



2021-2022  
RETURN TO  
CAMPUS GUIDE

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DOMINICAN  
UNIVERSITY

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## INTRODUCTION

The past 18 months have been extraordinarily challenging, and we commend Dominican University's faculty, staff and students for their resilience and compassion for each other since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of robust mitigation strategies, Dominican has successfully avoided an outbreak of the coronavirus on campus. While we anticipate opening this fall under "new normal" conditions, with more face-to-face classes and opportunities for in-person interactions, we remain diligent in monitoring the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) in combatting COVID-19.

We have appreciated the expertise of Rush University Medical Center epidemiology professionals, who have met regularly with our Incident Management and Assessment Team (IMAT) over the past year and continue to inform many of our decisions.

Relationship is at the heart of Dominican University's mission, and community, a legacy of the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, is a pillar of our distinctive culture. We are committed to fostering an environment that provides a sense of belonging and well-being for all faculty, staff and students. It is in this context that we are mandating a vaccination policy that we believe will promote the safety of our community. You can read more about this policy in this Return to Campus Guide.

The trajectory of the coronavirus is still a fluid situation and our planning will need to remain flexible as we continue to deal with this global pandemic. The following plan represents our best attempt, at the current time, of responding to the pandemic in ways that promote the success of our students while keeping our community safe.

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## EXPECTATIONS AND GUIDELINES

While the university continues to do all that it can to provide a safe environment, the safety of our community is a shared responsibility and we expect each person to be moral agents mindful of their personal responsibility to the health of others. This is the *caritas* upon which Dominican was founded. While all administrative offices are expected to be open, with regular hours, no later than August 16, senior administrators are working with their department heads to determine the most effective staffing to conduct work based on their operational needs.

Out of an abundance of caution and concern for co-workers who might not be fully vaccinated, the university expects all employees working on campus to follow viral prevention guidelines established by the [CDC](#).

### Caritas Commitment

Dominican expects all faculty, staff and students to read and uphold our [Caritas Commitment](#), a set of community standards and guidelines designed to help reduce the risk of COVID-19 on campus. These community standards will be reinforced during trainings and meetings throughout the year. Noncompliance with the *Caritas Commitment* will be considered a violation of the “Student Code of Conduct” found in the [Student Handbook](#), as well as an example of “Prohibited Conduct and Behavior” as described in the [Employment Handbook](#), and may result in disciplinary action.

### Vaccination Policy

To allow for a more engaged and robust campus environment and to ensure the health and well-being of our community, Dominican is requiring that all faculty, staff and students be fully vaccinated prior to the start of the fall 2021 semester. According to the CDC, fully vaccinated campuses can return to full capacity, in-person learning without requiring masking, physical distancing or surveillance testing.

In addition, according to the CDC, fully vaccinated people are at low risk of symptomatic or severe infection and a growing body of evidence suggests that fully vaccinated people are less likely to have asymptomatic infection or transmit the COVID-19 virus to others.

Any individual is considered fully vaccinated 14 days after the single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine or 14 days after the second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.

Students requesting a medical or religious exemption to immunizations, including the COVID-19 vaccination, must complete the [Illinois Certificate of Medical or Religious Exemption Form](#). The form must be signed by the individual’s health care provider and submitted to the Wellness Center. For more information, contact the Wellness Center at [wellness@dom.edu](mailto:wellness@dom.edu).

Those individuals who are not fully vaccinated or who have weakened immune systems must wear a mask and practice physical distancing on campus. In addition, they are required to participate in regular on-campus COVID-19 surveillance testing.

Some vaccinated members of our community may wish to continue wearing masks out of consideration for others who may not be fully vaccinated. Dominican is supportive of those who choose to continue to wear a mask for any reason.



Faculty, staff and students should apprise guests and campus visitors of Dominican's vaccination policy. Those guests and visitors who are fully vaccinated are not required to wear masks on campus. Unvaccinated guests must wear masks in campus buildings.

Dominican will continue to keep our community aware of COVID-19 prevalence and transmission rates through the [COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

## Vaccination Deadlines

**Student athletes: August 5, 2021.** Student athletes must demonstrate that they are fully vaccinated or they will be subject to additional COVID-19 mitigation strategies, including regular testing, until they are compliant.

**Returning students: August 15, 2021.** All returning students must demonstrate that they are vaccinated by uploading their vaccination documentation to the [Wellness Center online portal](#).

