

## Student Repopulation Plan

As of July 21, 2020



We are excited for your return to campus and looking forward to a great—albeit different—fall semester. Along with academic changes, we have also been planning for the out-of-class services, opportunities, relationships, connections, and community that are an essential part of living and learning at Fitchburg State.

Because Fitchburg State University cannot guarantee zero cases of COVID-19, nor prevent all community infections, we must expect that every member of the University community will be committed to creating a culture of safety and accountability to maintain a healthy campus. Everyone who comes to campus for classes and work must understand and acknowledge this reality. Every member of the Fitchburg State community must also acknowledge that they have a responsibility to themselves and their fellow Falcons to do their part to be safe, honor restrictions, follow appropriate public health guidelines, including those from the Centers for Disease Control, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and the Fitchburg city Department of Health, and comply with all written university guidance posted or otherwise communicated to the campus community.

We are confident that we can have a safe, healthy, productive and fun semester on campus this fall. Some have suggested that college students cannot be expected to live together safely in the midst of a pandemic, but I know we can do this. Now is the time for all of us to come together for the common good.

This guidance document provides protocols, requirements, training, and plans to reduce risk and promote a healthy environment for our campus community. Our expectations for students, faculty, and staff related to reducing the risk of COVID-19 follows the guidance provided by the Massachusetts Reopening Advisory Board, established by the Office of the Governor.

This document is focused on students. Please know that a similar document was developed for all staff and faculty and can be found on the University's COVID-19 website. The health-related requirements detailed below apply to employees as well as students.

This plan will remain fluid and is subject to change as further guidance and/or orders are directed from the Governor of Massachusetts and other state and federal authorities. The website will offer the most up-to-date information as circumstances evolve.

Prior to returning to campus, all students are required to review a series of online training videos and policies to meet requirements to repopulate campus. The required training videos and other resources are located in Blackboard COVID Required Training Modules for Students. In addition, students must self-monitor their health daily. Students who are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 should inform their professors and the Student Affairs Office and not come to campus or leave their residence hall.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and assistance. Repopulating our campus will require care for each other and ourselves, continued flexibility and patience, and a close monitoring of the environment. Everyone has a part to play in maintaining a healthy and safe environment. We ask all students and employees to share in taking care of our facilities, our classrooms and workspaces, and commonly used equipment. Please carefully review these guidelines and contact the Student Affairs Office at 978-665-3130 or [studentaffairs@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@fitchburgstate.edu) to address any questions.

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## Introduction

The first step toward repopulating the campus is the continued implementation of necessary health and safety protocols. The university is in compliance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Mandated Safety Standards for classrooms, residence halls, office spaces, and common areas of campus as identified by the Governor's Reopening Advisory Board. These safety standards include, but are not limited to, assessing space configurations, pedestrian traffic flows, densification guidelines, social distancing, hygiene protocols, signage requirements, and cleaning and disinfecting practices.

### The following core concepts guide the university's plan for the repopulation of campus:

- Proceed thoughtfully, carefully, and deliberately.
- Require personal daily wellness checks, social distancing, handwashing, staying home when sick, and the use of face coverings.
- Maintain cleaning protocols.
- Remain aware of and address the disparate impact on vulnerable populations and minority communities of students, faculty and staff.
- Continue to build on the innovations developed in the last few months to teach and serve remotely and to automate work processes.
- Be ready to adjust plans based on guidance from local, state and CDC health officials.
- Continue to update the campus community.

### ► A Commitment to the Fitchburg State Community

Public health is everyone's responsibility. The next section defines Fitchburg State's expectations for students, employees, and visitors to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 in our community.

