

2020 – 2021 Student Code of Conduct: COVID-19 Addendum

#WPITogether: Commitment to Student Safety

The health, safety, and well-being of our community must be the highest priority for each of us during the COVID-19 pandemic. WPI students have a responsibility to practice behaviors to help reopen our campus in a safety-focused, socially-distanced manner. In order to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 on campus and beyond, the following standards and expectations described in this addendum are incorporated into the Student Code of Conduct, effective immediately, and applicable to all undergraduate, graduate, and special students.

All students are expected to comply with the standards, expectations and directives relating to COVID-19 and create a culture that encourages their peers to do the same. WPI will implement a progressive model of corrective action for students who violate the standards and expectations of this addendum or engage in behavior that puts the broader community at risk. Failure to follow these WPI standards and expectations will initially involve a staff member conversation. Continued incidents in which students do not adhere to the standards and expectations set forth in this addendum will result in an educational meeting with a Dean and/or residential life staff member and, ultimately, may result in conduct sanctions, including immediate removal from WPI housing, transition to remote-only learning, or other disciplinary action per the Student Code of Conduct.

WPI may implement additional standards, expectations, or directives at any time, depending upon the local, state, national or global situation.

About COVID-19 and its Risks

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, is a highly infectious, life-threatening disease declared by the World Health Organization to be a global pandemic. There is no current vaccine for COVID-19. COVID-19's highly contagious nature means that contact with others, or contact with surfaces that have been exposed to the virus, may lead to infection. Because of its highly contagious and sometimes "hidden" nature, it is currently very difficult to control the spread of COVID-19 or to determine whether, where, or how a specific individual may have been exposed to the disease. WPI is taking steps recommended by public health authorities to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19. Compliance with these standards and expectations are essential to assisting WPI in minimizing risks to all members of the WPI community.

Yet, even with our best efforts, WPI cannot guarantee a COVID-19-free environment, and there remains a risk that students may contract COVID-19 if living, attending classes, or participating in programs and activities on campus. We do know that consistent and correct face covering wearing, social distancing, and hand washing substantially lessens the spread of COVID-19.

General Standards for the WPI Community:

- WPI students are expected to act in good faith and in the spirit of keeping the health, safety, and well-being of our community as our shared goal. This is critical to helping WPI stay open and operating for on-campus living and classes during this pandemic.
- Students have a responsibility and an obligation to understand and comply with campus policies, procedures and requirements that help support this first principle. A lack of attention to these responsibilities may jeopardize one's personal health as well as the health of others.

- If students observe their peers not following the guidelines, they should speak up. Often, a friendly correction from a fellow student is all that it takes to encourage healthy, safe practices.
 - If that approach is neither possible nor appropriate, students may report their concerns to staff within the Dean of Students Office at dean-of-students@wpi.edu or 508-831-5201 or on this [report form](#).

Safety-Minded Behavioral Expectations:

- Before returning to campus, all students must complete **WPI's online educational training** about COVID-19 signs and symptoms, cleaning protocols, and other best practices for preventing the spread of COVID-19.
- All students must agree to, and are expected to live by, the [WPITogether Pledge](#).
- At all times, both on- and off-campus, students are expected to **maintain social distancing** (six feet) between themselves and others.
- Students must use **face coverings** that meet [CDC guidelines](#).
 - [Face coverings](#) must be worn anytime students are outside their residence hall room, including within all academic and public spaces and dining facilities (except while eating).
 - Any disability accommodation must be approved by the [Office of Accessibility Services](#).
- **On-campus students** are expected to regularly clean and disinfect their residential space. This includes their bedroom, bathroom area before and after each use, and where applicable their kitchen. **Off-campus students** are expected to maintain their own cleaning and disinfecting plan for their off-campus living environment in cooperation with any roommates.
- Students should **engage in frequent hand washing**, in the manner recommended by the [CDC](#).

COVID-19 Health Expectations:

- Students returning to campus will participate in **regular COVID-19 testing**. Testing is designed to assist with the safety and welfare of the university community. Failure to comply with testing protocols, which may be subject to change, will result in Administrative Interim Action as follows:
 - Students are expected to complete each assigned COVID-19 test within a designated time window.
 - If the [initial routine test](#) is missed, the student will be contacted by the Testing Coordinator or designee to discuss why they missed their test, and to explain the importance of our testing protocol and timely follow-up. They will then be directed to the testing site for the next available makeup test (likely later that day or the next day).
 - If the student fails to participate in the [first routine makeup test](#), the student will be contacted by a staff member or designee in the Dean of Students Office and directed to the testing site for the next available makeup test. This staff member will also contact the student's parents to inform them of the student's second failure to appear for testing, emphasizing the importance of the testing protocol for the health and safety of the entire campus community, and inform the

parents that the student must show up for the next makeup test (likely later that day or the next day). The discussion with the parents and student will include that another missed test will result in immediate removal from campus housing and transition to on-line classes for the semester.

