricular experience, etc.).
 - Travel required for a professional purpose that is necessary and cannot reasonably be postponed or handled remotely.

- Is necessary to preserve the safety/well-being of research subjects and/or participants.
- Preserves the continuity of research that cannot reasonably be repeated, replaced or performed remotely.
- Is deemed necessary and time-sensitive for tenure and promotion of faculty.
- Advances critical research in the national or global interest.
- Faculty, staff and students may travel for college business.
 - Travel that is mission-critical to and necessary for the core educational and business functions of the college presently or for the continuation of those core functions in the future, such as recruiting, performance on grant and contract deliverables, or participation in vital partner/inter-institutional consortium/organizational meetings, etc.
- (See appendix B: Fall 2021 RIC Travel Policy & COVID-19.)

RIC Health Services

The role of Health Services has continued to expand during the COVID-19 pandemic, with Health Services often adding testing, contact tracing and case management to its responsibilities. Health Services will continue to provide medical and public health expertise to the campus community and deliver current, sound, evidence-informed recommendations, while maintaining essential services to students.

RIC Student Mental Health

The following steps will be taken to improve access to mental health services to support the needs of students returning to campus:

- Renew the HOPE LINE for another year.
- Continue to provide options for drop-in crisis counseling.
- Continue to provide options for virtual same-day urgent appointments.
- Increase/bolster communication to students about the availability of Counseling Center services through text messaging and social media.
- Designate peer-based outreach and peer-based support groups either virtually or in-person.
- Improve the coordination of medical and counseling services to increase access to MH services/care.
- Develop clear pathways for intervention/referral for behavioral health issues.
- Offer additional resources, which may be found at [zencare.co](https://www.zencare.co).

RIC Employee Mental Health

Employee Assistance Program (EAP) – During these unprecedented times of crisis many of our colleague’s mental and behavioral health have been negatively impacted. Employees seeking mental health and/or stress management support are encouraged to contact the EAP. The EAP is a completely free and confidential benefit available to all RIC employees and their immediate family members. The EAP is administered in conjunction with Beacon Health Options (Beacon), using their “Beacon Well-being” platform. [For additional information, please visit the EAP website.](#)

High-Risk individuals – Faculty, Staff and Students

Moderate (Yellow) Substantial (Orange)/High (Red) Transmission:

The college is committed to taking steps consistent with appropriate guidance to create a safe environment for the entire campus community as it reopens and transitions to standard operations. In order to achieve its dual goals of creating a safe campus as well as returning to an on-campus experience the college will provide, in certain circumstances, accommodations to working conditions through the ADA process, and/or adjustments to employment requirements. Decisions on adjustments will be largely guided by RIDOH who has identified high-risk as employees with immunosuppressing conditions or employees having a household member with such a condition, and employees over the age of 65. The Office of Human Resources will be providing detailed information to all faculty and staff to make them aware of these additional mitigations. Similarly, the Disability Services Center will inform students of their opportunity to request reasonable accommodations under the ADA.

V. ACADEMICS

The Purpose of these Guidelines and Recommendations

The Academic Planning Committee sought to prioritize the health and safety of our community and the academic success and progression of our students in making these plans. In addition, this report includes recommendations designed to support faculty in implementing the best teaching practices for various risk levels and scenarios.

General Considerations

- On-campus Zoom rooms will be identified for students who need space to take online synchronous classes. Zoom room maps will be made available to students.
- Students may borrow laptops and hotspots for the semester from IT User Services.
- The Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning (FCTL) will provide faculty with template language for their syllabi.
- Faculty will be provided with information about the technological supports available, including lecture capture technologies.
- The Provost's Office will provide reminders about Withdrawal and Incomplete policies and options to help guide their students.
- Faculty will be highly encouraged to put the core components of their courses in the LMS (Blackboard or Google Classroom), such as their syllabi, course readings and assignments. The FCTL will provide guidance for faculty.

Course Modalities with Increasing Risk Levels

- At the Low (Blue) transmission level, faculty teaching in-person or hybrid will be highly encouraged to remain in-person or hybrid. Faculty teaching fully online classes should not plan to move to in-person classes as some students are taking online classes as an alternative to being vaccinated.
- The Delta variant poses a threat to the unvaccinated and persons at high risk (as may future variants). In addition, vaccinated individuals can be "carriers" of the Delta variant and possibly spread the disease while being asymptomatic. Therefore, in Moderate (Yellow)/Substantial (Orange)/High (Red) transmission levels, if a professor had originally indicated that their class would be in-person, but they, or someone in their household is "high risk" (or they document that they are needed to care for a high-risk family member), they may change their course modality to a hybrid or remote option. (HR will provide details to all faculty and staff.)