**Resident students, new and returning: August 15 2021.** All resident students must demonstrate that they are vaccinated by uploading their vaccination documentation to the [Wellness Center online portal](#).

**New students: September 3, 2021.** New, incoming students must demonstrate that they are fully vaccinated by uploading their vaccination documentation to the [Wellness Center online portal](#). To be fully vaccinated by September 3, the final dose must be given on or before August 20.

There are consequences for not following Dominican's vaccination policy. These consequences will be included in the 2021-2022 Student Handbook, which will be available in August.

The university will continue to provide free on-campus vaccinations for students, faculty, staff and their families and friends. Vaccinations will be provided on Fridays from 8 to 10 a.m. on June 18 and 25, and July 9, 16, 23 and 30. Interested individuals must [make a reservation](#) in advance.

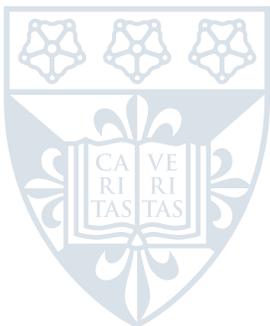


## COVID-19 INFORMATION

### COVID-19 Symptoms

You should familiarize yourself with COVID-19 symptoms identified by the CDC, including:

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



## Self-Monitoring, Testing and Contact Tracing

All members of the Dominican community are expected to self-monitor their personal health status before coming to campus or leaving their residence hall room. Only those unvaccinated individuals who have COVID-19 related symptoms are expected to report their condition on #CampusClear, a mobile app that the university is using for self-reporting, contract tracing and starting the process of support should you have a confirmed case of COVID-19. All individuals, vaccinated or unvaccinated, are required to report positive COVID-19 tests on #CampusClear.

The #CampusClear app is available in the [Apple App Store](#) and in the [Google Play Store](#). If you are a new student or employee, you are encouraged to download the app before coming to campus.

We are partnering with Shield Illinois on COVID-19 testing. If your symptoms, as reported on #CampusClear, indicate that a test is warranted, it will be provided on-campus at no charge.

#CampusClear also will be used for contact tracing following a confirmed case of COVID-19. Our Wellness Center will conduct contact tracing with campus contacts and the IDPH will conduct tracing with external contacts. Dominican's contact tracing will be focused on campus impact--members of our community will be notified if they may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

We take privacy issues seriously and will be utilizing several safeguards, including separation and limited long-term storage of data, to maintain an individual's privacy. Results from #CampusClear are viewable only by the Wellness Center.

### If You Are Not Fully Vaccinated and Have **Tested Positive**

If you are not fully vaccinated and have a positive COVID-19 test, report your condition on #CampusClear. You will be offered support if needed.

You must stay away from campus for a minimum of 10 days after the onset of symptoms, including being symptom-free without fever-reducing medication for at least 24 hours. If you are an employee, you may arrange with your supervisor to work from home or you may use sick time for your absence.

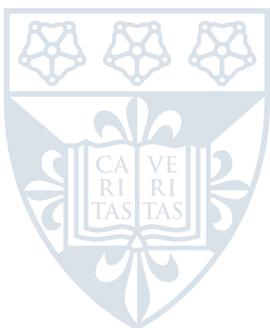
Resident students who live within 120 miles from campus are required to go home to isolate. Students who live farther than 120 miles from campus should contact the resident assistant on duty to receive instructions for being placed in an isolation room. The university has reserved a limited number of isolation rooms.

Students who are in isolation will be supported by the Division of Student Success and Engagement in their effort to remain engaged in their coursework as much as possible.

You may return to campus activities after a minimum of 10 days and have remained symptom-free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.

### If You Are Not Fully Vaccinated and Have Been **Exposed to COVID-19**

If you are unvaccinated and have been in prolonged, close proximity (within six feet for a total of 15 minutes or more) with someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19, report your condition on #CampusClear. You will be provided with information about COVID-19 testing.



You must stay away from campus for a minimum of 10 days after the date of exposure, including being symptom-free without fever-reducing medication for at least 24 hours.

Resident students who live within 120 miles of campus are required to quarantine at home. Students who live farther than 120 miles from campus should contact the resident assistant on duty to receive instructions for being placed in a quarantine room. The university has reserved a limited number of quarantine rooms.

Students who are in quarantine will be supported by the Division of Student Success and Engagement if their quarantine impacts their ability to stay fully engaged in their coursework.

