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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this plan is to communicate how Ramapo College will move forward in Fall 2021 with a community of learners while staying mindful of prevention and education strategies that are necessary toward combating and slowing the spread of COVID-19. Ramapo College remains committed to protecting the health and safety of the campus community so that a quality experience for teaching, learning, living, and working can be pursued by all. We expect that you will be proactive and helpful toward minimizing the risk of COVID-19 spread on campus and anticipate your cooperation in reading and abiding by the policies and procedures contained in “Moving Forward in Fall 2021.”

Priorities:

1. Foster a healthy, well, and safe environment for work and study;
2. Continue to commit to deliver a high-quality, vibrant student experience;
3. Be equitable in our practices to assess the fairness and effectiveness of our decisions;
4. Be creative, reflective, and empowered to apply what we have learned and be willing to grow from those lessons;
5. Demonstrate empathy and humility as colleagues, mentors, and educators to position us strongly as partners;
6. Default to being adaptable and resilient - while recognizing that conditions are impermanent and new challenges are inevitable.

What is COVID-19

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (hereafter CDC), COVID-19 is a disease caused by a virus called SARS-CoV-2. While most people with COVID-19 have mild symptoms, the virus may cause someone to become severely ill. We know that individuals with certain underlying medical conditions can become severely ill from COVID-19.

It is important for all of us to stay informed about COVID-19, how to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and to be aware of how COVID-19 impacts our community. You may find the below resources helpful in keeping you informed about community spread:

- CDC Data Tracker
- NJ Department of Health Weekly Surveillance Report (includes COVID-19 Activity Level Index “CALI” score)
- Ramapo College Dashboards

COVID-19 General Prevention and Education

Please be aware of the symptoms of COVID-19. The CDC issues guidance, so you can be aware of symptoms, which may range from mild to severe and may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus.

Symptoms include but are not limited to 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, and diarrhea.

The CDC has also indicated emergency warning signs that should always result in seeking emergency medical attention immediately such as: trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, and bluish lips or face. Emergency warning signs and a symptom self-checker are listed on the CDC website. The CDC has issued guidance related to populations of people who must take extra precautions...
What to Do If You Are Sick

If you are not feeling well, you should follow these steps for non-emergencies:

1. Assess your symptoms. COVID-19 causes a wide range of symptoms from mild to severe that may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus. Assess if you have a fever, 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, or diarrhea. The CDC has a symptom self-checker.

2. **STAY HOME.** If you are an on-campus resident, DO NOT LEAVE YOUR RESIDENCE ROOM. If you are a commuter student with classes on campus, DO NOT COME TO THE CAMPUS. Faculty and staff should stay home if they are sick.

3. Call for medical care. Students may call Ramapo College’s Health Services at 201-684-7536 Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm. A member of the Health Services staff will consult with you about your symptoms through an appointment scheduled via telemedicine. Alternatively, you may call your own medical provider and report any changes in your health to Health Services.

If you have a medical emergency, you should call 911 and seek immediate medical attention.

1. Emergency warning signs of COVID-19 are: trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, bluish lips or face. Note: This list does not include all possible symptoms, so please call your medical provider for any symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

2. Call 911. Notify the operator that you are seeking care for symptoms you suspect are COVID-19 related.

Where to Get Tested for COVID-19

Health Services is offering testing for symptomatic students. Appointments are available Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm by contacting Health Services 201-684-7536.

New Jersey’s [COVID-19 Information Hub](https://www.covid19informationhub.com) has information about where you can get tested for COVID-19. Below are local Urgent Care Centers open for medical appointments that have COVID-19 testing capabilities.

- City MD, Ramsey 551-497-5679
- City MD, Paramus 551-222-0800
- Doctor’s Inn, Ramsey 201-785-0011
- The Doctor’s Office, Midland Park 201-857-8400
- Rite Aid, Waldwick 201-670-1022 (* not an Urgent Care Center *)
- Synergy Health, Montvale 201-667-8680
- Valley Medical Group, Waldwick 201-447-3603
- CVS, Mahwah 201-529-5930

Reporting

If you are a student (resident or commuter) and have tested positive for COVID-19, told you most likely have COVID-19 by a medical provider, have been exposed to COVID-19, or have a COVID-19 sick individual in your home, please follow these directions:

During business hours (Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm), please contact Health Services at 201-684-7536 or
email covidpositive@ramapo.edu.