- Additionally, faculty with classrooms which do not accommodate distancing requirements will need to adjust either classroom location or modality.
- High-risk instructors may consider shifting to a hybrid version of their courses. If lecture based, faculty should ensure that prerecorded lectures are posted online and/or record their lectures live. Hybrid modality options might include A: meeting on campus only one day for two-day courses; B: moving small group work online; and C: meeting half the class on one day (e.g., Tuesday) and the other half on the second day (Thursday) for two-day classes. They may also elect to teach remotely.
- At any transmission level, a course that is listed as online asynchronous may not at any time be changed to online synchronous or on-campus.
- Faculty are highly encouraged to include template language in their syllabi explaining how their courses will be taught.

Course Modalities with Decreasing Risk Levels

- Faculty teaching hybrid courses are encouraged to return to in-person instruction and to notify their students, department chair, dean and provost of such changes.
- Faculty teaching fully online courses should not move to hybrid or in-person classes without first verifying with Health Services as to whether unvaccinated students are enrolled in their course).
- Logistics for safely implementing in-person instruction will follow guidance provided by RIDOH and health experts and may be updated when new information is made available.

Teaching Supports

- RIC has been incorporating an increasing number of online learning opportunities into its curriculum for some time. The Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning (FCTL) will continue to provide resources to support faculty.
- Improved Help Desk support will be available more often and be more responsive to faculty and student needs. Some computer labs will be available for students. FCTL will identify peer mentors to help their colleagues implement online learning resources.
- The FCTL will provide resources and opportunities for high-risk faculty to proactively develop contingency plans for their courses so that they will be more resilient to changing circumstances.
- The engaged learning activities that RIC fosters are just as important as content delivery in the online environment. Remote teaching should promote the experiential component that is so critical to student learning. To that end, faculty may choose to utilize online courseware from textbook companies. Extra support may be needed for adjunct professors hired only a few days before the semester started and with little experience with remote teaching. Also, emergency funding may be available to provide special online support materials for courses that normally require on-campus learning (for example, but not limited to, lab sciences and studio and performing arts).

Student Absences

The ongoing COVID-19 crisis may affect student attendance at all transmission levels. To support students who are absent due to isolation, quarantine or other COVID-19-related or personal reason proactive utilization of a RIC-supported LMS (Blackboard or Google Classroom) ensures students who miss classes can remain engaged and access critical information. Faculty and staff should also use the COVID-19 Student Report Form mentioned in Section III, link: [form](#).

- Faculty are strongly encouraged to make key course materials available to students on Blackboard or Google Classroom. These materials should minimally include the syllabus, course schedule, handouts and other content such as readings or videos.
- Course syllabi should include clear, flexible attendance and make-up policies. Whenever possible, students should not be penalized for absences. (We do not want sick students to come to campus.) Faculty are encouraged to offer several low-stakes grading opportunities, rather than only a few high-stakes assessments. To mitigate negative impacts from student absences, faculty are encouraged to offer make-up coursework and/or drop missed or low-scoring assignments.
- Faculty are asked to contact students who are repeatedly absent and/or those who do not communicate about their absence(s). They should remind students that resources are available if they are facing stressors and list those resources on the syllabus and/or on Blackboard or Google Classroom. If a student is chronically absent or unresponsive, faculty should submit a [HOPE Form](#) and/or contact the [dean of students](#) for guidance and possible follow-up. Do not ask students to supply documentation verifying the reason(s) for their absence(s).
- In some instances, taking a Withdrawal or Incomplete may be in a student's best interest. Faculty should include RIC's Withdrawal and Incomplete policies in their course syllabi (or online link to those). Faculty should advise students who are contemplating a course Withdrawal to review how the W may impact their academic standing, academic progress, financial aid and on-campus housing. Since the RIC W and I policy has changed recently, the Provost's Office will send a reminder email to all faculty just prior to the beginning of the Fall 2021 semester to remind them of the current policy, preferably including a concise statement of that policy, which can be included in the course syllabus.

Academic Calendar

High-risk faculty should include contingency plans for changes to the academic calendar and teaching modalities in their course syllabus. With the delay of classes, adjustments have been made to the [fall calendar](#).

Professional Studies and Continuing Education (PSCE) Fall Programming

- Most all PSCE programming is non-standard and does not follow the traditional academic calendar and is delivered according to the needs of the employer, community partner or audience. The modified RIC opening did not impact any PSCE programming, except for Intensive ESL evening programming. PSCE offers five sections to accommodate the varying proficiency levels of language ability (three sections in-person and two hybrid). The modality of the courses this semester was designed to accommodate the needs of adult learners.
- All credit-bearing continuing education courses are offered in collaboration with the corresponding academic unit. All continuing education classes and
- certificate programs are starting at the originally intended start date and the modified opening has not impacted these start dates or modality. If modality changes are requested, they will follow the same procedure as all other academic programs and go through the same approval process. To date, PSCE has not been notified of any such requests.
- All adult education and workforce development programs offered at the Workforce Development Hub are starting on-time and in the originally intended modality. All training programs will be in-person and adult education ESL classes will be offered in-person, hybrid and fully online to meet the needs of adult learners. PSCE's current in-

person schedule at the Hub is 8:00 am-4:00 pm. PSCE will be ready to increase these hours if necessary to accommodate programming and events.

