

Sarah Lawrence College COVID-19 Community Pledge

2021-2022

A fundamental component of a Sarah Lawrence education is the exploration of connections. We are a community that thrives at the intersection of disciplines and thought – connecting physics to dance, literature to politics, and writing to mathematics is part of who we are and the intellectual growth we seek during our time together.

Our interconnectedness extends to our shared priorities and responsibility to foster and steward a safe and welcoming environment while recognizing the distinct challenges the COVID-19 pandemic presents. As you are all too aware, the previous year has been unlike any other. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our community and world, we will continue efforts this year intended to protect the wellbeing of our students, faculty, and staff. As part of this effort, all students are required to have been vaccinated in order to be on campus unless they have been approved to be exempt from the requirement due to a medical or religious reasons. While the world has changed dramatically, what remains is that we are critical, empathetic, and compassionate thinkers who support and care for one another.

To provide greater assurance and clarity regarding what you can expect as a member of the Sarah Lawrence community this academic year, below is our compact that all members of Sarah Lawrence College will uphold. This pledge complements the policies included in the Student Handbook and the Employee Return to Campus Guide, and pertains to all students, faculty, and staff, whether living on campus or commuting. By being on campus, all community members agree to these tenets and any other guiding principles that may be added throughout the semester. I agree to:

1. Support one another and prioritize the health and safety of members of the Sarah Lawrence community, recognizing that any individual's actions may affect the community as a whole.
2. If I am not vaccinated, wear a mask while inside all campus facilities and transportation.
3. Recognize that maintaining social distancing with others and wearing a face covering in public spaces are among the most effective ways to limit virus spread. Vaccinated individuals are encouraged to wear a mask as indicated by recent guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Masking requirements for all students may be adjusted as appropriate to meet changing circumstances and public health recommendations.
4. Practice daily care, like washing hands regularly, especially after touching often-touched items, and cleaning common areas after use.
5. Comply with capacity limits of campus rooms and spaces, which may change depending upon virus infection rates in our area, and policies pertaining to visitors and hosting on campus broadly.

6. Following the policy allowing only Sarah Lawrence residential students to be permitted in student living areas this fall.
7. Not smoke on Glen Washington Road between Kimball Avenue and Mead Way, as it is a main pedestrian crossing and thoroughfare for campus.
8. Receive testing for COVID-19 as directed by college officials or others.
9. Relocate to isolation and quarantine spaces designated by the College in accordance with New York State and Westchester County Department of Health COVID-19 guidelines. Any student (vaccinated or unvaccinated) who tests positive for COVID-19 or is symptomatic and awaiting the result of a COVID-19 test, will be placed in isolation. Vaccinated students who are exposed to COVID-19 and are asymptomatic will not be required to quarantine. Quarantine will be required for unvaccinated students who are exposed to COVID-19. Commuter students, as well as faculty and staff, agree to make their own quarantine/isolation arrangements and complete any necessary protocols.
10. Respond to contact tracing requests made by the Westchester County Department of Health and/or the College.
11. Adhere to directives related to disease mitigation given by college officials as circumstances change, which may include restricted use of campus or departing campus in response to changing circumstances or public health order.
12. Stay informed of current guidelines and New York state guidance associated COVID-19 mitigation practices.

The Sarah Lawrence College Student Handbook includes a section regarding COVID-19 related policies. It is critical that all members of the community understand that activities that place individuals at greater risk for exposure to the virus, such as large unsanctioned gatherings, both on and off campus, or failure to comply with required surveillance testing, may result in disciplinary action up to and including removal from on-campus housing, restrictions from campus, or suspension from the College. Our strength is our community and to succeed this fall we must continue to approach one another with consideration and encourage compliance with these expectations as the best means to support our collective health and safety.