

**HARTWICK COLLEGE COVID-19 PLAN**  
**Updated: March 15, 2024**  
**Hartwick College Strategic Response Team**

<b>Vaccine Policy</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>General Safety Protocols</b>	<b>2</b>
Screening	2
Masking	3
Cleaning and disinfection protocols	3
<b>Protocols for Suspected or Confirmed Cases of COVID-19</b>	<b>3</b>
Students with COVID-19 symptoms	3
Employees with COVID-19 symptoms	3
Students with known exposure to a confirmed COVID-19 case	4
Employees with known exposure to a confirmed COVID-19 case	4
Students who test positive for COVID-19	5
Employees who test positive for COVID-19	6
Student workers who have COVID-19 symptoms	7
<b>Campus Life</b>	<b>7</b>
Instruction	7
Dining	7
Athletics	8
Attendance at College-sponsored public events	<a href="#"><u>8</u></a>

## **Vaccine Policy**

Effective March 1, 2023, Hartwick College has lifted the mandate that all students, faculty and staff be vaccinated against COVID-19. While vaccinations are no longer required, they are highly encouraged.

The College's vaccination mandate was based on evidence early in the roll-out that vaccination significantly slowed the spread of COVID-19, so one person's vaccination protected others around them. Current evidence does not clearly support that effect but still shows that it is a factor in limiting the severity of the disease if one gets infected. To reduce interruptions to the operation of the College, we continue to strongly encourage all students and employees to be up to date on their vaccinations.

Regardless of Hartwick College's policy, those students and employees engaged in our nursing program will need to continue to abide by the rules and regulations of clinical and healthcare sites. Students engaged in internships or placements will also need to comply with the vaccination policies and requirements of their host sites.

Questions regarding policies for clinical facilities should be directed to the Hartwick College Nursing Department. Questions regarding other placements should be directed to the hosting organization.

The vaccination policy is available on the COVID-19 Updates webpage [here](#).

## **General Safety Protocols**

1. Hartwick College's safety protocols aim to minimize the risk to individuals and the campus community while creating a vibrant living and learning environment.
2. CDC and local health department recommendations will be considered and campus policies will be continuously reviewed and/or revised based on public health considerations (e.g., variants, local prevalence of infection, etc.)
3. Restrictions or requirements may be added or relaxed as needed.
4. Management of those infected with COVID-19 is becoming similar to managing influenza and other viral illnesses.
5. The updated/current plan can be found on the web [here](#).

### **Screening:**

1. Members of the College community are encouraged to self-monitor their health.
2. To protect their health and the health of others, employees should not come to work if they have symptoms of COVID-19. Employees should obtain a COVID-19 test or consult with a healthcare provider and follow their guidance regarding testing before returning to work.
3. Individuals should be fever-free without fever-reducing medicine and without active COVID-19 symptoms for 24 hours before returning to campus-based work.

**Masking:**

1. Masks in indoor or outdoor settings are not required on the Hartwick College campus.
  - a. The exception: While masks are no longer required for entry to Perrella Wellness Center in accordance with changes to New York State masking requirements, anyone experiencing COVID-19-type or respiratory symptoms should wear one. If the individual does not have a mask, one will be provided on request.
2. The College reserves the right to require masks at events as deemed appropriate. Masking requirements will be made known and must be followed.
3. Any employee or student who wishes to wear a mask may do so, even if vaccinated.
4. Individual faculty will continue to have the discretion to require that students wear masks within their instructional or office settings.
5. Students and professional staff will continue to have the discretion to require the wearing of masks in their respective living or office settings.
6. If individuals think their situation requires an exception to this policy, they should discuss it with their respective senior leadership team (SLT) member.

**Cleaning and disinfection protocols:**

1. Daily cleaning and disinfection is an integral part of all routine custodial services.
2. Secondary disinfection and fogging may be put in place if warranted or required by local authorities, state or CDC mandate.
3. Virex and microfiber cloth are available for use in the classroom and common areas for supplemental disinfection.