## If You are Fully Vaccinated and Have Been **Exposed to COVID-19** or **Tested Positive**

If you are fully vaccinated and learn that you have been exposed to COVID-19, you do not have to quarantine. However, you should self-monitor for symptoms for the next 14 days. If you develop symptoms, report on #CampusClear and you will receive information about testing.

If you are fully vaccinated and receive a positive COVID-19 test, you must report on #CampusClear. You will be offered support if needed.

You must stay away from campus for a minimum of 10 days after the onset of symptoms, including being symptom-free without fever-reducing medication for at least 24 hours. If you are an employee, you may arrange with your supervisor to work from home or you may use sick time for your absence.

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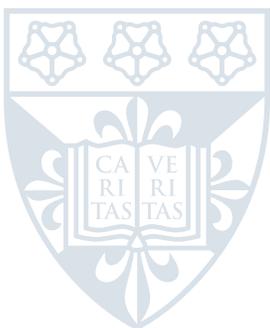
## Facial Coverings

Fully vaccinated individuals will not be required to wear masks on campus, except when visiting the Wellness Center or riding the campus shuttle. Some science labs may also require the use of masks.

Individuals who are not fully vaccinated are required to wear a mask when in a public place. Exceptions will be made for children under two years and for those who cannot medically tolerate a mask.

## Physical Distancing

Physical distancing will not be required indoors or outdoors for fully vaccinated individuals. However, those individuals who are not vaccinated must maintain physical distance of at least six feet when sharing spaces with those with whom they do not live.



## Handwashing

Wash your hands frequently with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place or after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer, making sure to cover all surfaces of your hands. Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.

## Disinfecting Classrooms and Personal Spaces

While the university's custodial contractor, Able Services, will be conducting an ongoing deep cleaning process of all buildings, employees are responsible for cleaning their own workstations, including keyboards, doorknobs, surfaces, etc. Faculty and students are encouraged to wipe down surfaces before and after each class. A cleaning kit will be available in each classroom.

Resident students also are encouraged to clean frequently used areas in their rooms. Cleaning kits will be available in residence hall lounges. Community bathrooms in the residence halls will be cleaned frequently.

You can submit a [Support Center ticket](#) to Physical Plant/Housekeeping to get cleaning supplies.

## Enforcing Responsible Behavior

Faculty, staff and students are expected to abide by the community standards contained in the *Caritas Commitment*. Students who are not adhering to these guidelines may be reported via the academic alert system for adjudication through the student conduct process. Staff/faculty who are not adhering to the commitment may be reported to Human Resources, which will work with the appropriate supervisor to address the employee's behavior.



## SAFETY MEASURES

In addition to the regular deep cleaning provided by Able Services, Dominican's Physical Plant is following protocols to keep campus safe, including:

- Plexiglas shields have been installed at strategic high traffic areas and main service points-- Welcome Information Desks (WIDs), Crown Library, Coughlin Commons, Dining Services, etc.
- Masks will be provided at WIDs for unvaccinated individuals without them.
- In-room air purifiers with ionization technology have been installed in many classrooms and offices with large, unavoidable densities.
- Hand sanitizer stations are available throughout campus. Sanitary wipes stations are mounted in key areas, particularly near elevators. Large sanitary gel containers are available at main service points, including WIDs, Coughlin Commons, STARS Connect and the IT Support Center.

## Shuttle Service

Shuttle service will be provided between the Main and Priory campuses, and from the Green Line in Oak Park during anticipated peak times. All occupants must wear masks. Once we have a better idea of shuttle usage in the first few weeks of the semester, we may adjust the schedule to better serve our community. We ask for patience during the first couple of weeks.

Plexiglas has been installed behind the shuttle driver, and a flex plastic barrier has been installed to the right of the driver. The overnight shuttles will be deep cleaned for next day use.



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# ACADEMIC PLAN

## Course Modalities and Scheduling

The university has worked diligently to offer a safe environment for teaching and learning during the COVID-19 pandemic; we are continuing to monitor guidelines at the federal and state levels to maintain this safe environment. The Fall 2021 semester will begin Monday, August 30, with classes offered in a blend of face-to-face, hybrid and online formats, including some online classes with fixed meeting times and others without fixed meeting times. The mix of teaching modalities for this fall represents a significant increase in face-to-face and hybrid courses compared with the 2020-2021 academic year. Our goal is to offer modalities that facilitate student learning and to do so as safely as possible.

As always, the educational quality of our classes will be very strong—in every modality. Over the last year, faculty and staff have developed new methods for enhancing the student learning experience. As we increase the number of on-campus courses, the overall mix of modalities is guided by what works best in the various disciplines, promotes student success and protects the health of faculty and students.

