



# RETURN TO CAMPUS GUIDE

Vermont Law School's Mandatory Safe  
and Healthy Return to Campus Protocols  
**Updated for Summer 2021**





WATERMAN





## **VERMONT LAW SCHOOL'S MANDATORY SAFE AND HEALTHY RETURN TO CAMPUS PROTOCOLS**

Vermont Law School is operating in a hybrid model for the summer session and access to its physical campus is restricted to approved students, faculty, and staff only. There are no guests or visitors permitted on campus except for essential visitors as defined in the visitor policy. These protocols are required by the State of Vermont and developed in collaboration with the state's colleges and universities, the Vermont Department of Health, the Vermont Department of Public Service, the Vermont Agency of Education, and the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development. They apply to any student, faculty or staff member who wishes to enter the physical campus during the summer semester. These protocols are mandatory.

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

1. Protecting the safety of students, staff, faculty and the surrounding communities.
2. Providing a high-quality virtual and hybrid education and high quality virtual and residential services to all VLS students, those living locally, and those living far away.
3. Supporting students, faculty and staff as much as possible as we return to campus.

# I. BEFORE COMING TO CAMPUS

## A. HEALTH SAFETY CONTRACT

All faculty, students and staff shall sign the Health Safety Contract that affirms the individual is familiar with and willing to comply with the state's COVID-19 restrictions and VLS's protocol. Agreement to the Health Safety Contract is a condition to admittance to campus. There are no exceptions. VLS will immediately remove anyone who violates substantial safety components of the contract (such as testing requirements) from campus for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis. Existing disciplinary processes will yield to the interest of public health. Minor violations (as determined by the COVID One VLS Action Team (OVAT)) of these protocols will be governed by the Vermont Law School Code of Conduct and the Vermont Law School Involuntary Separation Policy. Faculty and staff who violate these protocols will face immediate disciplinary action.

## B. QUARANTINE AND TRAVEL

As part of Vermont's phased reopening plan, quarantine prior to and upon arriving to campus is no longer required. However, testing is still required if you are unvaccinated and is outlined below.

## C. TESTING

Testing is no longer required prior to or upon arriving to campus. However, unvaccinated students, faculty, and staff are subject to weekly surveillance testing which is outlined in section II below. If you are experiencing any symptoms, stay home and away from other people.

In addition, all VLS community members may be subject to random testing. If notified that you have been selected for a random test, you must be tested within three business days of the notification. This will coincide with the VLS testing site or you may receive a test at Gifford Medical Center, located at 44 South Main Street, Randolph, Vt., your physician's office, or at one of the state pop-up testing sites and send your results to [covid19@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:covid19@vermontlaw.edu). Most COVID tests are free of charge, and absent extraordinary circumstances, VLS will not reimburse you for costs associated with being testing. You will receive an email response when you are permitted to come on campus. Please save that email and be ready to show it upon request while on campus.

## D. SELF-HEALTH SCREENINGS

Even if you have complied with the requirements described above, you may not enter campus if you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19. It is recommended that students, faculty, and staff conduct a temperature check at home. You may not come to campus if your temperature is at or above 100 degrees Fahrenheit. All students, faculty, and staff must also conduct a health screening on themselves immediately prior to or upon campus arrival and submit the results of the screening before entry. The screening shall require each person to verify that they have no symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, congestion or runny nose, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea) presently or within the last 24 hours. Even if you are symptom free, you may not come to campus if you have reason to believe you have been exposed to COVID-19 or have been in contact with anyone experiencing any of the COVID-19 symptoms above. A link to the daily health screening will be available using the CampusClear app and on the home page of [vermontlaw.edu](http://vermontlaw.edu). You must complete this survey every time you come to campus. Coming to campus without completing your health screening is a violation of these protocols. Once you are permitted on campus, each of us have the responsibility to decrease transmission of COVID-19 through effective public health measures.

## II. WHILE ON CAMPUS

### A. TESTING REQUIREMENTS

VLS will conduct weekly testing for unvaccinated students, faculty, and staff. Testing will be on-site and self-administered. The test is a milder anterior nasal swab. In most cases, results will be emailed to you within 24 hours. Vaccinated individuals who have completed the two-week post-vaccine waiting period are exempt from the testing protocol. Please visit [vermontlaw.edu/vls-covid19-testing](https://vermontlaw.edu/vls-covid19-testing) for the most up-to-date testing procedures.

