



December 22, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

We write to share with you a message sent to students and undergraduate families earlier today about our spring health and safety opening plans and to provide you with an update to the University's COVID-related employee benefits. While a large majority of our plans mirror our successful strategies from the fall, it is necessary to make some adjustments to our plans given the increase in cases nationally and in Virginia. What you will see has not changed is our steadfast expectation of rigorous adherence to our health and safety protocols.

The message below details the move-in schedule, expectations prior to arrival, testing upon arrival, a new Healthy Web Compact, revised conduct policy details, and signals adjustments to the spring academic calendar.

We also want to use this opportunity to inform you of the following COVID-related employee benefits:

- So that we may continue to address the challenges that parents and caregivers are facing, the University will again contribute \$1,200 to a tax-free spending account for all regular full-time employees with children 12 years old and younger. Under Qualified Disaster Relief law brought about as a result of the pandemic, these tax-free monies may be used to help offset child care expenses incurred between Jan. 4 and May 10, 2021.
- We also understand that finding daycare services remains challenging. As a result, all regular full-time employees will continue to have access to Care.com, a national network of child, elder, pet, home, and other care providers, which has an extensive network of providers in the Richmond region.
- Finally, please be reminded that full- and part-time benefit eligible employees continue to be eligible to receive up to 15 days of COVID paid leave to be used for COVID-19 situations including illness, quarantine, isolation, or family care need. This one-time allowance of additional paid leave in response to the COVID-19 crisis allows for employees to be paid for time away from work if required by the University to self-quarantine or self-isolate due to COVID-related illness or exposure.

Thank you in advance for your commitment to continue prioritizing the health and safety of our community.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Legro  
Executive Vice President and Provost

David Hale  
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

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Dear University of Richmond Students:

Thank you again for your extraordinary perseverance and goodwill as the University was able to complete a safe in-residence fall 2020 semester.

As we look forward to having students on campus and the start of classes on Jan. 19, 2021, we write with information regarding health and safety for the spring semester. We are counting on the entire campus community to continue rigorous adherence to our COVID-19 response protocols.

We will continue to employ many of our successful strategies from the fall, including testing upon arrival for all full-time degree-seeking students who are living on campus and/or taking in-person classes before attending those classes; however, given the increase in cases nationally and in Virginia, it is necessary to make some adjustments to our plans and ask our community to fully recommit to keeping our community safe.

For your own health and well-being, and that of other students, faculty, and staff, all students should self-quarantine for 10 days prior to returning to campus by staying at home to the fullest extent possible, avoiding large crowds and gatherings, avoiding unnecessary travel, washing hands often, wearing a face covering, and keeping a safe distance from other people who do not live with you (at least 6 feet apart).

Additionally, please note these key changes for the spring semester:

- Academic calendar changes for the spring semester have been developed and are intended to provide students helpful time to rest and restore while remaining on campus.
- Unlike the fall, students cannot be exempted from testing by providing the results of a test taken prior to arrival. Detailed instructions for the campus move-in testing process will be made available in January prior to arrival.
- All students are required to sign and abide by a new version of the Healthy Web Compact, which includes several changes reflecting important lessons learned from the fall semester. You must be connected to your VPN to view the Compact if off campus.
- New interim conduct policies are being implemented to address health and safety concerns.

We have provided additional detailed information below about our spring plans. We are also providing this Spring 2021 Web Ready Checklist to ensure you have the most pertinent information for spring handy. Please note that many of the details below will not apply to students who plan to study in a fully remote capacity in the spring.

We are looking forward with great anticipation to welcoming you to campus in January and another safe and academically enriching semester. All of this begins with a strong and secure start. Thank you for this continued commitment during these unprecedented times.

Be well, stay safe, and see you soon.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Legro  
Executive Vice President and Provost

David Hale  
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

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## SPRING START ADDITIONAL DETAILS

### NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND CALENDAR CHANGES

We are actively looking at ways to provide more opportunities for our community to interact in a safe way during the winter months, and we look forward to sharing more with you about those opportunities in early January. The calendar changes for the spring semester will provide traditional undergraduate students helpful time to rest and restore along the way over the course of the semester. As you know, there will be no spring break in order to protect our campus community from COVID-19 and allow for the later start to the spring semester. Among the changes we are developing, we have added one mid-week break day in February and one in early April.