We know that for some students, face-to-face courses are a priority, while others prefer online, and many prefer a mix. Overall student evaluations of courses in 2020-2021 resulted in higher scores than pre-COVID and there was little difference in scores across modalities.

We are striving to create a university environment that is as responsive as possible to students' needs. We will continue to evaluate the best mix of modalities for the Spring 2022 semester, and changes to the published course schedule will be made before spring registration begins in November 2021.

## Classroom Density

Dominican students already benefit from relatively small classes. In a change from last year, classroom density will not be limited this fall—classrooms will be configured in a way that best promotes the particular academic learning environment.

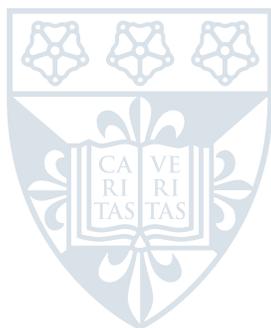
## Off-campus Learning

Clinicals, field placements, student teaching assignments, and internships will proceed following the COVID-19 related safety protocols established at external sites. All students are expected to adhere to these external sites' safety protocols, understanding that they may be different than those mandated by Dominican.

## Study Abroad and University-Sponsored Travel

Fall 2021 study abroad opportunities in Florence, Limerick and Salamanca were cancelled as of May 15, as all three areas were determined by the CDC to be Level 4, with high numbers of COVID-19 cases. A decision about the Oxford Academic Year will be made by July 15. Decisions about Winter Interim, Spring 2022, Spring Break 2022 and Summer 2022 will be made before their respective deadlines and information will be shared with students.

Individuals should follow CDC travel advisories regarding [domestic](#) and [international travel](#) as these are being updated frequently.



# Computer Equipment and Technology

Students will receive a survey prior to the start of the semester to ascertain their individual technology needs.

For best results when attending online classes or working remotely, the IT department suggests that you have access to a desktop computer or laptop with a webcam and microphone. The university's inventory of this equipment is limited and demand is high. To check out equipment, contact the Support Center at [supportcenter@dom.edu](mailto:supportcenter@dom.edu). The Support Center is located in Lewis Hall 048. Hours are as following:

- Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.
- Monday through Thursday, 7:45 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Friday, 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon

Information about discounted software can be found at <https://support.dom.edu>.

Dominican has launched the Stars Align Tech Access Program through a partnership with CDW Corporation. Through the program, students can purchase new laptops at discounted prices; the cost can be added to students' cost of attendance and covered through an established tuition payment plan. For more information, contact the Division of Student Success and Engagement at [sse@dom.edu](mailto:sse@dom.edu).

Several WiFi access points have been made available for public use at no cost and with no required contract. For more information, visit the [Support Center website](#).

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## RESIDENT STUDENTS

Dominican is excited to provide a vibrant living learning community for our resident students this year that upholds COVID-19 mitigation strategies for the health and safety of all students. Our residence halls provide students with housing options, including single and double occupancy spaces, with semi-private and community bathrooms.

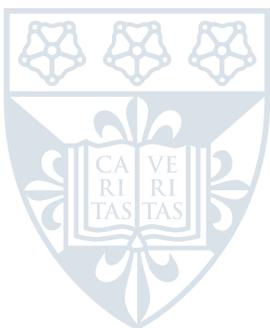
All students are required to comply with Dominican's vaccination requirement. Resident students must upload their vaccination documentation to the [Wellness Center online portal](#) by August 15, 2021.

Unvaccinated resident students who have a medical or religious exemption for the COVID-19 vaccination will be required to participate in regular on-campus COVID-19 surveillance testing.

### Move-in Process

Students should not come to campus if they have tested positive for COVID-19 within seven days of their move-in date. To reduce density on campus, we have extended the typical move-in period to four days, from Thursday, August 26, to Sunday, August 29, and by appointment-only on Sunday, August 29 for students who could not move in on their designated date.

Move-in dates and times will be sent to students with their housing assignments. Housing assignments are arranged after a student has submitted a housing application and housing deposit. Students will not be able to move in on a date or time that is not designated to them. Please consult Student Life at [housing@dom.edu](mailto:housing@dom.edu) for details on move-in dates and times for specific residence halls.



Students who have been assigned to Coughlin, Mazzuchelli, Murray or Power halls should check in at Coughlin Commons.

