

COVID-19 Visitor Protocol

updated April 12, 2022

Pursuant to the university's [*Health and Safety Directive: Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination*](#), all visitors to American University, including the AU campus or university-owned/managed properties, must be fully vaccinated. The university also requires that all visitors to AU-sponsored events held off campus must be fully vaccinated.

The University has established the following protocols that all visitors (except visitors under five years of age) must follow to verify their vaccination upon their arrival on campus, at a university managed/operated building, or at an AU-sponsored event held off campus.

This visitor protocol applies to anyone visiting American University, on the AU campus, at university-owned/managed properties, and at AU-sponsored events held off campus, for an event, meeting, or class. More specifically, the protocol applies to those not already subject to the University's COVID vaccination requirements for students, faculty, staff, and contractors who work regularly on campus.

Examples of visitors who fall under this protocol include but are not limited to:

- Family members and friends of American University community members,
- Prospective students and their families,
- Event/meeting attendees,
- Guest speakers or panelists in academic classes or programs or other events,
- Visiting research scholars and research lab volunteers who are not AU employees,
- Alumni, and
- Contractors and vendors who do not work regularly on campus.

Important Note on Residence Hall Visitors

The university will continue to prohibit visitors within residence halls for Spring 2022.

Responsibilities of AU Event Hosts for Events/Meetings/Classes with Visitors

- AU hosts must be present throughout the event/meeting/class.
- AU hosts must communicate with visitors that American University requires all visitors over the age of 12 must be fully vaccinated or for those unvaccinated because of medical/religious reasons, have a COVID-19 PCR test within 72 hours of the event/meeting/class.
- AU hosts must check unvaccinated visitors' PCR tests. Have all visitors who are unvaccinated because of religious/medical reasons present a negative COVID-19 PCR test result from within 72 hours of the event prior to being admitted to event.

- AU hosts must ensure all attendees wear a face covering. Masks must be worn in all indoor spaces, consistent with the university's [Health and Safety Directive on Face Masks](#). Masks are required while outdoors when in a group larger than 25 persons.

Responsibilities of AU Visitors

- All visitors must comply with all applicable [Health and Safety Directives](#) issued by the university, including but not limited to the *Health and Safety Directive: Face Masks*; *Health and Safety Directive: Requirements Following COVID-19 Exposure, Positive Test, or Suspected Infection*; and *Health and Safety Directive: Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination*.
- We will return to **full-capacity attendance for events in Bender Arena and our performing arts spaces with masks optional for most events**. All external visitors must continue to comply with our vaccine requirements. For off-campus events, we will follow the COVID guidelines for the jurisdiction where the event is taking place.
- Visitors must be prepared to present their vaccination record card or a digital copy upon arrival on the AU campus, at university-owned/managed properties, or at AU-sponsored events held off campus.
- Visitors who are unvaccinated because of medical or religious reasons **must obtain a negative COVID-19 PCR test** within 72 hours prior to the event/meeting/class. Unvaccinated visitors must be prepared to present a copy of a negative COVID-19 PCR test result upon arrival on the AU campus, a university-owned/managed building, or at an AU-sponsored event off campus.
- **No visitors may attend an event/meeting/class AU campus, university-owned/managed properties, and at AU-sponsored events held off campus if they have COVID-19 or are experiencing symptoms consistent with a COVID-19 infection, flu, or cold-like infection.** Symptoms may include fever of 100.4 or above, cough, sniffles, sore throat, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, muscle aches, new loss of taste or smell.
- All visitors must comply with any applicable DC or local travel and testing requirements regarding COVID-19. (Information regarding DC travel and testing requirements regarding COVID-19 are available here: <https://washington.org/dc-information/coronavirus-travel-update-washington-dc>.)
- All visitors must **wear a mask in all indoor spaces**, consistent with the university's [Health and Safety Directive: Face Masks](#) (revised August 24, 2021). **Masks are required while outdoors when in a group larger than 25 persons.**
- All visitors must practice good hygiene and infection control precautions, such as frequent and thorough handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, and staying home if feeling unwell.
- All visitors must comply with all American University posted signage regarding health and safety guidelines.

Be advised that event scheduling guidelines may be revised at any time to meet health and safety needs if case counts in the region or at AU are increasing or if DC Health or the CDC guidelines around COVID-19 change.