VI. STUDENT LIFE

The Office of Student Life encompasses a variety of areas, including Student Activities; the Student Union, which oversees campus programming, student organizations, Greek Life, community service, leadership development and civic engagement; the Unity Center, which oversees LGBTQ+ student support, international, immigrant, undocumented, DACAmented and refugee student support and interfaith services; and the Military Resource Center. This document will only outline Student Life's operations as they pertain to programs and student organizations.

Low (Blue) Transmission

In a Low (Blue) transmission scenario, all functions will resume as they were prior to COVID-19. Programming will primarily be held in-person; student organizations will be free to book rooms, meet and host programs and not have any additional recommended restrictions for travel/off-campus events. Programs and meetings hosted both by the office and student organizations will follow space limitation and food safety requirements as designated by the college. Students who self-identify as unvaccinated will still be required to wear masks. Some meetings, trainings, programs, etc. may still be hosted virtually if we have found them to be more effective than the in-person options held prior to the pandemic.

In anticipation of shifting transmission levels, as much as possible, contracted programming (performers, speakers, vendors, etc.) will be selected based on their ability to easily shift from an in-person to a virtual format. Conditions about shifting requirements due to COVID will be written into contracts.

Moderate (Yellow) Transmission

In a Moderate (Yellow) transmission scenario, office and student organization programs and meetings will still occur in-person and follow space limitation and food safety requirements. However, the following changes will be made:

- Programs and meetings that cannot accommodate the updated space restrictions will be moved either to a larger space or to a virtual format.
- Spaces will be set up to ensure a minimum distance of three feet between all attendees. (Support will be needed from Anchor Health Ambassadors, CECS, Physical Plant, etc.).
- As they are available, ambassadors will be used to screen attendees.
- Put up signage related to COVID-19 restrictions outside major programming areas (the Quad, Gaige 100, Gaige 200, the Student Union Ballroom and Alger 110).
- Student organizations will be advised to limit their travel and off-campus events to in-state travel and in-state events or to those states with CDC determined Low (Blue) to Moderate (Yellow) community indicators.

Substantial (Orange)Transmission/High (Red) Transmission

In a Substantial (Orange)/High (Red) transmission scenario, office and student organizations programs and meetings will be subject to:

- RIC Fall 2021 Guidelines for RIC Events – see Appendix A

- Fall 2021 RIC Travel Policy & COVID-19 – see Appendix B

VII. RESIDENTIAL LIFE AND HOUSING

The Office of Residential Life and Housing is considered an essential department, regardless of the stage of the pandemic. Thus, housing will remain in operation in all four stages.

In the fall, students will be housed in four residence halls: Penfield, Thorpe, Willard and Weber. This will allow for residents to connect with one another while resident numbers are at low capacity. We believe this will help ease their transition back to campus, improve mental well-being and create a stronger sense of community that is desperately in need of rebuilding.

Sweet Hall will be a primary quarantine and isolation space and undergo gradual repair and renovation. Browne Hall will serve as an extra triage center for Health Services (first floor). The top floors will be used as the Programming Office where new programming initiatives will be designed to increase enrollment both on campus and in the residence halls. Programming efforts will be made in collaboration with the Office of Admissions, Athletics and Commuter Student Services. If needed, Browne Hall could also serve as an additional back-up space for quarantine and isolation or to distance residents if the transmission level rises to Substantial (Orange).

Students requiring quarantine or isolation will be encouraged to remain on campus in Sweet Hall to avoid further spread to their homes. Residential Life staff will deliver student meals and work closely with Health & Wellness and the Dining Center.

Low (Blue) Transmission

In a Low (Blue) transmission scenario, almost all housing operations will resume as they were prior to COVID-19. Rebuilding the residential community will be priority number one.

- Housing Placements: To err on the side of caution, all students will be housed in single rooms, but will live in suites up to full capacity.
- Move-In: To err on the side of caution, students will move in over the course of three days. Guests will be permitted to help students move in and may remain without a time limitation.
- Guest Policy: We will consider allowing two guests, which was the policy prior to COVID-19, in mid-October.

Moderate (Yellow) Transmission

In a Moderate (Yellow) transmission scenario, almost all housing operations will resume as if in a Low (Blue) transmission mode, but with heightened caution. Though re-building the residential community will still be our top priority, more consideration as to the safety of our residents will need to be considered in conjunction with Health Services (e.g. mask wearing).

- Housing placements will be the same as outlined in Low (Blue) transmission, as caution is already being considered. Move-In will be the same as outlined in Low (Blue) transmission, but helpers will be limited to two people.
- If transmission is greater than 10 in the residence halls, mitigation measures will be considered such as extra cleaning, transitioning to no outside guests and the use of Sweet Hall as a quarantine and isolation space.

- Guest Policy: To err on the side of caution, we will allow only one registered, vaccinated guest at a time. Increasing guest capacity will not be considered.
- In-person programming will continue but with recommended guidance from Health Services (e.g. mask wearing, three-foot distancing, etc.)