After business hours, please call Public Safety at 201-684-6666 who will notify the on-call Health Services staff. If you are a faculty or staff member and have tested positive for COVID-19, told you most likely have COVID-19 by a medical provider, have been exposed to COVID-19 or have a COVID-19 sick individual in your home, please contact Jill Brown, Associate Director of Human Resources, jcbrown@ramapo.edu, HR2020@ramapo.edu or 201-684-7507. You are required to share this information with HR so that we can provide you with Ramapo-specific guidance. If any member of the community becomes aware of a student, faculty, or staff with COVID-19 or under investigation for COVID-19, you may share this information with the above named resources.

GENERAL SAFEGUARDING

• An enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocol and schedule is in place. The schedule applies to public bathrooms and spaces, all in-use classrooms and meeting rooms, and high-touch areas throughout campus. Library terminal and computer lab workstation users are required to wipe down keyboards before and after use with College-provided disinfecting wipes. General cleaning and disinfecting guidelines are posted on the Facilities website. Cleaning logs are maintained and posted. Ramapo's food services provider, Sodexo, cleans and disinfects campus dining facilities to comply with food service industry COVID-19 sanitation standards.

• Disinfecting wipes are available in all appropriate locations including classrooms/labs, meeting rooms, and offices. Employees are directed to clean and disinfect their workspaces regularly.

• Maintaining adequate supplies, such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies is critical to college operations. The purchasing of PPE and cleaning supplies is centralized. PPE inventory is maintained to meet usage demand across the College.

• An operational survey is conducted of all Units on campus, as needed, to identify ways to manage workflow and occupancy. Physical barriers are installed, and offices are rearranged as needed. Reservations are required for all meeting/study spaces. Students and staff are required to sign a pledge agreeing to follow all safety measures. A new residence agreement includes safety guidelines to be followed and expectations for all resident students.

• Upon entry to campus, delivery drivers, mail persons, non-Ramapo employees performing necessary on campus work, etc. are informed of all safety requirements they must follow.

• Facilities and Building Services staff receive training on new cleaning and disinfecting equipment and products, which includes a review of PPE and proper cleaning and disinfecting techniques. All employees and students are required to complete training with detailed campus safety protocols and expectations, which includes signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and ways to protect themselves and others and to ensure a safe campus.

Social Responsibility

Everyone has a personal responsibility to mitigate the effects of a pandemic. All students and employees will receive and acknowledge their commitment to the Student Code for Healthy Living and Learning and Employee Code for a Safe Work Environment via the mandatory COVID-19 training modules. The Student Code for Healthy Living and Learning is found here. The Employee Code for a Safe Work Environment is found here. As guidance and conditions change, these codes may evolve. Students and employees will be informed of changes via e-mail.

Any member of the community may file a health or safety related concern (includes anonymous reporting) to the Office of Environmental Health and Safety here.
**Required Training**

All students and employees are required to complete COVID-19 training with detailed safety protocols and expectations, which includes signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and ways to protect themselves and others and to ensure a safe campus. Given that the impact of COVID-19 reaches beyond the borders of Ramapo College, students who are virtual and online learners are required to complete the training in order to remain aware of how to protect themselves and others.

**Screening**

Self Screening for COVID-19 symptoms remains an important element toward greatly reducing the transmission of the virus. Each time students, employees, or visitors come to campus, they are required to engage in responsible self-care and refrain from coming to campus (or leaving their residence room), if they have any symptoms of COVID-19.

The Daily Symptom Self Screening for Students, Faculty and Staff is the College’s self-assessment tool to help determine whether you have mild or severe symptoms of COVID-19 or should be tested. Students will be reminded of the screening tool by way of email, Daily Digest, and social media. Employees will be required to continue to conduct daily health screenings prior to reporting to work and to confirm that they are symptom free via existing departmental/unit protocols.

The employee screening requirement will remain in place until Executive Order 192 is rescinded and the Civil Service Commission for state employees removes the requirement.