The safety of the campus community in respect to COVID-19 is a shared risk. All community members must do their part to contribute to the health and safety of the community. To that end, the University has implemented new safety rules and precautions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, which the University may update or revise at any time in response to new information, or recommendations or guidance from the CDC or Massachusetts Department of Health. All students are expected to comply with the rules and precautions implemented by the University, including, but not limited to, wearing face coverings, washing or sanitizing hands, social distancing, monitoring of symptoms, and self-reporting of symptoms or a positive COVID diagnosis. Behaviors that jeopardize the health and safety of the University community will not be tolerated. Students suspected of, or found to be in violation of, the preceding may be immediately removed from the residence halls and/or the University, pending further action. Failure to comply with these rules and precautions implemented in response to COVID-19 is a violation of the University's Code of Conduct and could subject students to sanctions, up to and including expulsion from the University. Consistent with the university's statement of non-discrimination, Fitchburg State will

not tolerate discrimination, profiling, bias, or any form of racial intimidation in conjunction with this or any other COVID-related policies. Any reported incidents will be addressed in accordance with university policy.

The following portions of the Code of Conduct allow for adjudication of these types of violations:

- 2.01** Obstruction or disruption (participating in or inciting others to participate in the disruption or obstruction) of teaching, administration, disciplinary system, the university or community or other university activities.
- 2.02** Conduct, regardless of where it occurs, that is in violation of federal, state and/or local law or university policies that brings into question one's suitability as a member of the university community, or has a detrimental effect on the reputation of the University.

- 2.13** Violation of published University policies.
- 3.01** Physical assault, harassment, or bullying, of another person or threats of injury or harm to oneself or another person or any action, which may subject oneself, or another person to physical or mental injury.
- 3.06** Trespassing, forcible entry, or unauthorized entry and/or presence in buildings or property where posted or restricted, or attempts to commit the same. Reasonable notice of authority, or lack thereof, shall be given.
- 3.13** Failure to maintain community health and living standards as outlined in the Housing Agreement/ Policies and Procedures.
- 4.04** Failure to comply with a reasonable request of a university official.

**PART XII**, Interim Restrictions Clause.

Refer to full code: [www.fitchburgstate.edu/judicial](http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/judicial)

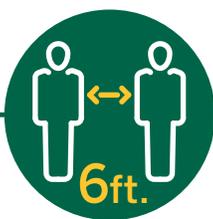
## Health and Safety Expectations



**COVER  
YOUR FACE**



**WASH  
YOUR HANDS**



**PHYSICAL  
DISTANCE**



**SYMPTOM  
CHECK**



**FEELING SICK  
STAY HOME**

Anyone returning to campus will be asked to follow the standards below:

**TRAINING PROGRAM.** Prior to returning to campus or starting the semester, every student must participate in a training program on Blackboard that details our health and safety guidelines, and attest that they understand and will comply with expectations.

**SOCIAL DISTANCING.** Stay at least six feet apart when able, and be mindful of distancing in enclosed spaces.

**HANDWASHING.** Wash hands often.

**FACE COVERINGS.** Everyone on campus is required to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth when indoors. This includes classrooms, public restrooms,

open office and common spaces, hallways, meeting rooms, libraries, and other indoor spaces. Face coverings are also required outdoors when six-foot physical distancing cannot be maintained.

- Students will be provided a face covering upon return to campus. Each student will receive one Fitchburg State-branded face covering. Residential students will receive them in their residence hall and commuter students can pick one up at the information desk on the street level of Hammond Hall.
- Students may use face coverings provided by the university or supply their own.
- Face coverings may be cloth or disposable.

- Students may remove face coverings in their own residence hall rooms or apartments.
- Students should have a face covering with them whenever they are on campus.
- Students who enter facilities without a face covering will be asked to leave.
- Students may remove face coverings when actively eating or drinking or strenuously exercising. Note that there is no food or beverage allowed in classrooms.
- Guests, visitors, vendors, and contractors will be expected to honor these guidelines and provide their own face covering to keep the Fitchburg State community safe.
- Individuals who are unable to wear cloth face coverings due to a medical or behavioral condition or disability may wear an alternate face covering, such as a shield, and maintain a minimum six-foot physical distance at all times. Watch for information about how students can alert Fitchburg State about individual conditions that prevent wearing cloth face coverings.

**CLEANING:** Students will be responsible for maintaining their personal spaces across campus, including periodic cleaning of frequently used items. Capital Planning and Maintenance has altered their cleaning protocols to prioritize reducing the risk of COVID-19.