Substantial (Orange)/High (Red) Transmission

In a Substantial (Orange) transmission scenario, almost all housing operations will resume but in a mostly virtual format.

- Housing placements will be the same as outlined in Low (Blue) transmission, as caution is already being considered. However, we will consider using our Programming Office in Browne Hall to densify the current residence hall assignments.
- If high transmission is occurring in the residence halls, mitigations will be employed such as extra cleaning, no outside guests and the use of Sweet Hall as a quarantine and isolation space.
- Guest Policy: No outside guests will be allowed
- Most in-person programming will cease and virtual programming will begin.

Residential Life and Housing	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Housing Capacity	No capacity limitations	700	700	700, With the ability to densify
Guest Visitation Policy	One vaccinated guest may visit the residence halls at one time. The guest must be registered.	One vaccinated guest may visit the residence halls at one time. The guest must be registered. If the transmission rate is on the high end, we will transition to 0 guests.	0 outside guests	0 outside guests
Resident Assistant Duty Rounds of Buildings	RAs may enter suites upon doing their nightly rounds of the buildings	RAs may enter suites upon doing their nightly rounds of the buildings. If the transmission rate is on the high end in the halls, rounds will only be conducted in the hallways and common spaces.	RAs will complete rounds in the building's hallways and common spaces.	RAs will complete rounds in the building's hallways and common spaces.

Residential Life Programming	All programming and floor meetings will be conducted in-person. All students are welcome to attend.	Programming will be mostly in person, but with three-foot distancing. Only resident students will be allowed to attend. Some virtual programs will be offered. If the transmission rate is on the high end in the halls or on campus, larger-scale programs must be approved by the director of Health Services.	All programming will be virtual, unless approved by the director of Health Services.	All programming will be virtual, unless approved by the director of Health Services.
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VIII. DINING SERVICES

Dining Services is an essential service provider supporting multiple guest cohorts, seven days a week in the Donovan Dining Center and The Beestro (formerly the Café). Dining Services offers catered and vending-based services in multiple locations across campus. Changes have been implemented to support the timely pivoting between transmission levels in order to safely offer the maximum range of services. A synopsis of Dining Services' approaches to changes in transmission levels is as follows:

Low (Blue) Transmission

In a Low (Blue) transmission scenario, all dining services and venues will continue as they were prior to COVID-19. Dining Services will remain vigilant and continue to employ many of its COVID-19 mitigation practices to minimize the transmission of other illnesses to guests and staff.

Moderate (Yellow) Transmission

In a Moderate (Yellow) transmission scenario, all dining-related services and venues will remain available to the college community. Dining Services will demonstrate a heightened safety posture while maintaining proven mitigation practices, including, but not limited to, cleaning/disinfecting, mask usage and distancing. Dining Services will remain poised to immediately implement a wider array of mitigation actions should conditions warrant.

Substantial (Orange)/High (Red) Transmission

In a Substantial (Orange)/High (Red) transmission scenario, the safe provision of essential services for residents will be prioritized, with nonessential services limited or paused. Enhanced cleaning, menu and serving modifications and increased distancing will be initiated to minimize transmission.

For the 2021-2022 academic year, Dining Services will operate in accordance with its COVID Service Framework, the Dining Services COVID-19 Reopening Plan and the guidance of the RIDOH and the CDC.

IX. ATHLETICS

The Office of Intercollegiate Athletics continues to develop best practices for its student-athletes and facilities through ongoing dialogue and communication with Health Services, state entities (the Rhode Island Department of Health, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, etc.), other Rhode Island intercollegiate departments, the National Collegiate Athletic Association and its conference leadership and member institutions.

X. HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources Committee made specific mitigation recommendations for employees (masks, screening and distancing) that have been adopted by the entire RIC community and appear in Section III.

Vaccinations (The level of transmission does not impact this section.)

All employees are strongly encouraged to become vaccinated to ensure the health and safety of the entire Rhode Island College campus community. Employees are not required to provide proof of vaccination. The college will continue to ensure employees' decisions regarding vaccinations are respected. Vaccination shaming will not be tolerated. The college will continue to educate faculty and staff on the benefits of vaccination, and the college will continue to poll RIC faculty and staff to assess immunity on our campus.

RIC Potential Exposure (The level of transmission does not impact this section.)

RIC will continue to follow the RIDOH's guidelines regarding employees who have COVID-19 symptoms and update as needed.

Effective immediately, fully vaccinated employees are no longer required to quarantine following a known COVID-19 exposure; however, employees are encouraged to continue to self-monitor for symptoms.

Fully vaccinated employees and those who are not fully vaccinated who experience COVID-19 symptoms may not report to work or must leave the workplace if symptoms develop while at work. Employees must continue to contact their supervisor/department chair and inform them of their situation. Employees must also follow up with the Office of Human Resources for further guidance and/or approval to return to work. Employees will discharge sick time for this purpose. Any COVID-19 exposure at work that results in an employee being sent home by the Office of Human Resources to quarantine will continue to be paid administrative leave.