The Self Screening Tool is found [here](#).

**COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement**

In order to take every precaution and leverage every opportunity available to us to safely return the gift of togetherness, the College requires the COVID-19 vaccine for all students with an on-campus/in-person presence in the fall. The College's existing immunization practices allow for religious and medical exemptions. Employees are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated and provide evidence of the COVID-19 vaccination to Human Resources. Those employees who do not provide evidence of vaccination are required to participate in weekly COVID-19 testing. The College is proudly participating in the COVID-19 College Vaccine Challenge, a plan endorsed through the Department of Education and the White House serving as a pledge to get our community vaccinated. Please see President Jebb's July 14th message announcing the College's participation.

**COVID-19 Testing (Student)**

**Entry Testing**

Unvaccinated students who have been approved for a medical or religious exemption by Health Services, are required to submit a negative PCR COVID-19 test, with the test collected no earlier than 5 days before having an in-person presence on campus. Students must submit evidence of a negative test to covidtesting@ramapo.edu. Students who receive a positive test result should immediately report it to Health Services at 201-684-7536 or email it to covidpositive@ramapo.edu. Students who receive a positive result will be directed to stay home and will be given a new check-in date/time or advised when they can come to campus once their isolation period has ended. The entry testing must be a viral, PCR test and can NOT be a rapid test. Information and locations where viral PCR testing is available, can be found [here](#).

**Student On-Campus Surveillance Testing**

Asymptomatic, unvaccinated students with a medical or religious exemption, approved via Health Services, will be required to attend on-campus COVID-19 testing 1X per week. The testing requirement will apply to all students.
(commuter, resident, undergrad, graduate, matriculated, non-matriculated) with a medical or religious exemption who have an on-campus/in-person presence. On-campus, COVID-19 surveillance testing is conducted through the College’s testing partner, Visit Healthcare. Weekly surveillance testing serves as an important mitigation step as many COVID-19 cases remain asymptomatic and the testing strategy is an added safeguard. The College reserves the right to make changes to the testing program based upon prevailing public health conditions on campus and in the community at large. Visit Healthcare will bill your insurance company for the cost of the test. While claims will be submitted to your insurance, you will neither receive a bill nor be expected to cover testing costs that may be denied by your insurance provider. The COVID-19 testing program for unvaccinated students with a medical or religious exemption is mandatory.

All other asymptomatic students are invited to attend on-campus testing on a voluntary no-limit basis. Symptomatic students can be tested for COVID-19 by either making an appointment at Health Services or using a community provider.

**COVID-19 Testing (Employee)**

All employees with an on-campus presence in Fall 2021 are required to provide evidence to Human Resources of a COVID-19 vaccine or, participate in on-campus weekly COVID-19 testing (billed to the employee’s insurance carrier). Employee vaccine documentation should be submitted to rcnicovidvax@ramapo.edu. The College reserves the right to make changes to the testing program based upon prevailing public health conditions on campus and in the community at large.

**Contact Tracing**

The College assembles an internal Contact Tracing Unit to conduct contact tracing for any students or employees who test positive for COVID-19. The Contact Tracing Unit partners closely with the local health department for case investigation and contact tracing. All students and employees are expected to cooperate and be truthful in their responses to the Contact Tracing Unit personnel. Questions about Contact Tracing can be directed to Health Services, 201-684-7536.

**Face Coverings**

All students, faculty, staff, and visitors are required to wear a face covering on campus when indoors. The College is temporarily maintaining the prior indoor face covering policy that was previously set to expire on August 23, 2021, for all of those in-person on campus irrespective of vaccination status, but will continue to re-evaluate.

Face coverings are not required outdoors. The College may require face coverings, as may be necessary due to changing conditions or if an event has the potential to involve sustained close contact with others.

Individuals may always choose to wear a face covering and will not be prevented from doing so. Individuals who are immunocompromised or at risk for severe disease may wear a face covering at all times, even if fully vaccinated.

Due to changing conditions, the College face covering policy may pivot to align with either mandates from the State of New Jersey or guidance from local health officials.

Face coverings are required when using public transportation, including College vans and shuttles. CDC recommendations for the proper selection and use of face coverings must be followed.