**CLASSROOMS, WORK SPACES, COMMON AREAS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING:** The Environmental Health and Safety Office has evaluated spaces across campus for physical distancing requirements. Spaces that cannot be altered may be closed. Guidance from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will help us determine if it is possible to offer services in person in addition to remotely.

**GATHERINGS:** Students should continue to use technology for meetings and appointments. If necessary to meet in person, no more than twenty-five people may gather in one place and all must adhere to social distancing requirements. Students should wear a face covering per the instructions above until new guidance is provided.

**GUESTS, VISITORS, AND VENDORS;** The presence of guests, visitors, and vendors on our campus will be minimized, including those from off campus who wish to visit Fitchburg State students. Exceptions will be made on a limited basis for family members. Those who are allowed on campus will be expected to adhere to our expectations.

For questions about protocols, students may contact the Student Affairs Office at 978-665-3130.

### ► Symptom Monitoring Checklist Requirement (Daily Wellness Check)

Students who are coming to campus or leaving their residence hall room must conduct symptom monitoring every day prior to leaving. All community members must be free of any symptoms potentially related to COVID-19 upon arrival on campus. Commuter students experiencing symptoms shall notify their professors and the Student Affairs Office (867-665-3130) that they will not be in attendance, remain home, and monitor their symptoms. If symptoms worsen, commuter students should contact their primary care physician. Residential students will be informed about who to notify that they are experiencing symptoms.

#### At this time, symptoms include one or more of the following:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever of over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Runny nose or new sinus congestion
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- New GI symptoms
- New loss of taste or smell

## ► Surveillance Testing and Contact Tracing

Fitchburg State will be conducting its own COVID-19 surveillance testing, in partnership with the Broad Institute. We will be testing a randomized sample of members of the Fitchburg State community (students and employees) each week to track trends of the spread of the virus, if any. Students will be notified if they are part of this randomized sample for a given week, and be notified of test results. We urge you to make time to be tested in this process to support the ongoing monitoring of our community.

In addition, the university has partnered with the **ACTION Center of Community Health Connections** located in Fitchburg for students to be tested if they have been exposed to COVID-19. Payments and insurance rates apply. Please see the information below:

**130 Water Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420**  
**978-878-8100**  
**[www.chcfhc.org/services/action-health-services](http://www.chcfhc.org/services/action-health-services)**  
**Mon–Fri: 8 AM–5 PM / Sat & Sun: Closed**  
**Walk-up COVID testing is Mon–Fri: 9 AM - 4 PM**  
**(no appointment necessary)**

Fitchburg State University is in the process of determining our process for contact tracing.

## ► Travel

Students who are traveling out of state and return to Massachusetts should complete a Travel Form. A link to the student form will be published when it is finalized.

Per guidance from the state (Travel Information in Commonwealth), people from the following states do not need to quarantine when coming into Massachusetts: Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Maine, Vermont, New York, and New Jersey. If you are visiting these states, you are not required to isolate upon your return.

If your travel takes you out of the region, you must isolate upon return for 14 days. See the section on Residence Halls for information about students who will be coming to campus from out of the region. Here is a link with information about travel from the Centers for Disease Control: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html).





## Teaching and Learning

### ► Academic Calendar

There is no change to the published academic calendar.

### ► Course Modalities

Changes to Fall 2020 course instructional modes of delivery (modalities) have been made so that we can offer all students a robust combination of learning environments, while protecting students' health and safety. The existing, public health guidelines require the university to ensure social distancing protocols. This requires that we spread courses out throughout the day, find larger classrooms, and find innovative ways to teach high-enrollment courses.

When you view your schedule on Web4, you will see terms assigned to your courses related to the mode of delivery (modality). Some courses will be completely remote while others will take a hybrid format, meaning that part of the course will take place on campus and part will be conducted remotely. Still, others will meet on campus as originally scheduled, face to face. These terms are defined below:

**ONLINE:** This means that your course will be taught remotely but the course is taught through recorded lectures and other activities (asynchronously), meaning that the student does not have to be logged on at any specific time; they can receive and complete course work on their own time.