Guests who are not fully vaccinated and helping students to move in must wear masks.

We encourage you to bring a thermometer to monitor your temperature daily, as well as cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer for your personal living space and common bathrooms.

## Isolation/Quarantine Rooms

The university has reserved a limited number of isolation rooms on the Main Campus for resident students who have tested positive for COVID-19, and quarantine rooms for students who have been exposed to someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19. These rooms are available only for resident students who live more than 120 miles from campus and cannot isolate or quarantine at home. Meals will be brought to students in isolation or quarantine. Resident students who live within 120 miles from campus are required to return home for quarantine and isolation. Students should work with their families to develop a plan in the event an isolation or quarantine is required.



## DINING SERVICES

Working with our food service contractor, Quest Food Management Services, Dominican has developed strategies for creating the safest possible dining environment. We continue to monitor COVID-19 guidelines at the federal and state levels in the event we need to adjust our dining and catering programs.

Hours and operations in the Dining Hall and Cyber Café have been extended since the COVID-19 impacted the campus last year. Capacity has been increased, while proving optimal spacing and seating arrangements. We are continuing mitigation strategies to keep our diners safe, including adjusted staffing levels, increased cleaning rotations and the use of Plexiglas shields in the area. Line control staff will help manage the number of patrons in a serving area at any one time. Hand sanitizers will be available at entrances and exits.

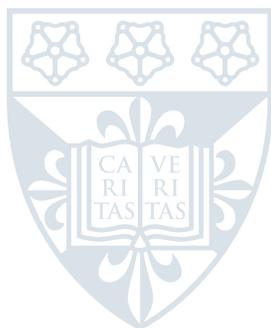
Dining Services will continue the “DU To Go” program to provide more options for the Dominican community.

Please check out the [Dining Services website](#) for additional information.



## STUDENT LIFE

Dominican is prepared to provide students with a wide range of robust in-person opportunities and events this fall, including concerts, theatrical productions, lectures and athletic events. We are happy to welcome back to campus our returning students—we have missed all of you!—and we encourage our incoming students to engage with our diverse community to take advantage of all that we have to offer.



## Campus Organizations

The Office of Student Life is eager to support registered student clubs and organizations in building community on campus, as well as with our resident assistants who will be creating meaningful experiences for our resident students. Mark your calendar for our Student Club and Organization Week during the third week of classes. The week will feature an online Involvement Fair and offer information on great opportunities for Dominican students.

For more information, visit [engageDU.dom.edu](https://engageDU.dom.edu) and follow Student Life on Instagram @DUbeinvolved.

## University Ministry

Prayer experiences, ministries, community-building and faith justice activities will be presented this fall in both in-person and virtual formats. All in-person opportunities will follow the most recent guidelines set forth in the Caritas Commitment. [University Ministry](#) is peer-led, meaning that most of our programming is developed by students, for students. Information on our activities can be found on [EngageDU](#) and our social media outlets.

University Ministry will continue to work with community partners to create meaningful, safe internships in the local community through our Beloved Community and Ministry en lo Cotidiano programs.

Sunday Mass will be held at 4 p.m. in Rosary Chapel during the academic year, beginning with the Mass of the Holy Spirit on Saturday, August 28 (time TBD), in accordance with the most recent public health guidelines and guidance from the Archdiocese of Chicago. Rosary Chapel and the Interfaith Prayer Rooms remain open for community use at times when designated activities are not taking place in those spaces (eg. SOAR, Masses, weddings, prayers, etc.).

## Igini Sports Forum and Fitness Center

Dominican's Igini Sports Forum and Fitness Center will be open this fall for recreational use by current students, faculty, staff and alumni, with Dominican University ID or alumni card. All unvaccinated patrons must wear masks when using the facilities.

The Igini Sports Forum contains the Collins Running Track and is available for individual and group activities.

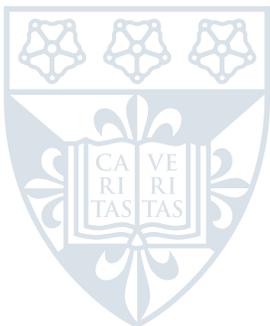
The 3,300-square-foot Fitness Center contains cardio equipment, weight racks and a collection of free weights, muscle specific machines, jump boxes and plyometric equipment.

For current open gym and fitness center hours, [click here](#).

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## STEPAN BOOKSTORE

The Stepan Bookstore is located in Mazzuchelli Hall, near the Igini Sports Forum. The store also has an [online site](#). You can find school supplies, textbooks, toiletries and sundries, and Dominican-branded clothing and gear. Check out the website for more information and store hours.