**Social Distancing**

As of August 16, 2021, social, educational, business, and programmatic activity via gatherings, events, trainings, meetings, and programs will resume without social distancing restrictions and within the typical room capacity limits. All academic, classroom activity may resume with the planned for in-person and virtual course delivery.
mode options previously communicated during Fall 2021 registration. Social distancing will not be required in dining areas, classrooms, labs, and other learning and gathering spaces.

Unvaccinated students and employees are required to maintain social distancing to the extent practical. Individuals who are not fully vaccinated should avoid large gatherings, but if they choose to attend, they are required to wear a face covering and maintain social distance to the extent practical. The College reserves the right to require social distancing as necessary due to changing conditions or the nature of certain activities.

**Campus Access**

As of August 16, 2021, all access points to campus will be open. Visitors to campus are required to wear a face covering at all times while indoors. At the discretion of College officials, some events that may have high density or a significant number of attendees whose vaccination status is unknown may result in attendees being required to register their visit. Students and employees will be held to the standards in the Student Code for Healthy Living and Learning and Employee Code for a Safe Work Environment (respectively) for keeping track of the name, location, time in/time out, of their visitors. It is expected that students and employees maintain this record should they be called upon to produce it for Contact Tracing purposes. Students, faculty and staff are responsible for the behavior of their guests when on campus.

As of August 16, 2021, all common areas on campus and in residence areas will be open. Gathering spaces are subject to the typical room capacity limits.

**ON-CAMPUS RESIDENTIAL HOUSING**

All students are welcome to apply and live in residence areas. Residents will have roommates. Following the student COVID vaccination policy, all resident students must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or have an approved medical or religious exemption. The College is clustering some resident students based on their participation in athletics or enrollment in certain academic programs into pods.

Resident students are welcome to host other vaccinated students and visitors in their rooms/apartments in accordance with the College’s Social Gathering Limits and Guest and Visitation Policy.

**Guest Policy**

Residents may visit with other residents in all residential locations of campus including overnight stays. Commuter students, who are vaccinated against COVID-19, may visit residential areas without restrictions including overnight stays. Vaccinated visitors, who are not RCNJ students, may visit daily from 10:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m. and are required to wear a face covering at all times.

**Cleaning and Hygiene**

Hand sanitizer stations are installed throughout the residence areas, next to elevators and railings, and immediately inside the entrance to most buildings. Disinfecting wipes are provided to students so they may wipe down high-touch areas in laundry rooms. Only water fountains that are water bottle fill stations are permitted, and all others have been taken out of service.

Since resident students are responsible for providing their own cleaning supplies and cleaning their own bathroom, the College provides education to resident students on the type and frequency of cleaning they must engage in to help reduce COVID-19 exposure. Regular emails and posters that contain information on infection prevention measures remind residents to engage in efforts that reduce exposure to the virus in their residence unit.
On-Campus Isolation/Quarantine Procedures
The College will continue to set aside private use apartments for any self-isolation/self-quarantine requirement of resident students. Apartments will be designated in Village Quad III and CPA Phase II housing. Students may be required to use self isolation/self quarantine spaces if they test positive for COVID-19, are a close-contact with an exposure to COVID-19, or have a travel requirement to quarantine. Students will be supported with medical and mental health support, food, and a Care Manager (a Ramapo College employee) who conducts daily, virtual check-ins with the student to assess that their basic needs are being met.

INSTRUCTION
Fall 2021 Academics/Classroom Operational Plans for Students Who Will Have an On-Campus Presence
More than half of our Fall 2021 courses are holding in-person, on-campus class meetings. A majority of our full- and part-time faculty members will be teaching in-person and hybrid in-person course sections on campus this fall.

• Students will perform research with faculty in our labs;
• Choral ensembles, various bands, and student actors will rehearse and perform; the Berrie Center will offer live programming; the new Peter P. Mercer Learning Commons, the Multicultural Center, the Les Paul music studio, the new electronic music lab, the Trading Lab, the Sculpture Studio, and more will be open for our students, faculty, and staff;
• Field trips, student conferences, faculty-led study abroad programs, on-site co-ops and internships, and similar curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular learning experiences will be permitted in academic year 2021-2022. If any health and safety measures or eligibility requirements are implemented, which would depend on the nature of the planned experience, these will be communicated by the faculty member or Unit planning the trip, conference, program, co-op, internship, etc.
• Study Abroad and Alternative Break trips will be permitted in academic year 2021-2022.