**Protocols for Suspected or Confirmed Cases of COVID-19****Students with COVID-19 symptoms:**

1. Per the revised CDC guidance issued on March 1, 2024, (adopted by the NYS Department of Health on March 7, 2024), students should stay in their residential space and away from others if they have respiratory virus symptoms that cannot be explained by another cause.
2. Students may return to normal activities when, for at least 24 hours, both the following are true: symptoms are improving overall, AND they no longer have a fever without using fever-reducing medication.
3. COVID-19 testing is not required. Symptomatic students may be tested through the Perrella Wellness Center at the discretion of the Perrella medical provider. The cost for testing is \$5 per test. Students must follow the instructions given by the provider who performs the medical evaluation.
4. Students who have symptoms or have received a positive test should remain in their campus room except for restroom use, showering and obtaining meals. Students are encouraged to wear a mask, get a takeout meal, and return to their room to consume it.

5. Students should communicate directly with their faculty regarding the presence of symptoms and/or a positive test. They are also encouraged to send a secure message to the Perrella Wellness Center via PyraMed to document their symptoms.

**Employees with COVID-19 symptoms:**

1. Any employee who experiences symptoms of COVID-19 must inform their immediate supervisor and Human Resources.
  - a. Faculty should contact their department chair.
  - b. Department chairs should contact the VPAA.
2. Per the revised CDC guidance issued on March 1, 2024 (adopted by the NYS Department of Health on March 7, 2024), employees should stay home and away from others if they have respiratory virus symptoms that are not better explained by another cause.
3. Employees may return to normal activities when, for at least 24 hours, both the following are true: symptoms are improving overall, AND they no longer have a fever without using fever-reducing medication.

**Students with known exposure to a confirmed COVID-19 case:**

1. Students should monitor themselves for any symptoms of COVID-19 for 10 days after exposure. Symptoms to monitor for can be found [here](#).
2. For 10 days after exposure, students are encouraged to wear masks in any setting where they will be near people.
3. Students should continue to attend in-person classes and participate in their usual activities as long as they are without symptoms and are wearing a mask.
4. If symptoms develop, students should follow the protocols for students with COVID-19 symptoms and notify the Perrella Wellness Center by sending a secure message via the PyraMed portal system.
5. For more on what to do if you're exposed to COVID-19, visit the [CDC website](#).
6. There is no contact tracing or quarantine procedure for those exposed to someone with COVID-19. Those testing positive are encouraged to notify their close contacts and those potentially exposed individuals are encouraged to monitor themselves for the onset of symptoms and be tested if symptoms develop.

**Employees with known exposure to a confirmed COVID-19 case:**

1. Employees should monitor themselves for any symptoms of COVID-19 for 10 days after exposure. Symptoms to watch for can be found [here](#).
2. For 10 days after exposure, employees are encouraged to wear masks in any setting where they will be near people.
3. They may continue to work and participate in their usual activities as long as they are without symptoms.
4. If they develop symptoms, employees should not report to campus (or, if they are at work, they should go home). Employees must inform their immediate supervisor and Human Resources.
  - a. Faculty should contact their department chair.

- b. Department chairs should contact the VPAA.
5. Employees may return to normal activities when, for at least 24 hours, both the following are true: symptoms are improving overall, AND they no longer have a fever without using fever-reducing medication.
6. There is no contact tracing or quarantine procedure for those exposed to someone with COVID-19. Those testing positive are encouraged to notify their close contacts and those potentially exposed individuals are encouraged to monitor themselves for the onset of symptoms and be tested if symptoms develop.

