

Bennington College
Message from the President
September 1, 2021

Dear Bennington community,

First, I wanted to share the excellent news about Student Arrival. All students are on campus now, all arrival tests were negative and classes have begun.

We do currently have two new cases since the arrival tests—one student and one employee. The College is working closely with both people and the Vermont Department of Health.

The student tested positive yesterday after a negative arrival test. It is probable that this student was not exposed to COVID on campus, but just before they arrived on campus. The contact tracing, which is conducted by the Vermont Department of Health, is being completed; internal contact tracing is complete and students who are likely a close contact have been notified. We believe the risk of spread is low, and Ali Tartaglia is happy to answer any questions students have [by email](#).

The House Chairs and residents of the student's house were notified last night and met with Drs Tartaglia and Anselmo, as well as Meredith McCoy and Christine Winget via Zoom to answer questions and assure safety protocols. All house residents are vaccinated. As a reminder, per CDC guidelines, anyone who is fully vaccinated is not required to quarantine and is permitted to continue daily activities on campus including attending class and entering the dining hall. All have been advised to continue safe practices.

In the case of the employee, at this time and based on our knowledge of the case, we believe that the exposure risk to our campus community is low. Anyone who considered a close contact would have been notified. As a reminder, if you are not contacted by the Vermont Department of Health, you are not considered a close contact.

Regarding the mask mandate, vaccinated community members should wear masks when they are indoors and when they are outdoors in groups. We will reexamine the policy about outdoor mask use next week, after the second round of tests are completed. Community members with an exemption or who are not yet fully vaccinated should wear a mask at all times, indoors and outdoors.

All students need to get a second test 3-5 days after your initial arrival test. See below for the date of your second test. Test results will be shared via the CoVerified app.

More information from the COVID task force is below.

Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,



Laura Walker

Symptom Tracking Instructions

- **All faculty and staff, regardless of vaccination status, should begin reporting symptoms daily in CoVerified.** To report symptoms, press the “+” button in the bottom center of the CoVerified homepage, then click “report symptoms.”
- Any students with vaccine exemptions or who are not yet fully vaccinated should [begin reporting symptoms](#) daily in CoVerified.
- Any students who [develop symptoms](#) should report them immediately in CoVerified or by emailing or calling Health Services.
- As a reminder, staff who may become sick with COVID-19 related symptoms while at work must immediately notify a supervisor and should self-isolate until such time that the College can safely escort the employee off-campus. Staff will be directed to contact their healthcare provider. Faculty should self-isolate, leave campus, and contact the Dean’s Office, HR, and their healthcare provider.

Scheduling Tests

All students need to get a second test. Below is the schedule for testing. Students are encouraged to schedule tests for the rest of the week via CoVerified. (Instructions for scheduling testing can be found [here](#).) Test results will be shared via the CoVerified app.

Original Test Date	Second Test	Location
Students who were tested before or on Saturday August 28	Wednesday September 1, 9:00 am-4:00 pm	Commons Lawn Tent
Students who were tested Monday August 30 and those students who were on campus this summer	Thursday September 2, 9:00-11:30 am and 12:30-3:00 pm	Commons Lawn Tent
Students who were tested Tuesday August 31	Friday September 3, 9:00 am-3:00 pm	Commons Lawn Tent
Vaccine exempt or not fully vaccinated students, staff, and faculty	Weekly, Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am-3:00 pm	Health Services
Vaccinated students, staff, and faculty	Optional at your discretion, Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am-3:00 pm	Health Services