The following steps are implemented to ensure that labs/classrooms/studio spaces where these classes are held are in compliance with health and safety regulations and guidelines:

• The College has implemented the Student COVID Vaccination Policy, which requires all students who have an on-campus presence this fall be fully vaccinated against the virus or be approved for a medical or religious exemption. (Note: All students who plan to be on campus this fall must email by August 15, 2021 (residents) or by August 18, 2021 (commuters) a copy of an approved vaccination record to Health Services via covidvaccine@ramapo.edu. Please see the College’s COVID-19 vaccine website for additional information including how to apply for a medical or religious waiver.)
• Disinfecting wipes are available in every lab/classroom/studio space.
• Attendance is taken during every in-person class meeting for contact tracing should it be needed

Fall 2021 Academics/Classroom Operational Plans for Students Who Will Continue to Learn Remotely
Unlike many other NJ colleges and universities, Ramapo’s Fall 2021 plans will accommodate students who wish to remain off campus and learn entirely remotely this fall.

• More than 40% of our Fall 2021 courses are being delivered fully virtually or online, both which have no required on-campus presence.
• A significant percentage of our full- and part-time faculty members will be teaching these fully virtual and online course sections, which are specially designed to engage and address the needs of the remote
learner, this fall.

• The Library, the Center for Reading & Writing, and the Mathematics Tutoring Center will continue to offer remote academic support services for students who will not be coming to campus for any reason.

• Remote-learning students will be able to regularly communicate with faculty via WebEx, email, or phone and virtually attend faculty office hours this fall.

• Students who remain off-campus will be able to access the software installed in many of our computer labs through VPN connections (instructions will be provided, as appropriate, by course instructors or the Information Technology Services help desk)

• Students who do not want to come to campus at all/or any reason this fall were directed via Spring 2021 email communications and at the Spring 2021 Student Town Hall as follows:
  • register only for virtual or online Fall 2021 course sections;
  • choose a different elective course (i.e., one that is offered virtually or online) if the elective course you first chose is being offered in-person or hybrid in-person;
  • alter your four-year plan, after consulting with your advisor, and delay taking the required course until a future semester when it may be offered in the mode you prefer;
  • ask your School Dean or the Program Convener to approve a course substitution for a program-required course, which is only offered in-person or hybrid in-person; or
  • if none of the above options are possible, request permission from the instructor of an in-person or hybrid in-person course section to participate remotely in the course.

Any student who was not aware that this previously-shared protocol was to be followed should be aware that there is still time to adjust your Fall 2021 registration. If you need assistance, your Center for Student Success (CSS) advisor, your faculty advisor, or a School Dean can help identify appropriate options.

Please note that if the reason a student is unable to participate in person is related to a medical condition or other situation covered by federal American with Disabilities Act (ADA) law, they should consult with the College’s Office of Specialized Services (OSS) to document their requirements to be accommodated with remote learning.

TRAVEL

Domestic Travel
Domestic travel is defined as lasting 24 hours or longer to states or US territories other than those connected to NJ (i.e., PA, NY, DE).

Domestic Travel (Overnight)
Only fully vaccinated students and employees are permitted to travel overnight on a college sponsored trip (irrespective of the location). Following guidelines, all individuals are required to wear a face covering on all modes of public transportation (bus, air, van, train, and transportation hubs). Medical or religious exemptions will not be permitted for overnight travel.

Domestic Travel (Day Trips)
Students and employees may engage in college-sponsored, day-trip travel. Following guidelines, all individuals are required to wear a face covering on all modes of public transportation (bus, air, van, and transportation hubs).
• Vaccinated: Students and employees are not required to get tested before or after travel, nor are they required to quarantine upon a return. All will self-monitor for symptoms and get tested if symptoms develop.

• Unvaccinated: The student or employee will seek a COVID-19 test 1-3 days before the trip. The student or employee will be required to get a COVID-19 test 3-5 days after the trip and self-quarantine for 7 full days after travel. If a negative result, stay home and self-quarantine for 7 full days. If the student or employee did not seek a test, the quarantine period is 10 days after travel.