### B. FACE COVERINGS

Face coverings should be worn by all faculty, staff, students and approved visitors while inside any campus building. Masks are not required outdoors when physical distancing can be maintained. You are responsible for having your own face covering but a limited supply will be available on campus in an emergency. Faculty and staff working in their offices alone with the door closed need not wear a face covering in the office, but must in hallways, bathrooms, etc. Masks should be carried with you at all times in case circumstances change. Masks should:

- Cover mouth and nose.
- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face.
- Be secured with ties or ear loops and include multiple layers of fabric.
- Allow for breathing without restriction.
- Be single-use or able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape.
- Reusable masks should be laundered after daily wear.

### C. HAND HYGIENE

Anyone who comes on campus should frequently wash their hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizing stations are located throughout campus.

### D. PHYSICAL DISTANCING

All students, faculty and staff must observe strict social distancing of six feet while on campus. Occupancy limits will be stated on the doors of designated common areas (including classrooms) so that occupants can maintain six feet social distancing. You should observe all “One Way” signs on staircases and hallways. All common areas (including bathrooms, frequently touched surfaces and doors, and tools and equipment) will be cleaned regularly and, whenever possible, prior to transfer from one person to another, in accordance with CDC guidance.

### E. BATHROOMS

All campus bathrooms will now be single occupancy. Not all bathrooms will be open. Please observe the sign on the outside of the door as to whether the bathroom is closed or occupied. Masks should be worn in the bathroom and no phones or other personal belongings should be brought into the bathroom with you.

### F. FOOD AND DRINK

The VLS café will be open for limited Grab & Go service. No food or drink should be consumed inside any campus buildings, except in designated areas. Designated areas consist of Yates Common Room and outdoors. This is subject to change. Faculty and staff may eat and drink in their offices with the door closed.



#### **G. CLOSED SPACES**

Some spaces on campus will be closed. Please observe all door signs about whether access is permitted.

#### **H. UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS**

Allowing anyone on campus who has not been approved for access is a substantial violation of these protocols and will subject you to immediate removal from campus and other disciplinary procedures.

#### **I. OFFICE VISITS, APPOINTMENTS, AND MEETINGS**

In order to protect the health and safety of the VLS community and as more people are vaccinated, VLS is limiting how meetings will take place as defined by risk of exposure.

**Short duration meetings**, as defined by an exposure of 15 minutes or less, may occur in person, indoors, and with the appropriate physical distancing, masks, and other personal protective equipment (such as plexiglass dividers).

**Long duration meetings**, as defined by an exposure of longer than 15 minutes, must be virtual using Microsoft Teams, conducted outdoors, or held in a large conference or classroom space with physical distancing and PPE.

## **III. IF YOU HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19**

If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, have reason to believe you have been exposed, or have received a positive test, you must immediately isolate to minimize the impact on the VLS community. If you have received a positive test, the Vermont Department of Health will coordinate and conduct contact tracing, however, you must also notify school officials. See Section VII. In the event there is an outbreak on campus, the campus will be immediately closed. All students, employees and staff should be prepared to immediately vacate classrooms and workspaces in that event.

## IV. FOR EMPLOYEES

VLS employees are expected to have a consistent presence on campus pursuant to the approved Department Plan. Any amendments to your Department Plan must be approved in advance by Betsy Erwin or the Senior Leadership member to whom the department reports.

## V. CORNELL LIBRARY

The Cornell Library will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays with contactless services. You will use your VLS ID card to gain access. The computer lab will be open concurrently. Please visit the [Library Webpage](#) for information and updates to library services.

## VI. FITNESS CENTER

The fitness center will be open limited hours with access restricted to VLS students, faculty, and staff only. No spouses, family, or other community guests will be allowed. Reservations are required and workouts are limited to 90 minutes. Masks are required at all times, even during exercise. Please reference your email for full fitness center policies and procedures.

## VII. AMENDMENTS

These protocols may be amended due to changing circumstances. Changes will be posted on Vermont Law School's website and emailed to the Community.



## VIII. CONTACTS AND QUESTIONS

**OVAT:** [covid19@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:covid19@vermontlaw.edu)

**STUDENTS:** Vice Dean Joe Brennan ([jbrennan@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:jbrennan@vermontlaw.edu)), or his designee.

**STAFF:** Director of Human Resources Besty Erwin ([berwin@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:berwin@vermontlaw.edu)), or her designee.

**FACULTY:** Vice Dean Cynthia Lewis ([clewis@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:clewis@vermontlaw.edu)), or her designee.

Dated: August 5, 2020

Updated: May 13, 2021







## VERMONT LAW SCHOOL HEALTH SAFETY CONTRACT

I commit to protect myself and members of my community from COVID-19 and to follow the most current version of Vermont Law School's Mandatory Health and Safety Return to Campus Protocols.

