

Fall 2021 Campus Plan

Truman navigated the 2020-21 school year without any COVID-related stoppages because of proper planning and so many people working together. Our faculty, staff and students made choices that supported a safe community and together we achieved what many thought would be impossible.

As we look forward to the coming school year, we need to draw on that same sense of community. The end of the pandemic is in sight, but it is not over yet. To ensure another successful school year, we must continue to work together to make informed individual and collective decisions.

In the previous year, we learned a lot about how to conduct a school year in less-than-ideal conditions. We will continue to consult local health officials, professional organizations and the plans of other universities to determine how best to move forward. This current plan reflects that work, as well as input from faculty, staff and students addressing the multitude of factors that must be considered to return to campus.

Truman has and will continue to consider the [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\) \(COVID-19\): Guidance for Institutions of Higher Education](#) and [Missouri Center for Public Health Excellence: College and University Recommendations](#). The University will continue to prepare for multiple scenarios and we must be ready to make any necessary adjustments should the need arise.

Health and Wellness

Vaccination Policy. While all students and employees are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated, there is no vaccination requirement at this time. It is important to note that based upon CDC guidance, there are a number of significant benefits of being vaccinated, including that fully vaccinated people can:

- resume activities without wearing masks or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.
- refrain from testing following a known exposure, if asymptomatic, with some exceptions for specific settings.
- refrain from quarantine following a known exposure if asymptomatic.

Masks. Although we do not know the perfect number for [population immunity](#), we know the more people vaccinated in a community, the more difficult it is for COVID-19 to spread from person-to-person. Vaccinations help lower risk for spreading COVID-19. In line with CDC recommendations and the evidence of significant vaccination rates collected at Truman, fully-vaccinated people can resume day-to-day activities without a mask or physical distancing. Our strong vaccination rates also significantly reduce the probability of a substantial COVID-19 outbreak on campus.

Wear a mask if you:

- Are not vaccinated or fully vaccinated (Fully vaccinated means a person had 14 days pass since receiving their second dose of Moderna or Pfizer or their single dose of Johnson and Johnson)
- Have symptoms
- Are immunocompromised
- Enter a place of business or office with a mask policy

Individuals who have underlying medical conditions or are more comfortable wearing a mask are encouraged to do so. Anyone electing to wear a mask should not be asked about their vaccination status or medical conditions.

All public spaces are covered by the University's mask policy, individuals can establish a mask policy for their private offices.

Vaccination Status. Individuals will not be required to provide proof of vaccination in order to not wear masks or participate in routine campus activities. We expect all members of our campus community to practice personal integrity. This includes being honest about one's own vaccination status and respecting the privacy of others' health information.

There may be outside opportunities which require participants to be vaccinated. Examples include NCAA sanctioned activities and clinical education experiences. Students, faculty and staff who participate in these activities may be required to show proof of vaccination.

Experiencing COVID-19 Symptoms. If [symptoms of COVID-19](#) are experienced (without a separate known cause, e.g., asthma, allergies, etc.), the individual should not come to campus or leave the residence hall. Faculty should contact their department chairs; staff should contact their supervisors; and students should contact their faculty members.

Testing. The University will not conduct entry testing of returning students, faculty and staff. The Student Health Center will continue to provide testing for students only. Faculty and staff members should contact their health care provider for any testing needs.

Contact Tracing. The University will work with the Adair County Health Department to conduct contact tracing for Truman students who test positive for COVID-19. Public health privacy requirements will be followed.

Coordination of Communication. To ensure continued communication between the University and local public health entities, Melissa Garzanelli, Director of Human Resources, has been designated as the primary contact person.

Health and Wellness Updates. The most recent and up-to-date information will always be posted on the website - <https://www.truman.edu/coronavirus/>

Academics

Academic Calendar. The Fall 2021 semester will start Aug. 23. There are currently no plans for an altered schedule. The last day of classes will be Dec. 10, with finals ending Dec. 17.

Course Modality Options. With rooms returning to typical capacity, faculty will not be required to maintain social distance guidelines that might have prevented all students from attending at the same time. Faculty can utilize the [modality](#) that provides the best educational experience for students. *For consistency, online classes will remain unchanged for the duration of the semester.*

Absences Due to Quarantine or Isolation. Students who become ill or who need to quarantine or self-isolate should contact their instructor as soon as possible to inform them of the situation and explore possible contingency plans. Administrators and faculty will develop instructional continuity plans to manage the potential for instructor absences.

Residence Halls

First-Year Students. Residence Halls will be open for check-in for first-year students on Wednesday, Aug. 18. Check-in windows will be spread out between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. New incoming first-year students are expected to pre-register for a check-in time slot/window. The purpose of registration windows is to provide a move-in experience that reduces congestion during the move-in process. Additional information is also available on the [Residence Life webpage](#).

Transfer Students. Transfer student arrival is scheduled for 8 a.m. on Aug. 17. The [Transfer Orientation website](#) provides additional information regarding Transfer Student Arrival.

First-Year Commuter Students. Although commuter students will not be moving into residence halls, there are a variety of optional activities planned in which you may like to participate. Truman Week activities for commuter students officially begin Wednesday, Aug. 18 at 6:45 pm. Please check in at the Student Union Building to kick off Truman Week Activities.

Returning Students. Returning students are welcome to return to campus Saturday, Aug. 21 through Sunday, Aug. 22. Returning students planning to arrive on Saturday are expected to pre-register for a check-in time slot. The purpose of registration windows is to provide an experience that reduces congestion during the move-in process.

No Roommate Option. Students may request a double room buyout to live in a double room without a roommate. To request this option, students should contact the Residence Life Office.

Student Quarantine Arrangements. Students who live on campus and need to be quarantined will be asked to remain in their assigned residence hall room or apartment until confirmation from a health care provider indicates they are not infectious. If necessary, students may be temporarily relocated to a space that has a private bathroom. Arrangements will be made with Dining Services to prepare takeout meals for delivery to the student's quarantine location to ensure students have access to their meal plan during this time.

Student Isolation Arrangements. Students who live on campus and who become ill and need to be isolated will be provided a single living space with a private bathroom. Arrangements will be made with Dining Services to prepare takeout meals for delivery to the student's isolation location to ensure students have access to their meal plan during this time. Depending on the severity of symptoms, the student may also wish to return to their familial home to recuperate.

Dining Services

All dining areas will return to typical capacities and seating. Self-service, catering and buffet service will also resume in the fall. Takeout will be available during normal meal times. Sodexo will follow all county health department regulations and is prepared to adjust services should the need arise.

Student Organizations and Extra Curricular Events

Clubs and co-curricular activities will be able to operate, meet and host events. Organizational leadership is responsible for ensuring the group is following all of the appropriate guidelines and parameters established by the University. Departmental student organizations should work directly with their sponsoring department to ensure appropriate compliance with University protocol.

Athletic Events

All coaches, athletics staff and student-athletes will continue to follow policies and procedures recommended by the NCAA and the GLVC, as well as state and local guidelines. Fans will be permitted at Truman sporting events in accordance with local guidelines and the recommendations of the NCAA and GLVC.

University Travel

University sponsored domestic travel will be permitted for fall 2021. All University travel approval processes must be followed. University sponsored international travel is not permitted at this time.

Study Abroad

All study abroad programs have been suspended for fall 2021. Students who had originally planned to participate in a program should contact the Study Abroad Office.