**International Travel**

Employees or students attending college-sponsored international experiences are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19. At times, alumni, retirees, or other college volunteers/affiliates have been onboarded to assist in leading international experiences. All must be vaccinated against COVID-19. Upon a return, the fully vaccinated traveler is not required to self-quarantine, but is recommended to get a viral, COVID-19 test 3-5 days after travel and report positive results to the proper authorities at the College. Travelers should self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19. The College will assess international experiences against the CDC’s Travel Recommendations by Destination. The CDC identified Level 4 countries, which advise travelers to avoid those destinations, will not be approved for college-sponsored travel. The College will consider travel to Level 3 countries on a case by case basis but non-essential travel to these countries should be avoided. For additional information, please be guided by Ramapo’s International Travel webpage.

**Study Abroad**

Students and employees must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to participate in any faculty/staff led study abroad program (or Alternative Break trips). Medical or religious exemptions will not be accepted. The College will assess international experiences against the CDC’s Travel Recommendations by Destination. The CDC identified Level 4 countries, which advise travelers to avoid those destinations, will not be approved for college-sponsored travel. The College will consider travel to Level 3 countries on a case by case basis but non-essential travel to these countries should be avoided.

Students who are not vaccinated or receive a medical or religious exemption may participate in a third-party provider program coordinated by the Roukema Center for International Education, only if there are no vaccine requirements established by the provider or host institution or as per travel/destination country restrictions.

**Travel Registry**

The College requires utilization of a Travel Registry to collect information from COVID-19 unvaccinated students and employees who are traveling to international or domestic locations. Registry information is used to determine required post-travel self-quarantining and for contact tracing purposes.

**ON-CAMPUS DINING**

Ramapo College contracts with Sodexo to manage multiple dining options on campus. Sodexo’s policies and procedures follow proper hygiene, cleaning, and disinfection protocols and all mandates set forth by the NJ Department of Health. These measures include employee self-check for COVID-19 symptoms, regular cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces, monitoring the food supply chain, training all employees on how to prevent the spread of the virus, ensuring that dining hall employees (e.g., food preparers, cashiers) wear face coverings and gloves at all times, and the posting of proper hand washing techniques and other highlighting personal hygiene information via prominent signage.
• The Birch Tree Inn will be open for student service only. Seating will be unrestricted. The Atrium and Dunkin Donuts will be open for students, faculty, and staff. Seating will be unrestricted. There are outdoor seating options throughout campus.
• Grab-and-go meals are an option in the Atrium and Dunkin Donuts and takeout services remain open. Dining options and indoor seating may be subject to change in accordance with statewide occupancy mandates and health and safety guidelines, as well as recommendations from the CDC and local health officials.
• Hand sanitizer stations are installed throughout the eating areas.

TRANSPORTATION

Shuttles/Public Transportation

Off-campus business partners operate two shuttles. One shuttle service is known as the Ramapo Roadrunner Express, which transports students to the Garden State Plaza, a public transportation hub, as well as local shopping centers, the Ramsey Route 17 train station, and the Valley Hospital (i.e., for Nursing students who are enrolled in clinical courses only). This shuttle has an occupancy limit of 26 passengers.

The other shuttle is a full-size bus, known as Coach USA/Shortline Bus Service, that transports students to Port Authority in New York City. The College will offer the Ramapo Roadrunner Express and Coach USA/Shortline Bus Service provided the bus companies abide by health and safety requirements.

In order to facilitate contact tracing, riders are required to complete a registration form prior to riding the shuttles. All riders and drivers must wear face coverings.

College Vans

College vans will return to everyday use for reservation and transportation to activities. All riders and drivers must wear a face covering. Disinfecting materials will be added to each van, as well as a weekly rotation in Facilities to complete a full-service disinfecting. In the event of a COVID-19 contamination, Environmental Health and Safety procedures will be followed for disinfecting. A guidance document will be provided in each van to ensure drivers and riders are aware of the clean and safe use of the van. The trip leader is responsible for noting the contact information for all riders to facilitate contact tracing, if needed.
ATHLETICS

In furtherance of the College's COVID-19 vaccine requirement for all students with an in-person presence in Fall 2021, student-athletes are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or to have been granted a medical or religious exemption through Health Services in order to participate in any Varsity, Recreational, Intramural, or Club Sport.

