

Important: Operations, Health, and Building Access Information for Fall 2022

Dear members of the Columbia Law School Community,

In a few short weeks, we will be ramping back up for the start of a new academic year with fully in-person instruction. As many of you begin to plan and prepare, we write today to provide information about some important Law School operational protocols that will be in place this fall.

Public Health

Columbia University is a fully vaccinated community, with completion of a primary COVID-19 vaccination series plus booster, as well as affirmation of the [Columbia Community Health Compact](#), required of all faculty, students, and staff. The Law School abides by all relevant University health and safety protocols as outlined at [covid19.columbia.edu](#). The University has also posted information about the current Monkeypox outbreak at [preparedness.columbia.edu](#).

- **Masks:** Per University policy, non-cloth masks (e.g., surgical, N95, KN95, KF94) are required in all classrooms during instructional sessions for the remainder of August and the first three weeks of classes after Labor Day. After this time, the University anticipates that it will lift the mandate unless public health conditions change. Instructors have the option to remove their masks while teaching. In addition, non-cloth masks are strongly encouraged in all other indoor spaces on campus and on Columbia transportation, and are required for all persons who have been granted an exemption from the vaccine requirement. The Law School will continue to provide masks at the entrances to Jerome Greene Hall and William and June Warren Hall throughout the fall semester.
- **Testing:** It is strongly recommended that all students get tested for COVID-19 within 72 hours of arrival on campus. Testing locations in the New York area can be found at [nyc.gov/covidtest](#). Anyone who tests positive should delay accessing campus.
- **Positive Cases:** Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 should email [covidtesttrace@columbia.edu](#), and isolate themselves for five days, where Day 0 is the first day of symptom onset and/or the day of a positive test result. Most people can end their isolation after five days if they are asymptomatic or if their symptoms are resolving (without fever for 24 hours). Following the completion of a five-day isolation period, a well-fitting non-cloth mask must be worn at all times for an additional five days. Students who test positive may also contact [Columbia Health](#) for medical evaluation and treatment, if desired.

Building Access and Visitors

- **CUID Card Requirement:** The Law School's buildings (including Jerome Greene Hall, William and June "Big" Warren Hall, and William C. "Little" Warren Hall) require a valid CUID card swipe to enter. Students enrolled in Law School courses, as well as all Columbia University faculty, researchers, and staff, regardless of affiliation, will be able to enter by tapping their CUID at a card reader, turnstile, or Public Safety desk.

Students from other divisions of the University who are NOT currently enrolled in Law School classes will need to be added to the daily access list (see below) or [receive a pass from the Law Library](#) in order to gain access. Visitors to William C. Warren Hall, Jerome Greene Annex, and the Greenhouse should be met upon arrival and escorted in.

From August 15 to August 26, Public Safety is prepared to be as accommodating as possible in allowing entry into Law School buildings in order to allow new members of our community time to obtain their CUIDs and complete other onboarding requirements.

- **Building Hours:** Law School campus [building hours](#) and access information can be found on the [Building Services website](#).
- **Lenfest Café and WJW Coffee Bar:** Lenfest Café, on the 3rd Floor of Jerome Greene Hall, will reopen for patrons beginning on Thursday, August 25. The standard hours will be from 8:00 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday. The Coffee Bar in the lobby of William and June Warren Hall (WJW) will resume operations on Tuesday, September 6, and be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday. In addition, beginning on Tuesday, September 6, we will resume the popular morning coffee in the WJW lobby. All members of the Columbia Law School community are invited to enjoy free coffee and breakfast pastries from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Monday through Thursday, during the fall semester.
- **Visitors:** All individuals without a Columbia University affiliation ("non-affiliates") who require access to the Law School (e.g., as guest speakers, meeting participants, program attendees) **must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19**. In addition, their names must be added to the Law School daily guest access list in order to gain entry. **Law School affiliates may add the names of visitors and non-affiliates requiring day access to the guest list using [this form](#).**

Teaching and Learning

- **In-Person Classes:** All class sessions this fall will be held in person. As was the case last year, instructors may not choose to convene class sessions virtually (e.g., on Zoom), nor will students be able to participate in classes remotely. Recordings may be made available to students absent due to illness, including those who must isolate following a positive COVID-19 test. (An exception to this rule: When instructors who test positive for COVID-19 feel well enough to teach, they may choose to do so remotely during the 5-day isolation period.)
- **Use of Virtual Platforms:** Making use of Zoom and other similar platforms has significant benefits, both in and out of the classroom. For example, student groups, administrative offices, or research teams may choose to convene virtually while working across locations or time zones. Or, it might be easier or more practicable for a guest speaker at an event or in class to join via video conference, rather than travel to attend in person. The Law School encourages the use of technology where appropriate, while also committing to the delivery of an in-person curriculum and the regular availability of in-person interaction with and among administrative teams.

Events and Food

- **Eating and Drinking:** Food may be served at events, and participants may remove their masks while eating indoors, including at non-instructional events held in classrooms.
- **Online Calendar:** Organizers should be sure to add their events to the Law School's [online calendar](#). Events on the calendar will automatically be included in the daily/weekly events email digest. For instructions on how to add your event, read [this guide](#).
- **Food Delivery:** Personal food delivery within the Law School is not permitted. Individuals should continue to meet delivery workers outside the Law School. Public Safety will not accept food delivery orders on behalf of students, faculty, or staff.

We hope that this information will be helpful to reference as the fall semester gets underway. As always, these protocols are subject to change based on updated guidance from the University, as well as new developments on the ground. We encourage you to reach out if you have any questions, or if you'd like further clarification on any of the items listed above.

Thank you for your consideration and wishing you a wonderful year ahead.

Sincerely,
Law School Senior Operations Team