Testing (The level of transmission does not impact this section.)

Unvaccinated faculty and staff who are in-person on campus at least one-half day each week are strongly encouraged to participate in weekly COVID-19 testing. Fully vaccinated faculty and staff are encouraged to participate in random surveillance testing. Campus testing is available. For locations, dates and time, go to: [Covid-19 | Rhode](#)

[Island College \(ric.edu\)](http://ric.edu). Employees can click [here](#) to view the State of Rhode Island's testing information and locations of state, local and retail pharmacies to obtain a test.

Leave of Absence (The level of transmission does not impact this section.)

Employees who request a leave of absence due to a personal illness or family illness will follow the applicable collective bargaining unit policy/procedures, the Department of Administration policy/procedures, the Postsecondary Council personnel policies/procedures or state and federal regulations/procedures when applying for leave.

Teleworking – Low (Blue)/Moderate (Yellow) Transmission

All current teleworking agreements will expire effective the end of the workday on Aug. 10, 2021. Employees without teleworking agreements are required to physically return to campus on Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2021.

- As previously indicated to employees, applications for new teleworking agreements were due between Monday, July 26, 2021 and Friday, Aug. 6, 2021. Employees who do not have an approved teleworking agreement in place by Aug. 10, 2021, will be required to physically report to campus on Aug. 11, 2021.
- New teleworking arrangements may begin as early as Aug. 11, 2021.
- RIC will continue to adopt the State's Teleworking Policy, which was implemented in 2018, as the vehicle to allow state employees to telework on a full- or part-time basis.
- Participation in a teleworking arrangement is voluntary and subject to the prior written approval of the employee, the employee's immediate supervisor, the assistant vice president/dean, the vice president and the director of Human Resources. All teleworking arrangements will continue to be issued on a temporary basis and may be terminated as required due to operating needs.

To assist in the review and approval of teleworking arrangements, Human Resources will work with supervisors and employees to establish the following position categories:

- Full In-Person – essential employees or those faculty and staff who must report in person.
- Modified In-Person – employees who are eligible for partial teleworking.
- Optional In-Person – employees who are eligible for full teleworking.

Teleworking – Substantial (Orange)/High (Red) Transmission:

Position categories:

- Full In-Person employees will continue to report in person while following recommended safety protocols.
- Modified In-Person employees will transition to full-time teleworking. For individuals for whom COVID-19 presents an elevated risk, documentation may be required upon request.
- Optional In-Person will transition to full-time teleworking and will not physically report to campus unless required. For those individuals for whom COVID-19 presents an elevated risk, documentation may be required upon request.

Human Resources will provide teleworking training for supervisors to ensure that teleworking is administered effectively, consistently and equitably across campus. There will also be a Teleworking Committee formed to monitor teleworking and to make recommendations for improvement.

In-Person Meetings

Effective July 5, 2021, faculty and staff may hold meetings in person and/or remotely and follow the above protocols regarding mask wearing and/or physical distancing. Individuals who have concerns should consult with their department chairs or supervisors.

Staff who have approved teleworking arrangements may continue to participate remotely. If an in-person meeting is required, the supervisor will inform the employee in advance.

There may be situations in which employees participate in meetings remotely due to quarantine requirements and/or flexible/asynchronous work schedules. It is the responsibility of supervisors/department managers to accommodate teleworking meeting participants whenever necessary and/or possible.

XI. CAMPUS SPACE USE

The Space Planning group consisted of faculty and staff of diverse backgrounds, chaired by the vice president of Academic Affairs and the associate director for Facilities and Operations. The group was tasked with the following areas of the ACHA Considerations for Reopening Plan:

- Masking and physical distancing
- Campus access for visitors and the public
- Instruction and learning environments (Cross-over to academic planning)

Low (Blue) Transmission

When the campus is operating in the Low (Blue) transmission level:

- Facilities will NOT be set-up for social distancing or one-way traffic.
- All lounge spaces, common spaces, computer labs and other shared facilities will be fully open.
- Cleaning protocols will consist of routine cleaning, with weekly emphasis on high-traffic common areas.
- Minimal signage will be posted to avoid “sign fatigue.”

Moderate (Yellow) Transmission

At the Moderate (Yellow) transmission level, the following mitigation protocols will be initiated:

- Cleaning protocols will increase to include weekly misting of high-traffic areas.
- Signage will be updated to include information on mask wearing, hand washing, etc.
- Events will continue on campus; however, food will be individually packaged.

Substantial (Orange)/High (Red) Transmission

At the Substantial (Orange) and High (Red) transmission level:

- The campus will not be open to the general public, with exceptions noted in RIC Fall 2021 Guidelines for RIC Events (appendix A), in order to assure contact tracing.
- Ambassadors will be used to screen guests at larger indoor events and Donovan Dining.
- Space-planning protocols for social distancing and classroom set-up (minimum three feet) will be instituted.
- Routine cleaning will be supplemented by increased touch-point cleaning and misting.