Definition: Tier 1 Athletic Staff are classified as all individuals who are in direct contact with student-athletes such as Athletic Trainers, Head/Assistant Coaches, and game day staff (examples are, but not limited to: student aid equipment staff and sports information staff).

Participation Requirements

Fully Vaccinated Student-Athletes and Tier 1 Athletic Staff

The student-athlete can resume all athletic activity without restriction. The student-athlete is not required to wear a face covering, but will not be prevented from doing so if they wish. The student-athlete may use the locker room without restriction. Given that social distancing is not required at the College effective August 16th, the student-athlete is not required to maintain 6 feet of distance.

As per existing College protocols, a fully vaccinated student athlete or Tier 1 staff who tests positive for COVID-19 (otherwise known as a “break-through case”), will follow the College’s protocol for 10 days of isolation (20 days for severe or critical illness of those who are severely immunocompromised).

A fully vaccinated student-athlete or Tier 1 staff who is in close contact with a COVID-19 case (otherwise known as a “close contact”) will not be required to quarantine or get tested unless symptoms develop.

Unvaccinated Student-Athletes and Tier 1 Athletic Staff With A Medical or Religious Exemption

The College will permit student-athletes and Tier 1 staff with an approved exemption to participate in all sports. The student-athlete and Tier 1 staff are required to wear a face covering during practice, competition and on the sideline for indoor sports. The student-athlete and Tier 1 staff may use the locker room, but must wear a face covering at all times. An unvaccinated student-athlete and Tier 1 staff is expected to maintain 6 feet of social distancing where practical.

As per existing College protocols, an unvaccinated student athlete or Tier 1 staff who tests positive for COVID-19 will follow the College’s protocol for 10 days of isolation.

Similarly, an unvaccinated student-athlete or Tier 1 staff who is in close contact with a COVID-19 case (otherwise known as a “close contact”) will be required quarantine for 14 days and get tested for COVID-19 mid-way through their quarantine (typically construed as days 5, 6, or 7).

Outbreak

In the event of an outbreak, student-athletes may be excluded from practices, workouts, competition and other team activities. Extended testing, including of those who are fully vaccinated, may be required. The NJ Department of Health defines an outbreak as two or more related cases. In the event of an outbreak, local health officials will be consulted and the College will follow the recommended protocols to contain the outbreak and keep the college community safe.

If sustained increased transmission on a team, test all symptomatic individuals or individuals with close contacts, or apply a similar risk mitigation strategy.

Sustained increased transmission is likely occurring if:

- Team of < 50: Concurrent positive cases of three or more.
- Team of > 50: Concurrent positive cases of five percent or more
Testing Strategy
Student-athletes with a medical or religious waiver and Tier 1 Athletics Staff who are unvaccinated will be required to participate in weekly surveillance testing via PCR testing. During competitive seasons, all unvaccinated student-athletes and Tier 1 Athletics Staff will test 2x/wk.

Out of State Travel
Travel will be limited to domestic only. Domestic travel is defined as lasting 24 hours or longer to states or US territories other than those connected to NJ (PA, NY, DE). While teams have been known to engage in international travel, at the present time, the Department of Athletics has implemented a moratorium on any international travel for teams. If conditions change, the decision will be re-evaluated by the leadership in Athletics.

Overnight Travel
Only fully vaccinated student-athletes and Tier 1 staff are permitted to travel overnight (irrespective of the location). Following Federal guidelines, all individuals will be required to wear a face covering on all modes of public transportation (such as a bus, air, van, train, transportation hubs, etc.).

Day-Trip Travel (any state outside of NY, PA, and DE): All student-athletes and Tier 1 staff may engage in day-trip travel. Following Federal guidelines, all individuals will be required to wear a face covering on all modes of public transportation (such as a bus, van, train, transportation hubs, etc.).