**Students who test positive for COVID-19:**

1. Students should report their positive test results to Perrella Wellness Center via the PyraMed portal Secure Messaging system and follow the protocols for students with symptoms. The center will note the student's symptoms and test results in their medical record and make care recommendations as indicated.
2. Students should contact Perrella directly with any medical needs. When Perrella is closed, students should call Campus Safety for any significant medical needs. Campus Safety will contact the health center director or designee regarding how the medical need will be met.
3. While symptomatic, it is the student's responsibility to communicate directly with each of their faculty members to notify them of their absence from class and to make arrangements for remaining caught up on their academic requirements.
  - a. Faculty will work with each student directly to keep them updated with their courses.
  - b. Students will not necessarily have the option to attend classes remotely.
  - c. Depending on the class and the time of the semester, faculty may have different approaches to working with the student.
  - d. If a faculty member needs verification, the faculty member may email Perrella Wellness Center.
4. Upon returning to usual activities, students who have tested positive should wear a well-fitting mask for an additional five days. During that time, as long as they are masked, they can engage in all usual activities, including participation in post-COVID-return to athletics protocols developed by the athletic trainers and team physician.

**Employees who test positive for COVID-19:**

1. Employees should report their positive results to their supervisor, Human Resources ([HumRes@hartwick.edu](mailto:HumRes@hartwick.edu)) and the Perrella Wellness Center ([healthcenter@hartwick.edu](mailto:healthcenter@hartwick.edu)).
2. Per the revised CDC guidance issued on March 1, 2024 (adopted by the NYS Department of Health on March 7, 2024), employees should stay home and away from others if they have respiratory virus symptoms that are not better explained by another cause.

3. Employees may return to campus and normal activities when, for at least 24 hours, both the following are true: symptoms are improving overall, AND they no longer have a fever without using fever-reducing medication.
4. When returning to campus, employees who have tested positive should wear a well-fitting mask for an additional five days.
5. Although isolation is no longer required, NYS COVID-19 paid leave time requires the completion of an attestation form by employees seeking payment for the time off under COVID-19 leave time. As a reminder, COVID-19 paid leave time only applies to employees who test positive and cannot work remotely, and is limited to three occurrences (one time may be for a dependent child). Contact Human Resources at 607-431-4315 or [humres@hartwick.edu](mailto:humres@hartwick.edu) with any questions.

**Student workers who have COVID-19 symptoms:**

1. Get in touch with the Perrella Wellness Center at 607-431-4120.
2. Follow the instructions from the contact at Perrella.
3. Students should not report for work. They should let their supervisor know they will be out.

**Campus Life**

**Instruction:**

1. Our intention is to provide campus-based instruction as long as it is safe to do so. Most instruction will be classroom-based/in-person.
2. We are not generally using a hyflex teaching format, where a class meets in the classroom but is synchronously accessible online, e.g., via Zoom.
3. If worsening pandemic conditions force the College to return to remote instruction, we will apply what we have learned since the onset of the pandemic to provide the best remote education possible.
4. When a student must be absent from the classroom due to symptomatic viral illness, the default procedure will be to handle it like other health-related absences. The student should inform the instructor that they will be absent for health-related reasons, and the two will work out the best way for the student to keep current in the course.
5. During January Term (J Term), where each day's class is a more significant portion of the whole course, instructors may consider whether hy-flex or other modalities may be appropriate to keep students from falling behind.
6. Instructors must secure the approval of the VPAA/Dean of Faculty if they find it necessary to switch to remote-only instruction.

**Dining:**

1. Dining Services provides on-site dining and to-go meals at all regular meal times.
2. If conditions require, Dining Services will move to all disposable to-go meals.
3. The dining facilities layout may also be modified as conditions require.
4. Dining Services has implemented a schedule of increased cleaning and sanitation.

**Athletics:**

1. Hartwick Athletics runs practices and competitions in accordance with College and Empire 8 conference policy and guidelines.

**Attendance at College-sponsored public events:**

1. Vaccination for all campus visitors, including attendees at campus-based public events, is not required but strongly encouraged.
2. The College reserves the right to require masks on an event-by-event basis.
3. When necessary, we will limit capacity or access in response to changing health conditions.