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## REBECCA CROWN LIBRARY

The Rebecca Crown Library and Learning Commons will be open this fall to provide a wide range of services for faculty, staff, students and alumni. Many of the services that students need are located on the first floor of the library, including the WeatherTech Innovation Lab, the Academic Success Center, Disability Support Services, reference and circulation services, library instruction classroom, test proctoring rooms, group study rooms and contemplation space.

Additional study rooms are located on the second floor of the library, as well as a reading room, collaboration tables and study tables. Computers are available throughout the building for current students, faculty and staff.

The library participates in several consortial agreements, including I-Share. Please check the [library website](#) for more information on I-Share and interlibrary loan services.

We encourage you to use the library's many online services and resources, including:

- Reference assistance via library chat, email and Zoom
- [Subscriptions to many collections](#) of eBooks, digital articles and streaming videos, available with a current university network ID
- [An A-Z list](#) of all online databases, located on the library website
- [Library instruction and online learning services](#); faculty are encouraged to schedule an online library session for classes and/or embed a librarian in their Canvas site
- [Research guides](#) to help you get started on your assignment.

For more information on these and other resources, visit [research.dom.edu](#).

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## CAMPUS SCHEDULING

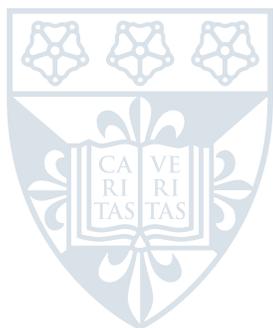
All campus events and meetings should be scheduled through [Astra Scheduling System](#), a centralized reservation process. We are updating forms in the system before the start of the fall term. If you need assistance prior to August 16, please email [roomrequest@dom.edu](mailto:roomrequest@dom.edu). This process is applicable to student organizations, departments, and campus-wide events. Individuals scheduling events, meetings, and non-course meetings (such as departmental meetings, exam review sessions, tutoring sessions, etc.) are required to use this centralized process to submit their room request. All virtual events also should be submitted via the scheduling system so we can review multiple events and coordinate resources if needed.

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## DUPAC / EVENT SERVICES

The Dominican University Performing Arts Center (DUPAC)/Events Services team supports virtual events (both public and internal) just as they would in-person events. Using Zoom and other tools, they have developed processes for hosting virtual events that can be live-streamed or recorded.

“Arts & Minds” events may be presented either virtually or in-person during the fall semester. Currently, Siena Center speakers are scheduled to be online and the Theatre Arts fall production will be presented in-person in Lund Auditorium. DUPAC will host an in-person concert in October, and plans to resume regular programming in January.



Seating capacity in Lund Auditorium and Martin Recital Hall will be amended as needed to accommodate evolving guidelines for health and safety.

Please use the [Astra Scheduling System](#) when planning an event, whether in-person or virtual. The appropriate event services staff will follow up to assist with details.

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## VISITOR MANAGEMENT

Campus visitors and guests are encouraged to stop at one of the WIDs and receive a visitor badge. Faculty, staff and students should apprise guests and campus visitors of Dominican's vaccination policy. Those guests and visitors who are fully vaccinated are not required to wear masks on campus. Unvaccinated guests must wear masks in campus buildings. Masks will be provided for visitors who are not fully vaccinated and who do not have them. Guests will be allowed in the residence halls, in accordance with the university's residence hall guest policy.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

As we have managed COVID-19 infection rates on campus since its emergence in spring 2020, Dominican's focus has been on the well-being of our community and on finding ways to center equity in that effort. We are committed to accompanying students through the challenges and successes of life, and into an anchoring sense of belonging.

We understand that the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic may have created lifestyle changes and great stress and anxiety for many individuals. Please be conscious of your mental health during the transition to campus life.

Students are encouraged to contact the Wellness Center at 708-524-6229 or [wellness@dom.edu](mailto:wellness@dom.edu) if they would like to make an appointment with a counselor. It is recommended that students schedule an appointment in advance.

Employees should contact the Employee Assistance Program at 1-888-319-7819 if they would like to make arrangements to speak to a counselor.

Faculty, staff and students also are invited to access pastoral care from University Mission and Ministry at [DU Caritas](#).

**Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic is a fluid situation. Updates or changes to this Return to Campus Guide will be shared with the Dominican community as they are available.**

