



As we move toward the fall semester and continue our Initial Return to Campus phased-in plan, here are **Five Things You Should Know This Week**:

**1. As of July 15, face coverings (masks) are required inside campus buildings.**

Appropriate use of face masks/coverings is critical in minimizing risks to others near you. COVID-19 can be spread to others even if you have no symptoms. The mask or cloth face covering is not a substitute for social distancing and should be considered just one step we all should take to ensure our community remains healthy.

**As of Wednesday, July 15, and until further notice, all Georgia Southern faculty, staff, students, and visitors are now required to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings where six feet social distancing may not always be possible. Face covering use will be in addition to and is not a substitute for social distancing.**

Face coverings are not required in one's own dorm room or suite, when alone in an enclosed office or study room, or in campus outdoor settings where social distancing requirements are met.

Anyone not using a face covering when required will be asked to wear one or must leave the area. Repeated refusal to comply with the requirement may result in discipline through the applicable conduct code for faculty, staff or students.

Reasonable accommodations may be made for those who are unable to wear a face covering for documented health reasons.

**2. How to care for your cloth face covering.**

According to the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov), cloth face coverings should be washed after each use. It is important to always remove face coverings correctly and wash your hands after handling or touching a used face covering.

- How to clean:
  - *Washing machine*: you can include your face covering with your regular laundry. Use regular laundry detergent and the warmest appropriate water setting for the cloth used to make the face covering.
  - *Washing by hand*: prepare a bleach solution by mixing 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) household bleach per gallon of room temperature water or 4 teaspoons household bleach per quart of room temperature water. (Check the label to see if your bleach is intended for disinfection. Some bleach products, such as those designed for safe use on colored clothing, may not be suitable for disinfection. Ensure the bleach product is not past its expiration date. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser.) Soak the face covering in the bleach solution for 5 minutes. Rinse thoroughly with cool or room temperature water. Make sure to completely dry cloth face covering after washing.
- How to dry:
  - *Dryer*: use the highest heat setting and leave in the dryer until completely dry.
  - *Air dry*: lay flat and allow to completely dry. If possible, place the cloth face covering in direct sunlight.

**3. Phase 2 of the Initial Return to Campus Plan is now extended through July 31.**

We know that offices are still being prepared to welcome guests safely and many decisions with regard to schooling and daycare accommodations are not yet finalized. To remain as flexible as possible during this time of transition, Phase 2 of the Initial Return to Campus Plan will be extended through Friday, July 31. On Monday, August 3, we will begin Phase 3 of the plan, and Phase 3 steps should be complete by August 10 in preparation for our students' arrival.

As a reminder, Phase 3 is when we finalize preparations for the fall semester and when all faculty and staff are scheduled to fully return to their offices, unless work schedule accommodations are made after initiating a request through HR.

**4. We are still on track to offer classes in-person this fall.**

We are well into preparations to host face-to-face courses this fall, but with social distancing in those spaces. Classes will surely look a little

different than last fall's classes as some classes are being moved to larger spaces, some might be via Zoom or Hangouts rather than only in the physical space, and some will be a combination of in-person and virtual experiences.

Academic Affairs has been working hard on contingency planning as part of our reopening plans. We've seen the largest (ever) enrollment from our faculty in our online preparedness and teaching programs through our Center for Teaching Excellence, and the university has invested in infrastructure that will aid in those new kinds of delivery as well.

**5. The university is working on a centralized structure for COVID-19 reporting and assistance.**

We are in the process of developing a centralized support team for faculty, staff and students to report COVID-19 cases or ask questions. A contact notification process will also be in place to identify and notify Georgia Southern persons who are considered close contacts of a positive case with potential exposure.

Until this process is announced to campus with details on how to reach out to the support team, please continue to reach out to HR as well as your supervisor as per guidance that has previously been [shared by HR](#).

Visit <https://www.georgiasouthern.edu/covid-19-information/> for additional return to campus information and resources, including return to campus plans, FAQs and public health information. This page is updated frequently.