

# THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND



Division of Student Affairs

**COVID-19 and Public Health Informed  
Policies**

**STUDENT HANDBOOK  
2021-2022 ADDENDUM**

# University of Rhode Island

## COVID-19 and Public Health- Informed Policies

### Student Handbook Addendum

# 2021-2022

Approved by University of Rhode Island Senior Leadership on August 17, 2020

Updated August 23, 2021

## COVID-10 and Public Health-Informed Policies

**It is up to all members of the URI Family to keep ourselves and each other safe.**

The University of Rhode Island (URI; the University) aims to deliver its mission while protecting the health and safety of our students and minimizing the potential spread of disease within our community. As a member of the URI community, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (“COVID”) or similar public health crisis will impact your experience as URI continues to make public health- informed decisions. The below policies and guidelines are *integrated* into the Student Handbook and are applicable to all students.

As always, we will endeavor to update you with timely information about specific health and safety guidance important for our students.

### **1. Health and Wellness**

We expect that all members of the URI community—residents, staff and visitors—to act in a manner that demonstrates respect and consideration for those around them, including respect and consideration for the health and safety of all community members. All members of the URI community are prohibited from creating a health or safety hazard within the University, and the University may request or require a resident to leave the University (including residential housing) if their continued presence in the community poses a health or safety risk for community members. Adherence to health and safety requirements applies to all students and extends to all aspects of University life, including academic buildings, classrooms, laboratories, residence halls, dining halls, meeting spaces, libraries, administration offices, bathrooms, lounges, computer rooms, courtyards and other common spaces.

**Students are required to comply with state laws which include Rhode Island Executive Orders related to health and safety, ordinances, regulations and guidance adopted by the University as it relates to public health crises, including COVID-19.** This guidance will evolve as the public health crisis evolves and may include, but is not limited to, the following:

#### **Vaccination**

**Starting this Fall, URI is requiring COVID-19 vaccines for all undergraduate and graduate students. Medical and**

**religious exemptions from vaccination will be granted to students, and reasonable accommodations will be provided. Undergraduate and graduate students who are not vaccinated and do not qualify for a medical or religious exemption will not be permitted to access campus.**

### **Cloth Face Coverings/ Face Masks**

Cloth Face Coverings/ Face Masks are required in all classrooms, public areas, instructional areas, and laboratories. If you do not have a cloth face covering/ face mask you will be denied entry to or asked to leave the class and not return until you have one at the instructor's discretion. You will be responsible for making up any content you miss because you do not have a mask.

Face coverings will be required in community spaces including but not limited to the Memorial Union, Multicultural Student Services Center, Gender and Sexuality Center, Campus Recreation, etc.

In the residence halls, you will be required to wear a face covering outside your residence hall room. Face coverings will be required in the hallways, bathrooms, and common areas.

You are required to put on a cloth face covering/face mask if you are asked to do so by any University faculty or staff member. Failure to do so will result in immediate removal from campus and additional conduct action.

Finally, you are to wear a face covering if asked to do so by another student. We are all in this together.

If you are already on campus and start to feel ill, you need to remove yourself from the public and notify URI Health Services via phone immediately at 401-874-2246 and go home/back to your room and self-isolate while you await direction from Health Services.

The current symptoms we will be asking you about include one or more of the following per the [CDC recommendations](#) as of August 11, 2020.

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after



exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19.

Members of the community will be required to show their completed attestation when asked to do so by a faculty or staff member, and may be denied access to the classroom or other spaces if it is not completed.

**Mandatory COVID 19 diagnostic testing.** COVID virus testing is considered an important element of our safe return to campus. Un-vaccinated students are required to participate in a biweekly, carefully designed and robust testing plan to monitor the health of our community and minimize the likelihood of outbreaks. This includes all students submitting to diagnostic and health surveillance testing when requested to do so by Student Health Services. Failure to comply with a testing request will result in immediate removal from campus (including on-campus housing) and additional conduct action.

**Physical Distancing: The 6-Foot Campus** – by modifying shared spaces with physical distancing – we can continue to fight the virus. All students are required to maintain at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people at all times.

**Group Gatherings.** All group gatherings will be limited to numbers based on current state recommendations.

All residence hall students are expected to follow the guest policies for their specific residence hall room at all times.

**Knowingly participating in academic and campus events or activities after testing positive** will result in the immediate removal from campus and may result in additional conduct action that could result in sanctions up to and including suspension or dismissal from the University.

**Intentionally coughing, sneezing, or spitting on any individual (whether COVID positive or not)** will result in the immediate removal and trespass from campus and you will face suspension or dismissal from the University.

The following portions of the Code of Student Conduct allow for adjudication of alleged violations:

### **Jurisdiction of the University (Student Handbook, pg. 15)**

The University of Rhode Island Student Code of Conduct applies to conduct that occurs on University premises, at University sponsored activities, and to off-campus conduct by a community member that adversely affects the University community, poses a threat to safety of persons or property, or damages the institution's reputation or relationship with the greater community.

### **Existing applicable policies (Student Handbook, pgs.17-18) :**

- Abusive Conduct
  
- Endangering Behavior
  
- Failure to Comply
  
- Violation of Federal, State, or Local law
  
- Violation of University policy, rule, or regulation

Due to the serious impact of breaches to public safety, students can be removed from campus and will continue their education remotely, until their case is completed.

2. **Quarantine / Isolation / Separation.** At any time, the University may request or require a student to quarantine/isolate due to a positive COVID 19 test, COVID 19 like symptoms, and/or exposure to a person who has tested positive. The University will require students to return home for isolation/quarantine when able to do so. Dining for [quarantining/isolating] residence hall students and residents of Greek houses can be coordinated, as needed.

**Off-campus students will be required to find their own quarantine and isolation spaces as needed.**

Students are required to comply with requests from Health Services to quarantine and isolate. Failure to do so may result in immediate removal from the university and additional conduct action that could include suspension. Once the required quarantine/isolation period is over and the student is cleared by Student Health Services they can resume coming to campus to attend class, events, and activities. If the student is an on-campus resident, they will be permitted to return to their residence hall room.

3. **De-Densifying Efforts.** Residential students are required to comply with any de-densifying efforts needed on campus due to COVID or other public health emergencies, including, but not limited to, the relocation of all or some residential students to alternative housing. Relocation does not constitute a termination of a residential student's housing contract. In the event Housing and Residential Life must relocate students as part of additional de-densifying strategy due to public health concerns for an extended period of time and alternative housing is not available, timely communication will be sent to residence hall students with instructions.

4. **Dining Services.** Dining services, including where and how they will be offered, are subject to the discretion of the University and are subject to modification to address public health concerns. Due to health and safety guidance adopted by the University or HRL, set forth in Paragraph 1, Dining Services may limit the amount of time students may remain in a dining hall or make other operational adjustments needed to address health and safety concerns. Entrance and service at any dining location will be denied if the proper face covering is not used at all times within the location.

5. **Travel Limitations:** Students are encouraged to limit their travel during this public health crisis. Students who travel to states with a daily positivity rate of greater than 5% will have to either quarantine for 14 days or receive a negative result within three days of their return to Rhode Island. The list of hot spots is dynamic and you are responsible for checking the RI Department of Health [<https://health.ri.gov/covid/>]

6. **Hearings related to COVID-19 Violations:** The Dean of Students or designee can mandate an administrative or a sanction-only hearing in lieu of a full conduct board hearing.