**ONSYNC:** This means that your course will be taught remotely but the course is taught live (synchronously) during the times specified by the schedule. You will access the course lectures via Google Meet or some other remote platform selected by the course instructor.

**HYBRID A:** This modality means that all students in the course will come to the classroom face-to-face (F2F) during one of the scheduled class periods. During the other classroom period(s), the students either participate live, but through a remote platform, or they may engage in other learning activities. For example, if the class is scheduled Monday and Wednesday, 8:00am - 9:15am, then the class will be held F2F on Monday; but on Wednesday, the students will receive the material remotely.

**HYBRID B:** This modality means that half the students in the course will come to the classroom F2F during one of the class periods, and the other half will watch the lecture live remotely, or they may engage in other learning activities. Then, the next class period, students will switch and the students who received the class material remotely will come to the classroom F2F, and the students who had been in the classroom will receive the material remotely. For example, if a class of 40 students is scheduled Monday and Wednesday, 8:00am - 9:15am, then on Monday, 20 students will come to class F2F and the other 20 will receive the material remotely. On Wednesday, the students would switch, and the 20 who were in class F2F on Monday would receive materials remotely, and the students who were remote on Monday would come to a F2F class on Wednesday.

**HYBRID C:** This modality means that half the students in the course will come to the classroom F2F during one week, and the other half will watch the lecture live remotely, or they may engage in other learning activities. The following week, students will switch, and the students who received the class material remotely in the first week will come to the classroom F2F, and the students who had been in the classroom F2F will receive the material remotely.

**HYBRID:** This modality means that the students in the course will come to the classroom F2F sometime during the semester; however at least 50% of the course will be delivered remotely. In addition, given the variability of this model, it will be the faculty's responsibility to communicate with students.

NOTE: A hybrid course modality will have two lines on the seats list. One line will show the classroom where your class will meet on campus. The hybrid line will describe which hybrid modality your instructor is using. Please communicate with your instructor for details.

### ► Academic Advising, Academic Support, and Career Development

All Academic Coaching and Tutoring Center (ACT) academic support services—peer tutoring, peer mentoring, academic coaching, and academic success workshops—will be available remotely, by Google Meet, phone, or email. We also hope to offer in-person services consistent with guidelines from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

All services from the Career Services and Advising Center will be performed remotely either by phone or via google meet. We will continue to provide all our regular services virtually. Services include:

- One on one career and academic advising
- Mock interviews
- Workshops and Information Sessions
- Programming/Events (career fair, panels, etc.)
- Daily drop-in hours

Students can contact the office at **978-665-3151** or via email [careercenter@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:careercenter@fitchburgstate.edu) to schedule an appointment with an advisor.

### ► Library

**VISITING THE LIBRARY:** All students, faculty and staff who enter the library building must adhere to the COVID-19 protocols established by Fitchburg State University, including wearing face coverings, social distancing, symptom monitoring, and hygiene standards. Furniture in the library will be moved and/or will have signage on it to allow for social distancing.

Go to [fitchburgstate.edu/library](http://fitchburgstate.edu/library) to check hours as we get closer to opening.

**ONLINE LIBRARY ACCESS:** The vast majority of library resources, services and tools, including ebooks, articles, and help from a librarian, can be accessed via the Library Website at [fitchburgstate.edu/library](http://fitchburgstate.edu/library).

**RESEARCH HELP:** Librarians will be offering research help online via chat and Google Meet appointments. In-person research help will be offered on a limited basis.

**COMPUTER ACCESS:** The computers located on the main floor of the library were moved so they are at least 6 feet apart to maintain social distance. Computers are now located on the main level, 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors. Plastic keyboard covers were added in order to facilitate cleaning. Cleaning supplies will be readily available for students to wipe down equipment before and after using.

**GROUP STUDY ROOMS:** The library is currently developing safe capacity limits for each roomy.

**CIRCULATION OF BOOKS:** Physical books will be available for check-out in fall 2020. The check-out process will be modified to reduce contact. For those who wish to use it, the library will offer a “grab-n-go” no-contact check-out system. To ensure safety, returned books will be quarantined for a time period. NOTE: The library's extensive ebooks collections now surpass the print book collections and are available online through the library's website for use on campus and off campus.