- Mask wearing will be required by all.
- Social distancing will be required both indoors (minimum three feet) and outdoors.
- Plexiglass shielding will be reimplemented, along with one-way directional signage.
- Events will be allowed per RIC Fall 2021 Guidelines for RIC Events (appendix A)

APPENDIX A



Rhode Island College
Fall, 2021 Guidelines for RIC Events
Hosting events during Orange/Red Transmission
(Subject to change based upon CDC or RIDOH guidance)

INTRODUCTION

Rhode Island College may host visitors and events that strictly follow CDC, RIDOH and RIC health and safety guidelines. All events and programs must be planned at a level of flexibility that may change at a moment's notice to adhere to the most current health and safety conditions. Keeping the Rhode Island College Community safe is of paramount importance.

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE

Monday, August 30, 2021

STUDENT EVENTS

Virtual Events:

Use RIC Zoom account

- Virtual meetings and events may be setup as meetings or webinars.
- If anticipated attendance is over 300, please contract Conferences & Events (events@ric.edu) to setup a Zoom webinar.

In-Person meetings and events:

- All participating students must:
 - Have valid RIC ID to enter event venue.
 - Be fully vaccinated.
 - Wear masks.
 - All students in attendance must be in compliance with RIC Vaccination mandate policy.
- Process:
 - All meetings and events must be entered and listed as Web Request in RICRooms and confirmed by Conferences & Events.
- Venue/usage guidelines indoors:
 - Setup to maintain three to six-foot distancing for seating.
 - Venue capacities:
 - The maximum capacity for inside meetings and events cannot exceed current COVID-19 capacities set through RICRooms.
 - These capacities change depending on the location.

- Pre/post COVID-19 cleaning protocol in effect. Additional charges may apply.
- Venue/usage guidelines outdoors:
 - Outdoor events do not have an attendance capacity.
- Additional steps for large events (+50 individuals)
 - Student organization must designate a trained health ambassador to screen all participants as they enter (inside events only).
 - Health Ambassadors will be trained by Conferences & Events.
- For additional guidance on events please contact Conferences & Events at events@ric.edu

OTHER RIC EVENTS, INCLUDING EVENTS INVOLVING OUTSIDE GUESTS

Virtual Events:

Use RIC Zoom account

- Virtual meetings and events maybe setup as meetings or webinars.
- If anticipated attendance is over 300, please contract Conferences & Events (events@ric.edu) to setup a Zoom webinar.

In-Person meetings and events:

- Attendees must:
 - Be encouraged to be vaccinated.
 - Wear masks.
 - Pre-registration required
 - Walk ups / on-site registrations not allowed
 - ONLY vaccinated students are allowed to attend events with outside guests.
- Process:
 - All meetings and events must be entered and listed as Web Request in RICRooms and confirmed by Conferences & Events
- Venue/usage guidelines:
 - Setup to maintain six-foot distancing for seating
 - Must designate a trained health ambassador to screen all participants as they enter (inside events > 10 individuals only).
 - Health Ambassadors will be trained by Conferences & Events.
 - Venue capacities:
 - The maximum capacity for inside meetings and events cannot exceed current COVID-19 capacities set through RICRooms.
 - These capacities change depending on the location.
 - Pre/post COVID-19 cleaning protocol in effect. Additional charges may apply.
 - Outdoor events do not have an attendance capacity.
 - For additional guidance on events please contact Conferences & Events at events@ric.edu.

APPROVAL PROCESS

- Larger (50+ individuals), more complex events must go through Conferences & Events and receive formal approval from Director of Health Services and AVP for Administration and Finance.

MUSIC, THEATRE AND DANCE EVENTS and RIC TICKET SALES:

- Set venue capacity at 33 percent.
- Maintain six-foot distancing for seating.
- Restrict day-of event sales.
- At point of sale, ADD to terms and conditions of entry:
 - Vaccinations strongly encouraged.
 - Must wear masks

CLEANING PROTOCOLS

- Pre-event/post event cleaning per established summer 2021 protocols

CAMPUS TOURS

- All participants must be pre-screened.
- Visitors must always wear masks.
- Visitors must be fully vaccinated.
- Campus tours cannot exceed 10 visitors per tour.
- Must maintain a three-foot distance.
- Virtual tours are also available.

FOOD/CATERING

- No outside vendors such as food trucks allowed for events.
- All catering orders must go through Donovan Dining Services.
- All catering must be served as packaged food, box lunches/dinners, etc. and approved by Donovan Dining Services.

HEALTH AMBASSADORS

- A trained health ambassador may assist at indoor events with OUTSIDE guests, if available.
- Conferences & Events staff will assist training designated health ambassadors.

