

Student COVID-19 Updates: Executive Orders, Travel, End of Semester Move-Out (11/5/20).

Dear Students,

It is hard to believe that we are closing in on the Thanksgiving holiday and preparing to transition to remote learning. It has been an unusual semester that has called upon your resilience and creativity. Thank you for helping each other, and our campus, through this challenging time.

I write to share with you information about some new Executive Orders from Governor Baker, semester move-out information, and additional resources.

Governor Baker's Latest Executive Orders and Stay-at-Home Advisory (All students)

Earlier this week the Governor issued new [Executive Orders](#) and [guidance](#) for efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The new mandates are effective Friday, Nov. 6. **All on-campus events will need to limit indoor gatherings to no more than 10 people and outdoor gatherings to no more than 25.** The Stay-at-Home Advisory urges residents to stay home between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. There are some exceptions, including travel to and from work. This applies to MCLA in that **students MUST remain on campus between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.**

Travel Protocols (Residents)

As stated in an earlier communication, we are urging all resident students not to travel for the remainder of the semester, and most importantly not to travel to high risk or red zone communities. Thanksgiving is a few short weeks away – 21 days to be precise – and while we realize it has been a long, unusual semester and everyone misses family and friends, we ask you to remain here on campus until it is time to leave for the break. We want you stay safe, to keep our community safe, and for all students to be able to return home healthy next month. The original communication and link to the Travel Form can be found [here](#).

End of Semester Move-out (Residents)

Resident student move-out for the fall semester will take place by appointment between the hours of 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. from Wednesday, 11/18 through Tuesday, 11/24. Students are expected to fully move out of their on-campus rooms. This includes removing all belongings and fully cleaning bedrooms and common areas. We are making testing available to any resident who wants to take a test before leaving campus. We recommend that you test 36-24 hours before you move out so you will have results when you leave. Testing will be available from Monday, November 16 through Friday, November 20, and on Monday, November 23. Testing appointments will be based on your move-out appointment. Information will follow the week of November 9. Details about the move-out process and booking a move-out appointment can be found [here](#).

Flu Shot Requirement (All students)

On August 14, 2020 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts established a NEW requirement for all full-time college students under 30 years of age to receive a flu vaccine no later than December 31, 2020. Proof of immunization will be required for all students prior to returning in January 2021. Students who do not provide proof of immunization by 12/31 will have a hold on their record and will not be able to return to campus.

All Students who have NOT gotten a flu shot should do so as soon as possible. Students who have gotten a flu shot, but not yet submitted proof of immunization can do so in the following ways:

- By email to HealthServices@mcla.edu
- By fax to 413-662-5572,
- By mail to MCLA Health Services, 375 Church St., North Adams, MA 01247

Please call (413-662-5421) or email (HealthServices@mcla.edu) with any questions.

Spring Semester 2021 (All Students)

Please stay tuned for more detailed information regarding semester start date, move-in and testing procedures for resident and commuter students, and other key dates. This will be shared with the campus community in the coming weeks.

Post-Election Resources:

The MCLA Freel Library has maintained an excellent voting resource page through election season. It will continue to be a hub for the latest news and election-related activities on campus, including opportunities to share your voice and perspective with others. Please visit [MCLA's Guide to Election 2020](#) for more information.

I know that I speak for my faculty and staff colleagues as well, when I commend all of you for doing our part to keep us all safe. It is because of your efforts that we have been able to continue with our planned in-person and in-residence fall semester, including your adaptability in working with state and College guidelines and protocols that have changed recently in light of changing situations with the pandemic.

If you have additional questions regarding MCLA's response to COVID-19, or would like to reference an archive of important student information, please visit www.mcla.edu/covid-19.

Please reach out to me directly if you have any questions or concerns.