**RESERVES:** Due to sanitation restrictions, physical course reserve books may not be available. The library is currently working on expanding access to digital reserves.

**INTERLIBRARY LOAN:** Interlibrary loan services will resume borrowing and lending for the fall 2020 semester. An interlibrary loan is when the library gets access to books and articles from other libraries for Fitchburg students and faculty.

**ARCHIVES / SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:** The Archives will be closed to in-person visitors, but will be available digitally. Please access the current and growing digital archives collection by clicking the Digital Archives quick link on the library homepage

**PROGRAMMING FOR STUDENTS:** Library events will be online/virtual.

Check our news feed at [fitchburgstate.edu/library](http://fitchburgstate.edu/library) and follow **FSUlibrary** on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter to stay informed on Library news.



## Campus Life

### ► New Student Orientation (The Falcon Experience)

Incoming students will continue to meet virtually with the orientation groups formed over the summer. These transition groups will work to help new students adjust to university life, and will be staffed by our Orientation Leaders (OL).

- OLs will be available online and will be part of the transition for first-year students.
- The OLs will connect new students through **Falcon Connections** including, Google Meets, email, and use of social media.
- Remote programming will be provided.
- A comprehensive on-line summer orientation program will be offered.
- A virtual fall orientation program will continue post-arrival.

### ► Residential Life

**DE-DENSIFICATION:** To meet the health requirements from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Centers for Disease Control, the residence halls have been de-densified as follows:

- **Traditional Floors:** Single Occupancy
- **Suites:** Double Occupancy
- **Apartments:** Single Occupancy

The de-densification process has allowed for all Housing Occupancy Agreements currently entered to remain in effect for 2020-2021. Residents are requested to follow the cancellation policy stipulated within the agreement, as amended.

**THE MOVE-IN PROCESS:** The residence hall move-in process is currently scheduled for Monday, August 31 for New/Transfer Students and Wednesday, September 2 for Returning Students. The date range may be expanded as the Move-in Process continues to be assessed.

- All participants in the Move-in Process are required to wear face coverings and comply with all other guidelines stipulated.
- All residents will be able to have at maximum two people in their party to support their move-in. Residents should bring only their essentials to support the Fall Semester.
- Additional communication on Move-in is forthcoming.

**MOVING TO CAMPUS FROM OUT-OF-REGION:** As noted above, per guidance from the state (Travel Information in Commonwealth), people coming to Massachusetts from outside of this geographic region must quarantine. The University is in the process of determining the protocol for students from out-of-region to safely return to campus, and we will communicate directly with these students. Students from the following states do not need to quarantine when coming into Massachusetts: Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Maine, Vermont, New York, and New Jersey.

**BATHROOMS:** All residence hall bathrooms are cleaned by Capital Planning and Maintenance. Cleaning supplies will be accessible to supplement the cleaning that students are required to do in suites and apartments.

Personal belongings should not be kept in shared bathrooms at anytime time as to not obstruct required cleanings. The Residence Life Staff will communicate

with residents about the specific expectations in terms of scheduled usage and/or assignment of sinks as part of the move-in process.

**COMMUNAL SPACES:** The residence hall communal spaces including walkways, stairwells, laundry rooms, elevators, bathrooms, kitchens, lounges, and seating areas may have additional guidelines to support social distancing and best-practices including, but not limited, to:

- Directional signage
- Face covering when in the space
- Scheduling for use
- Limited or no use of the space

**GUESTS:** Guests are not allowed in any residential buildings, including Fitchburg State students who do not live in your designated family unit (those who live within your apartment, suite, or floor).

**OVERNIGHT GUESTS:** No overnight guests are permitted in the residence hall.

**VISITORS:** Residents who are assigned to the building in which you live but not your assigned bed unit. Visitors are permitted within your designated family unit (those who live within your apartment, suite, or floor), but not from other family units in your residence hall.

**SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT:** Residents will have increased engagement with Building Staff and peers via virtual formats. Face-to-face contact will be limited. Building staff will provide networking, programs and community resources through virtual environments.

**COMMUNITY CONTACT:** The residence halls will continue to include professional staff, resident assistants and community desk assistants to support a 24/7 on-call program.

## ► On-Campus Dining

**RESIDENTIAL DINING MEAL PLANS:** Seating in Holmes Dining will be closed during this period of modified service. Menu items will be made available as takeout options.

Service in Holmes Dining will include a variety of pre-packaged takeout items, as well as meals served in takeout containers, sides, snacks, desserts and beverages served in takeout containers.

Our dining locations will continue to offer a variety of healthy items, vegan or vegetarian options, as well as items for those with special dietary needs. It is important to communicate these needs to our management staff so that we may better assist you.

Students will be able to complete one meal plan transaction per meal period. A meal plan transaction includes an order from one of our express pickup locations through BOOST or entry into Holmes Dining Hall.

Order ahead for express meal plan pickup will be facilitated through the BOOST mobile ordering app.

BOOST Mobile orders should be placed within the meal period you intend to pick up, in order to accurately use your meal swipes. (Example: Ordering a lunch pickup during a breakfast meal period will take away your ability to participate in that breakfast period). BOOST ordering for each meal period will open 15 minutes prior to the meal period.

Multiple pickup locations will be available for express pickup around campus. Many items and daily specials may vary based on pickup location.

McKay school Cafe will be open for breakfast and lunch meal plan pickup. Retail sales at the McKay Cafe will be suspended during this time of modified meal plan service.

North Street Bistro will offer an express grill meal plan pickup option for lunch and dinner service.

Holmes Dining will offer express meal pickup at the front checkers stand through breakfast, lunch and dinner meal periods.

Guests are expected to maintain physical distancing. Floor markers are placed throughout the serving lines, and the waiting line prior to the serving area. These will aid in ensuring proper physical distancing.

Holmes Dining will be closed for a 30 minute sanitation period between meals.

These modifications have been developed based on the most current information as well as CDC guidelines and may be subject to change. It is important to stay informed of any changes, modifications, or just our daily menus by visiting our website [dineoncampus.com/fsu](http://dineoncampus.com/fsu), or follow any of our social media pages @FSUEats1.

**RETAIL:** The McKay Cafe will not be open for retail transactions during this modified service period. It will instead be an alternate pickup location for express meal plan orders.

The North Street Bistro and Cafe will still be accepting retail transactions. All retail items will be available through the BOOST mobile ordering app and use of the app is encouraged to increase safety and convenience.

SUBWAY, Burger 978, and Freshens orders will only be available through the BOOST Mobile App. There will be no walk-ins or service lines for these retail concepts.

The Café location will be accepting BOOST orders as well as walk-ins.

Guests are expected to maintain physical distancing. Floor markers are placed throughout the serving lines, and the waiting line prior to the serving area. These will aid in ensuring proper physical distancing.

These modifications have been developed based on the most current information as well as CDC guidelines and may be subject to change. It is important to stay informed of any changes, modifications, or just our daily menus by visiting our website [dineoncampus.com/fsu](http://dineoncampus.com/fsu), or follow any of our social media pages @FSUEats1.

## ► Disability Services

The Disability Services Office arranges for reasonable and appropriate accommodations for Fitchburg State students with documented disabilities, in an effort to afford equal access to all University programs and services.

Students interested in discussing disability accommodations are encouraged to contact the Disability Services Office by calling 978-665-4020, or by emailing [disabilityserviceslist@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:disabilityserviceslist@fitchburgstate.edu). Meetings will be available remotely, by Google Meet, phone, or email. We will also offer in-person services, if we can do so while safeguarding student safety, our paramount concern.

Students are encouraged to complete appropriate forms, including a form to register with the Disability Services Office. All registration forms can be found on our website: [fitchburgstate.edu/disabilities](http://fitchburgstate.edu/disabilities).

NOTE: To receive accommodations for a disability,

students are required to submit documentation (e.g., medical documentation, educational testing). Guidelines for the submission of necessary documentation can be found on our website [fitchburgstate.edu/disabilities](http://fitchburgstate.edu/disabilities).