CONTRACTS

All contracts with outside artists MUST contain as an addendum the following Force Majeure clause (approved language used in current EMS contracts):

1. CANCELLATION/INTERRUPTION:

- a.** Cancellation for Force Majeure: A “Force Majeure” is an unforeseen event that (i) is beyond the control of the COLLEGE or LESSEE and may include, but is not limited to, Acts of God, significant inclement weather conditions, fire, flood, labor difficulties, strike, civil disturbance, war (whether declared or not) , riot, blackout, air raid, acts of public enemy, acts of terrorism, epidemic, pandemic, quarantine or any law, order, rules, regulations, acts or restraints of any governmental body of authority and (ii) make it impossible or impractical to perform the obligations hereunder. Restrictions on access to the Premises or the COLLEGE and/or closure of the COLLEGE (except for any essential operations) as determined necessary by COLLEGE at its reasonable discretion also shall be a Force Majeure event. The COLLEGE and the LESSEE shall exercise reasonable due diligence and cooperate to avoid or mitigate a Force Majeure event.

- In the event COLLEGE cannot make the Campus available or in the event LESSEE is unable to use the Premises because of a Force Majeure event, this Agreement shall terminate; each Party shall be excused from their obligations hereunder; no party shall be liable to the other Party in connection with such termination. Upon occurrence of a Force Majeure event (as defined above), the non-performing party shall promptly notify the other party that a Force Majeure event has occurred and its anticipated effect on performance, including its expected duration. COLLEGE shall be entitled to payment for any and all work performed (such as full catering costs) up to and including the date of notification of the Force Majeure event, notwithstanding cancellation clause parameters found herein under this contract.
- b.** Should COLLEGE desire to cancel or be unable to perform this Agreement and if notification is given in writing to the LESSEE at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the date of scheduled use, the COLLEGE shall return any payments, less full catering costs, and the LESSEE and COLLEGE shall be relieved of any further obligations under this Agreement.
 - c.** Should the LESSEE desire to cancel the Agreement and if notification is given in writing to the COLLEGE at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the start of the scheduled event, the LESSEE and COLLEGE shall be relieved of any further obligation under this Agreement. It is, however, understood that if the event is cancelled by the LESSEE, the LESSEE shall refund all monies for all expenses, incurred such as full catering costs, etc. and shall reimburse COLLEGE for all actual verifiable expenses incurred to date.
 - d.** In case of cancellation by the LESSEE, it shall be the responsibility of the LESSEE to make reasonable public announcements, at LESSEE's expense, concerning the cancellation as soon as possible.
 - e.** COLLEGE shall retain the right to cause the interruption in the interest of public safety, and to likewise cause the termination of such event when in the sole good faith judgment of the COLLEGE such act is necessary in the interest of public safety.

APPENDIX B



Fall 2021 RIC Travel Policy & COVID-19

These supplemental travel policies shall be in effect while RIC is in Moderate, Substantial or High risk due to COVID-19.

Students

Students taking part in RIC-sponsored out-of-state travel, must be fully vaccinated, and proof of their vaccination must be accepted in MediCat.

Student Athletes:

- For athletes, pending additional information from the NCAA and the Little East conference, unvaccinated and partially vaccinated student-athletes will be allowed to practice on campus but be masked at all times, and must complete three tests a week on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday schedule.
- At this time these student-athletes will be prohibited from competition at home or away.
- Off campus travel will be restricted until further notice to no overnight travel, no restaurants, with take-out food being the option on the road.
- All student-athletes will be required to test under the guise of the Department of Athletics within 24 hours of competition whether home or away.
- All spectators as well as officials, indoors as well as out, will be required to wear masks and retain recommended social distancing.
- Face coverings must be worn by all student-athletes and Tier 1 members (i.e., coaches, trainers, etc., this pertains to Tier I members of visiting teams as well) at practice and competition, inside and out, unless they are engaged in physical activity.
- Regardless of vaccination status, and per NCAA policy, all student-athletes will be masked when on college-sponsored transportation.
- Practices will be conducted within stable groups not to exceed 26 per RIDOH recommendations.
- These policies are in effect until October 1st, at which time they will be reviewed in conjunction with the latest updates from both local and national authorities.

Student Groups:

- Student groups requesting to travel off-campus must receive permission from the Dean of Students and the Director of Student Health Services to ensure the proposed trip is aligned with local, state and federal public health guidelines and regulations.

- Please allow two (2) weeks for approval. Students and student groups requesting to participate in college-sponsored travel should not book travel arrangements until travel has been approved.

Study Abroad:

- Students seeking to study abroad must receive permission from the Director of Study Abroad and the Director of Student Health Services to ensure the proposed trip is aligned with local, state and federal public health guidelines and regulations, and are not allowed to travel to countries experiencing orange or red-level transmission rates of COVID-19.
- In addition, all host partners must provide COVID-19 contingency plans. Students traveling must also sign the Rhode Island College COVID-19 Acknowledgement Form.