### THE UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND SPRING PLAN

The University of Richmond will continue to follow its Reopening Plan, which was submitted to and approved by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. This plan has been updated for the spring semester and continues to drive our health and safety protocols, including our face covering and physical distancing requirements, COVID-19 testing and contact tracing, isolation and quarantine, cleaning and disinfection practices, and more. The University's Physical Distance Framework remains in place. Once again, we will begin the semester in the Red Stage.

### ADJUSTMENTS TO MOVE-IN SCHEDULE

As we shared with the community last week, it was necessary to extend the spring move-in schedule over a three-week period in order to allow additional time for COVID-19 testing and maximize the resources available to respond to any positive cases among arriving students. If you have not already done so, please sign-in to StarRez and complete the Spring Return/Testing Appointment application.

### THE HEALTHY WEB COMPACT

As in the fall, in support of shared responsibility to keep our campus safe, all students who wish to return to campus in the spring must sign and abide by our Healthy Web Compact. You can access the new Compact via this link. You must be connected to your VPN to view the Compact if off campus. The Compact provides an overview of the actions all Spiders need to take to ensure the safety of our web. These steps include performing daily health checks, practicing

physical distancing, wearing a face covering, and letting University officials know if you are not feeling well or may have been exposed to the virus. A paramount component of our prevention strategies, which is emphasized in revisions to the Compact, is disclosing to University officials when you have been tested for COVID-19 off campus and the results of that test. We must remain steadfast in our isolation, quarantine, and contact tracing protocols to ensure we are keeping our community safe. Fulsome disclosure of symptoms, potential exposures, and positive test results is a responsibility of all community members, including students, and essential to these efforts.

#### CHANGES TO CONDUCT POLICIES

In the fall, we instituted interim student conduct policies to help encourage students to abide by the Healthy Web Compact, the Physical Distance Framework, and other health and safety policies and protocols. We are updating these policies, which will be shared in early January, to reflect areas that created concern in the fall. The updated policies will be posted to the COVID-19 website and all students should become familiar with these policies, as they are a reminder that there will be consequences for putting the health and safety of other Spiders in jeopardy.

#### PREPARING TO RETURN TO CAMPUS — SYMPTOM TRACKING AND PRE-ARRIVAL TESTING

We want to make sure that students are healthy and well when they return to campus. As a result, all students must monitor their temperature and symptoms via the daily symptom tracker that you receive each morning.

Consistent with the CDC's recommendation, students are strongly encouraged to get a COVID-19 test one to three days prior to their scheduled arrival on campus. This test is not required but will help keep those who are positive for COVID-19 but have no symptoms from infecting others during travel, and it will allow those students to isolate at home rather than on campus. Students who receive a positive test at home should not return to campus and should contact Residence Life and Housing to reschedule their move-in. All students, including those who test before leaving home, will be required to be tested again upon arrival on campus as described below.

#### TESTING UPON ARRIVAL ON CAMPUS

All full-time, degree-seeking students returning to our campus will be required to be tested for COVID-19 prior to the start of spring classes. All students must be tested on campus. Unlike the fall, students cannot be exempted from testing by providing the results of a test taken prior to arrival. Detailed instructions for the testing process and location information will be made available early in the week of Jan. 4. However, students who have tested positive for COVID-19 within 90 days of their arrival on campus and have provided or will provide documentation of such a test will be exempted from initial screening testing on campus. Please continue to use the Student Health portal to upload documentation of any positive test.

As indicated in our Dec. 15 communication on move-in, residential students will move in and be tested during assigned weekends in January and must sign in to Star Rez to complete the Spring Return/Testing Appointment application in order to reserve a time slot for testing.

Undergraduate students living off-campus who are not remote and are registered to take classes in person will be tested between Friday, Jan. 22, and Sunday, Jan. 24, and should complete this form to sign up for testing.

Law, MBA, and SPCS students will be tested between Jan. 11 and Jan. 15 and must sign up for a testing appointment using this link.

For a host of additional information regarding our health and safety plans, please visit the University's COVID-19 Response website.