- If the student fails to participate in any further testing, the student must leave campus and transition to on-line classes only. If removed from on-campus classes due to not following through with testing expectations, the student will not receive a refund for campus room and board charges for the semester. The student may not be on-campus for the semester.
- Testing compliance expectations are progressive, cumulative, need not occur consecutively, and may occur within a relatively short time window.
- Students must use the symptom tracker daily to **check and report any COVID-19 related symptoms**.
 - If feeling unwell, students must remain in their place of residence and contact Student Health Services at 508-831-5520 or healthcenter@wpi.edu.
- **Any student who develops symptoms of COVID-19, tests positive for COVID-19, or is notified that they are a “close contact” is expected to immediately:**
 - Contact Student Health Services at 508-831-5520 or healthcenter@wpi.edu.
 - Stay in their place of residence until given instructions by the Student Health Services.
 - Wait to be cleared to leave their residence by the Student Health Services.
 - After hours, contact the Hahnemann Family Health Center 508-334-8830 and identify yourself as a WPI student. The doctor on call will return your call as soon as possible.
- If directed by the Student Health Services, students are expected to remain in self-quarantine or self-isolation (as applicable) for a time period determined by Student Health Services, in consultation with public health authorities, and/or move to an isolation space in order to receive medical care. ***Students who violate quarantine or isolation expectations will immediately be moved to on-line classes, removed from campus housing, and not be permitted on campus for the semester.***

Off-Campus Student Social Gatherings and Parties:

Many students live in the local residential community, where families also reside. As such, it is imperative that WPI students be respectful of their local neighbors, actively considering how noise, trash, social gatherings, vehicle traffic, etc. directly impact the living environment.

- WPI students are expected to comply with the most recent [Massachusetts Gatherings Order](#). Large social gatherings/parties that negatively impact the local living environment, jeopardize the safety and welfare of the neighborhood and WPI students, or draw attention from neighbors or the Worcester Police Department and/or the WPI Campus Police Department will be quickly addressed. ***Gathering/party hosts (at minimum) will be held accountable per the Student Code of Conduct. If found responsible for the allegation, conduct sanctions will include the immediate movement to on-line classes, and the inability to be on campus for the semester.***

Residence Hall Expectations

Residential Students are expected to review and abide by the [WPI Housing & Dining Contract](#) including the [Academic Year 2020-21: COVID Addendum](#) as well as the published [Residence Hall Policies](#), including but not limited to:

- All on-campus residential students are expected to regularly clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces in their residence hall room and any bathroom surfaces.
- Residents do not need to wear face coverings in their own room, yet are required to wear face coverings in common areas, such as elevators, stairways, hallways, community bathrooms, and other common spaces.
- Residence hall community bathrooms will have occupancy limits that residents are expected to observe. Additionally, for sanitary reasons cell phone use in community bathrooms will be prohibited.
- Common rooms, such as lounges and tech suites will be closed. Community use furniture should not be moved for any reason to support social distancing.
- Personal furniture such as bookcases and chairs will not be permitted in the residence halls.
- Only students who live in the residence hall, as well as necessary WPI staff and representatives may enter the residence hall. No outside visitors or guests will be permitted.
- Resident gatherings of any kind where social distancing and face covering guidelines are not being followed are strictly prohibited.
- There are **situations where one egregious act, whether on-campus or off-campus, can lead to immediate removal from campus**, a transition to remote learning, and/or a referral to the formal student resolution and appeals process. These may include, but are not limited to:
 - Not following all rules of quarantine or isolation when required to do so by health professionals.
 - Not adhering to travel restrictions.
 - Hosting a gathering or party where the number of guests - or social distance between guests -violate the public health guidelines (this includes both on and off-campus residences).
 - Inviting/hosting individuals who are not members of the WPI community onto campus in violation of the visitor policy.
 - Purposefully exposing others to or threatening others with the fear of contagion (e.g., deliberately touching, coughing or sneezing on another with the clear purpose of transmitting germs or creating fear of transmission).

Each WPI student must help ensure the overall safety of the WPI community by strictly adhering to these standards and expectations in order to support the continued delivery of in-person courses and to help mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission on the WPI campus. WPI is counting on your cooperation and support.