I understand that signing this Contract and complying with all protocols is a pre-condition to my access to campus.

Specifically, my signature certifies that:

- I have read and understand Vermont Law School's Mandatory Health and Safety Return to Campus Protocols.
- I have followed and will continue to follow these protocols, including the Testing Protocols, if I have not been vaccinated. I will follow any update to these protocols.
- I understand that failure to follow these protocols may result in immediate removal from campus and disciplinary procedures, even if illness does not result.
- I will comply with all state, local, and federal face covering and social distancing guidance, as well as evacuation and lockdown guidance, should they become necessary. Specifically, I understand that I must wear a mask indoors.
- I will report substantial violations of VLS's Mandatory Safe and Healthy Return to Campus Protocols to the OVAT Team at [covid19@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:covid19@vermontlaw.edu), Vice Dean Joe Brennan, or anonymously using the [Incident Reporting Form](#).

Signed,

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Printed Name

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Signature

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Date



# COVID-19 Risk Index

Risk levels for exposure vary based on four main factors:



**Enclosed space**



**Duration of interaction**



**Crowds**

Density of people + challenges for social distancing



**Forceful exhalation**

Sneezing, yelling, singing, and coughing

## Low

 <b>Staying at home</b> Alone or with members of your household	 <b>Walking outdoors</b> With or without pets	 <b>Running or biking</b> Alone or with another person Risks: Close contact or potential clustering of people
 <b>Picking up takeout food, coffee, or groceries from stores</b> Risks: Potential crowding	 <b>Outdoor picnic or porch dining</b> With non-household people and physical distancing Risks: Potential crowding and activity	

**When near people, wear a mask**



## Low / Medium

**Playing "distanced" sports outside**  
 Ex. Tennis or golf

**Grocery shopping**  
 Risks: Indoor, close contact, potential clustering of people, high-touch surfaces

**Retail shopping**  
 Risks: Indoor, close contact, potential clustering of people

## Medium

**Medical office**  
 Risks: Indoor, close contact, potential clustering of people, high-touch surfaces

**De ap**  
 Risk: pote park

**Taking a taxi or a ride-sharing service**  
 Risks: Dependency, duration of ride, an

**Museum**  
 Risks: Indoor, close contact/potential clustering of people





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## Visiting hospital emergency department

**Risks:** Indoor, potential clustering of people

e visit  
tact,  
people,



## dentist appointment

**Risks:** Indoor, close contact, potential clustering of people, not wearing a mask



on frequency of cleaning,  
d number of passengers



## Outdoor restaurant dining

**Risks:** Close contact, potential clustering of people, challenge to wear a mask during eating

# Medium / High

## Exercising at a gym



**Risks:** Indoor, close contact/ potential clustering of people, high-touch surfaces, difficult to wear a mask, high respiratory rate

## Hair/nail salon and barbershops



**Risks:** Prolonged close contact, difficult to wear a mask

## Working in an office



**Risks:** Indoor, high-touch surfaces, prolonged close contact/potential clustering of people



## Indoor restaurant or coffee shop

**Risks:** Indoor, prolonged close contact/potential clustering of people, difficult to wear mask while eating and drinking

# High



## Indoor party

**Risks:** Indoor, prolonged close contact/potential clustering of people

**Additional risks:** alcohol (loss of inhibition), shared joint/pipe (coughing)



## Bars and nightclubs

**Risks:** Enclosed space, prolonged close contact/potential clustering of people, high respiratory rate, yelling/projection of voice



## Playing contact sports

Football, basketball, soccer, etc

**Risks:** Prolonged close contact/potential clustering of people, high respiratory rate, unable to wear a mask



## Air travel

**Risks:** Enclosed space, prolonged close contact/potential clustering of people, and high-touch surfaces



## Public transportation Subway or bus

**Risks:** Enclosed space, prolonged close contact/potential clustering of people, and high-touch surfaces



## Concert

**Risks:** Enclosed space, prolonged close contact/potential clustering of people, high-touch surfaces, yelling/projection of voice



## Religious services

**Risks:** Enclosed space, prolonged close contact/potential clustering of people, high-touch surfaces, singing/projection of voice

## Movie theater or live theater



**Risks:** Enclosed space, prolonged close contact/potential clustering of people, high-touch surfaces



## Watching sports

**Risks:** Prolonged close contact/potential clustering of people, high-touch surfaces, yelling/projection of voice, enclosed space (if indoor)

REOPEN INTELLIGENTLY.  
REOPEN SAFELY.



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