Employees

- All employees taking part in college-sponsored travel out of state — or employees leading college-sponsored travel off campus for students or colleagues — must be fully vaccinated, and proof of their vaccination must be provided to Human Resources, who will hold this information in confidence.
- All travelers must also adhere to any visitor guidelines specified by the location or institution they are visiting.
- Travel will only be allowed if it is deemed essential (see definitions below), including being mission critical and/or needed for tenure/promotion purposes for full-time tenure-track faculty members.
- Faculty requests for essential travel must be reviewed by the Dean and approved by the Office of the Provost. A form for approval will be available on Provost's Office website. Please allow two weeks for approval and do not book travel until approved.
- Staff travel must be pre-approved by the employee's vice president, have vaccination status confirmed by Human Resources and be approved by the Director of Student Health Services. Please allow two (2) weeks for the approval

What is essential academic travel for faculty and students?

- Faculty and students may travel when the purpose of that travel is deemed to be necessary for academic progress and cannot reasonably be postponed or handled remotely (i.e., to conduct research, to present research at an academic conference, to participate in an internship or academic experience required for graduation, or for a similar educational or co-curricular experience, etc.).
- **Academic Scholarship:**
 - Travel required for a professional purpose that is necessary and cannot reasonably be postponed or handled remotely.
 - Is necessary to preserve the safety/well-being of research subjects and/or participants.
 - Preserves the continuity of research that cannot reasonably be repeated, replaced or performed remotely.
 - Is deemed necessary and time-sensitive for tenure and promotion of faculty.
 - Advances critical research in the national or global interest.

- **College Business**
 - Travel that is mission-critical to and necessary for the core educational and business functions of the college presently or for the continuation of those core functions in the future, such as recruiting, performance on grant and contract deliverables, or participation in vital partner/inter-institutional consortium/organizational meetings, etc.

Rhode Island College COVID-19 Acknowledgement Form

The public health risk from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic is real. It is known to spread very quickly via person-to-person transmission and may spread without any obvious symptoms. As Rhode Island College continues to respond to this pandemic, we are adhering to federal, state and local regulations and guidelines to minimize the spread of the virus. However, this is a collective and unified effort, with everyone sharing in the obligation to do their part to be, and stay, safe.

Participation in Rhode Island College study abroad involves a real and potential risk of personal injury, including contracting COVID-19, as well as the loss of academic credits and financial repercussions resulting from the disruption of a program.

As a participant in a study abroad program, I have been advised and I acknowledge that:

- Rhode Island College will not be financially liable for unrecoverable program fees, return travel costs, or other personal expenditures lost as a result of my program's cancellation.
- Rhode Island College will not be able to provide academic accommodations if my program is cancelled or otherwise interrupted. I understand and acknowledge that cancellation of a study abroad program after the add/drop date may result in the loss of an entire semester's worth of credit, and that any academic accommodations provided by the study abroad program, if offered, may not be accepted by Rhode Island College.
- I understand and acknowledge that my study abroad program or host university may modify or interrupt in-person teaching and move to remote or online instruction with little or no notice to respond to surges in COVID-19 infection rates or in response to local government instructions.
- Rhode Island College will not be able to provide residential accommodations or quarantine arrangements in the event of the cancellation or interruption of my program. I understand and acknowledge that I am solely responsible for making my own residential accommodations should I be ordered to quarantine or self-isolate while attending my study abroad program unless such arrangements are provided by my host program or university.
- Insurance coverage provided by Rhode Island College does not cover evacuation or other accommodations due to disruption to travel plans resulting from a pandemic. Coverage does include medical expenses resulting from the treatment of COVID-19 but does not extend to losses for travel and accommodation expenses. I understand and acknowledge that I am solely responsible for these expenses.
- A study abroad program, host institution or local government entity may require me to quarantine upon arrival to their destination, and this quarantine accommodation will be at my own expense if not provided by my host institution.
- I understand and acknowledge that upon return from my time abroad I may be required to quarantine and the details and costs of such arrangements are solely my responsibility.

- I understand and acknowledge that a study abroad program, host institution or local government entity may require me to submit to testing regimes, provide reports on body temperature readings, share travel and contact information upon request, and submit to self-isolation and/or quarantine at any point during my program.
- I understand and acknowledge that arrangements for continuity of care and/or treatment of any existing medical or mental health conditions are my responsibility and should be made prior to the start of my program and should account for possible travel restrictions and/or lockdowns.
- I understand and acknowledge that US Consular Services and American Citizen Services may be unavailable, restricted or cancelled without notice in my program's destination.
- I understand and acknowledge that cancellations and disruptions to travel arrangements, as well as local and national lockdowns may limit or adversely impact my ability to arrive to – or depart from – my program, as well as possibly inhibit my movement within my program's country.
- I understand and acknowledge that it is in my best interest to plan one or more contingencies for early departure, pack accordingly, and monitor local news and reliable and reputable information sources to ensure that I am fully informed and aware of the situation in my program's location.

By digitally signing, I confirm that I have read the above COVID-19 Acknowledgement Form, fully understand the terms, and agree to be legally bound by them.

Signature

Date

Printed name