Typically, the process of securing accommodations involves an initial meeting with Disability Services staff, and such meetings may be arranged either prior to the beginning of the fall 2020 semester, or after the semester begins.

## ► Counseling Services

The Counseling Services Office will continue to provide free services to enrolled students via a “telehealth” platform during the fall 2020 semester. Students interested in scheduling an appointment with a counselor are encouraged to either call the office at 978-665-3152, and, as needed, leaving a detailed message including name and contact information, or email [healthwellness@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:healthwellness@fitchburgstate.edu) and provide contact information.

Services will either be offered via phone, or secure video chat platform, depending on a student’s particular needs and preferences. Counseling Services staff will discuss with students special privacy considerations associated with telehealth services.

Counseling Services will also continue to offer programming to support emotional and psychological wellness. Social media platforms (e.g., Instagram) will be used to provide programs, and information regarding accessing programming will be made available on the Counseling Services website, and via University communication channels.

## ► Health Services

Fitchburg State University will be partnering with a local provider to offer a wider array of health-related services to our students. More information to come as plans are finalized.

## ► Campus Engagement

Students live full lives at Fitchburg State University, engaging in a robust offering of events, organizations, clubs and activities outside of the classroom. For the most part, guidance and policy in this area will mirror

that for academic classes, such as reduced capacity of spaces, social distancing, hand washing, mask-wearing, and other public health best practices. Given the range of activities at Fitchburg State and the leadership role students play in planning and carrying out events, the following principles and recommendations will be implemented:

- Student leaders, with oversight and guidance from the Office of Student Development, will plan and manage activities and programs in a manner consistent with University and state public health guidance and restrictions, such as maximum crowd size, face coverings and other social distancing requirements.
- Staff will continue to advise, train, and support students involved in Recognized Student Organizations. Staff will be available by appointment only for face-to-face meetings, and all meetings must follow current social distancing guidelines. Most event planning, training, and Club and Organization support can take place remotely through Google Meet, Zoom, or other formats.
- We will communicate regularly to student leaders who will need to monitor those communications as they plan events, given that public health guidance and social distancing requirements may change frequently.
- The University will prepare for the likelihood that at least for the fall term, in-person events will be limited and small, and travel to and from the campus will not be possible. Non-essential visitors will be prohibited from coming to campus. Student leaders and the offices that advise them should plan for the fall with that assumption.
- All First Amendment rights will be supported by the university with an emphasis on working with student organizers to educate, strategize, and execute COVID-19 safety protocols to mitigate spread of the virus.
- We will conduct a summer survey of student leaders and organizations with basic information about the anticipated guidelines and social distancing requirements and ask for their feedback and input about how they will plan events and programs; challenges and opportunities they foresee; and support they will need to be successful.
- We will identify spaces available for activities and

programs (following the reservation of spaces needed for academics, given the need to locate classes in larger rooms that normal) with information about their capacity and other characteristics readily available to student leaders and organizations. This may include outdoor spaces if possible, including potentially unused athletic spaces.

- Greek Life recruitment will be conducted. Most, if not all, chapter programming will be held remotely if they are unable to follow the social distancing guidelines.

### ► Cultural and Identity Centers

Cultural Centers and affinity spaces, including the Center for Diversity and Inclusiveness, Veteran Center, Office of Student Development, and Commuter Lounge, will be open, if possible in accordance with public health guidelines for social distancing. All advocacy and support programs will continue to provide programs and services through a mix of in-person and virtual formats.

### ► Recreation

Recreation Services will take a phased approach to reopening this fall. Our priority is to do our best to meet the needs of our students while adjusting our operations to ensure a safe environment for those that recreate under our roof. We plan to offer a variety of options for our campus community, both online and in-person. Based on state guidance, we hope to offer cardio equipment, weight equipment and other services. The activities taking place in the Rec Center or around campus will stress physical distancing, so that we can prioritize the health of the community while we chase our personal exercise goals.