- **Vaccinated**: The student-athlete or Tier 1 staff members are not required to get tested before or after travel, nor are they required to quarantine upon a return. All will self-monitor for symptoms and get tested if symptoms develop.
- **Unvaccinated**: The student-athlete or Tier 1 staff will seek a COVID-19 test 1-3 days before the trip. The student athlete or Tier 1 staff will be required to get a COVID-19 test 3-5 days after the trip and self-quarantine for 7 full days after travel. If a negative result, stay home and self-quarantine for 7 full days. If the student-athlete or Tier 1 staff did not seek a test, the quarantine period is 10 days after travel.

Locker Room Usage
Ramapo College athletic and visiting teams will be allowed to use the locker rooms as mentioned above. Unvaccinated individuals must wear a face covering at all times.

Unvaccinated and Prohibited From Host Institution
Student-athletes and Tier 1 staff who are unvaccinated may be precluded from traveling to and competing at a host institution in accordance with that institution’s COVID-19 safety procedures.

Recreational, Intramural, Club Sports
All Recreational, Intramural, and Club sport members are to follow the aforementioned rules and practices in order to maintain compliance.

Visitors/Spectator Policy
Athletics will follow the guidelines set forth by Ramapo College.

The recommendations may change as guidance is updated from the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), NJ Department of Health, and other authorities.
CONCLUSION

Ramapo College is committed to doing all that it can to ensure the health and safety of the campus, its members, and guests. The College is fully committed to complying with all local, state, and Federal public health measures to combat and prevent the spread of COVID-19 and its variants. The Pandemic Assessment Team partners closely with the NJ Department of Health and public health officials from the North West Bergen Regional Health Commission to advance policies and protocols that protect the campus and minimize the risk of COVID-19 exposure. College officials are dedicated and responsible for monitoring guidance issued from their functional areas and making recommendations to the Pandemic Assessment Team. Resources that are regularly consulted by the College’s leadership, the College’s Pandemic Assessment Team, the Athletics Department Leadership Team, staff, and coaches, those involved with contact tracing on campus, and other Ramapo Units/employees include but are not limited to those listed below. In addition, some of the pandemic-related College-maintained resources are included in the list.

The Pandemic Assessment Team monitors campus health and safety conditions and compliance with any local, state or public health orders. Students and employees may report any concerns related to compliance with the operations plan via a website established for this purpose. Having such a feedback loop allows for formative, real-time health and safety mitigation actions to be taken as needed and for continuous improvement.

Resources:
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
American College Health Association
NJ Department of Health
North West Regional Bergen Health Commission
Mahwah Board of Health
Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation
The Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE) COVID-19 Resources
State of NJ COVID-19 Information Hub
N.J. Executive Orders
N.J. Department of Health Information for Schools
NJ Department of Health Standards for Pools
Timeline of NJ Lifting Restrictions

Ramapo College Specific Resources
COVID-19 Information and Updates
RCNJ Return to Campus Website

Contact Information
Health Services, call 201-684-7536 (non-emergency)
Roukema Center for International Education, call 201-684-7533
Human Resources, call 201-684-7498

Mental Health Resources
Counseling Services, call 201-684-7522 (24/7)
Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741
Family Helpline (for stressed parents): Call 1-800-843-5437
Trevor Lifeline: Call 1-866-488-7386 (suicide prevention services to the LGBTQ community under 25 years old)
Trans Lifeline’s Peer Support Hotline: Call 1-877-330-6366
Domestic Violence Hotline: Call 1-800-572-7233
Suicide Prevention Hopeline: Call 1-855-654-6735
Veterans in NJ Crisis line: Call 1-800-273-8255, Press 1
NJ Mental Health Cares Helpline: Call 1-866-202-4357

State of New Jersey General Resources
Call 211 for General COVID-19 Questions (24/7)
Call 1-800-962-1253 for Medical COVID-19 Questions (24/7)
Text NJCOVID to 898-211 to receive alerts
Download COVID Alert NJ app here
NJ Vaccine Appointment Support: Call 1-855-568-0545 (8am to 8pm)

Ramapo College of NJ located in Mahwah, NJ
Mahwah is served by N.W. Bergen Regional Health Commission.
Health Officer: Gina Behre
Health Officer Contact: 201-445-7217