Operations in the Recreation Center will look different this fall as we adjust to new guidelines. Games or activities that involve person-to-person contact and touching the same equipment without sanitizing (e.g., full-court basketball) will be eliminated. There will also be restrictions on locker room use and a change in how we use fitness equipment in a way that allows time for additional cleaning between each user.

## ► Athletics

The MASCAC and Fitchburg State University have announced that all competition for our fall sports has been suspended for the fall 2020 season. The programs impacted by this decision include men's and women's soccer, women's volleyball, field hockey, men's and women's cross country, and football. This news is tremendously disappointing, but was made in the best interest of the health and safety of our student-athletes, coaches, and staff members.

This decision does not include men's and women's basketball, men's and women's indoor track or ice hockey, as the status of those seasons will continue to be evaluated as we progress through the next several months.

Fitchburg State intends to provide practice opportunities for all of the impacted programs during the fall semester and we will continue to evaluate the possibility of spring competition for the fall teams that have been impacted.

Check the Athletics website for updates [fitchburgfalcons.com](http://fitchburgfalcons.com). Student-athletes can forward all questions to their head coach or contact Athletic Director Matt Burke at 978-665-3313 or [mburke43@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:mburke43@fitchburgstate.edu)



## Contact Information

### Fitchburg State University:

#### Student Affairs

978-665-3130

[studentaffairs@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@fitchburgstate.edu)

#### Office of Environmental Health and Safety

978-665-3756

[lfernand7@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:lfernand7@fitchburgstate.edu)

#### Capital Planning and Maintenance

978-665-3115

[fitchburgstate.edu/offices-services-directory/capital-planning-maintenance](http://fitchburgstate.edu/offices-services-directory/capital-planning-maintenance)

#### Technology/Help Desk

978-665-4500

[fitchburgstate.edu/technology](http://fitchburgstate.edu/technology)

#### University Police

978-665-3111

[fitchburgstate.edu/police](http://fitchburgstate.edu/police)

### Community Health Connections ACTION Site

978-878-8100

[chcfhc.org/services/action-health-services](http://chcfhc.org/services/action-health-services)

### Massachusetts Department of Public Health

617-624-6000

[mass.gov/orgs/department-of-public-health](http://mass.gov/orgs/department-of-public-health)

### City of Fitchburg Board of Health

978-829-1870

[ci.fitchburg.ma.us/244/Board-of-Health](http://ci.fitchburg.ma.us/244/Board-of-Health)

### Centers for Disease Control

800-232-4636

[cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)

## Sources

### American Enterprise Institute

[aei.org/research-products/report/national-coronavirus-response-a-road-map-to-reopening](https://www.aei.org/research-products/report/national-coronavirus-response-a-road-map-to-reopening)

### Brown University

[brown.edu/sites/g/files/dprerj316/files/healthy-brown-2020-21-plan.pdf](https://brown.edu/sites/g/files/dprerj316/files/healthy-brown-2020-21-plan.pdf)

### California State University-Fullerton

[coronavirus.fullerton.edu](https://coronavirus.fullerton.edu)

### Centers for Disease Control

[cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019)

### Centre for Applied Disaster and Emergency Management

[emergency.nait.ca/Alerts/COVID-19](https://emergency.nait.ca/Alerts/COVID-19)

### Duke University

[duke.edu](https://duke.edu)

### College and University Professional Association for Human Resources

[cupahr.org](https://cupahr.org)

### Commonwealth of Massachusetts Office of the Governor

[mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information](https://mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information)

### Elon University

[elon.edu/u/ready-and-resilient](https://elon.edu/u/ready-and-resilient)

### Society for Human Resource Management

[shrm.org](https://shrm.org)

### UMass Amherst

[umass.edu/coronavirus/sites/default/files/2020-06/Fall-2020-Reopening-Plan\\_1.pdf](https://umass.edu/coronavirus/sites/default/files/2020-06/Fall-2020-Reopening-Plan_1.pdf)

### University of Tennessee

[utk.edu/coronavirus](https://utk.edu/coronavirus)

### Worcester State University

[worcester.edu/Safe-Return](https://worcester.edu/Safe-Return)

