FALL 2020 CAMPUS GUIDE FOR AS&E STUDENTS
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June 23, 2020

Dear students:

As President Monaco announced, Tufts will restart residential campus operations in fall 2020, following careful planning by faculty, staff and university leadership for the past several months. All undergraduate and graduate students in the School of Arts and Sciences (including the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University) and the School of Engineering (collectively, AS&E) are invited to return in person to Tufts this fall.

The 2020–21 academic year will be a different experience for all of us. The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged us to reimagine every aspect of the Tufts experience—academic, social, and personal. The adjusted academic offerings, changed student life experiences, and new behaviors that are required of all of us and described in this guide are an unwelcome test.

But this is a challenge that Tufts students are uniquely suited to face. Here, our students dive deep into the fundamental issues confronting society. We contribute to the public good with our scholarship and our service. We make the world more socially just through our actions. And we sacrifice of ourselves for the benefit of others. The selflessness, creativity in the face of challenge, and stewardship of each other that are so often on display by Tufts students are virtues that will help us rise to this challenge together and create a new experience that is uniquely Tufts.

This guide summarizes several of the most important changes to the academic enterprise and the student experience for the 2020–21 academic year in AS&E. The guidance in this document applies to all undergraduate and graduate students in AS&E and takes effect immediately. Please read this guide carefully while making plans for the year ahead and considering what is best for you. This guidance is current as of the date of publication. Public health conditions will likely prompt occasional changes to the academic and campus life experience. All students will be notified of relevant updates to these guidelines through ongoing communication.

Once you have had a chance to review this guide and think about your personal situation, you can make the decision to participate in person or remotely this fall, or alternatively to take time away from Tufts. While we anticipate that most students will make the decision to participate in person, we understand that the decision to do so is a personal one that will be informed by several factors. All students are required to let us know their plans for fall 2020 enrollment by June 30. Undergraduate first-year students should submit their decision via their new student checklist; all other undergraduates should submit their decision via this online form. Graduate students in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences should complete this online form, and graduate students in the School of Engineering should submit their response via this online form.

We welcome comments, feedback, and ideas as we chart the new course described in this plan together. Please feel free to share your thoughts on how we can create the best fall 2020 together by writing to covid19@tufts.edu.

Warmly,
James M. Glaser, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences
Jianmin Qu, Dean of the School of Engineering
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Until a vaccine or curative treatment is developed, there is no single strategy that will stop the pandemic or make it possible to return to pre-pandemic life at Tufts. However, using multiple layers of protection does make it possible to reduce the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. In fall 2020, the layers of protection in AS&E will include frequent COVID-19 testing, wearing face coverings, physical distancing, contact tracing, a protocol for rapid isolation of students who become infected with COVID-19 and self-quarantine for those exposed, and a variety of changes to coursework, housing, dining, and other aspects of campus life.

This guide describes the health measures, policy changes, adjustments to the academic enterprise, changes to the campus social experience, and updates to available university services that are being implemented to reduce the spread of SARS-CoV-2. This guide is primarily for students; separate guidance for faculty and staff to return to campus has been provided by Tufts Human Resources.

Personal Health on Campus

Testing and Symptom Monitoring

- All students who choose to return to Tufts physically this fall will be screened and tested for the SARS-CoV-2 virus. In addition to universal testing upon arrival, tests will be administered to healthy students frequently throughout the academic year.
- COVID-19 testing will be provided at no additional charge to students.
- Students, faculty, and staff will be required to monitor their health regularly and will complete an online daily health report that will require students to take their temperature and answer questions regarding any symptoms they may be experiencing.

Face Coverings

- All students are required to wear face coverings that cover their mouth and nose at all times when another person is within six feet of them, in both indoor and outdoor spaces, both on and off campus. The only time face coverings are not required is when they are (1) in their bedroom with only their roommate(s) who share the same bedroom, (2) when eating, or (3) when doing personal grooming.
- Students will be allowed to sit at tables together in the dining centers and other campus spaces to eat with only members of their residential cohort.
- Face coverings must completely cover the nose and mouth. Tufts will be providing disposable masks to students, free of charge. Students will be provided with one mask per day beginning with their initial screening test. Distribution protocol will be shared with students closer to the start of the fall semester. If students choose to bring their own cloth face covering, it will need to be laundered after each day’s use.
Physical Distancing

- Because keeping space between people is one of the best tools there is to avoid being exposed to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, students are required to practice physical distancing, including staying six feet away from all people not in their residential cohort.
- Students are expected to refrain from gathering in large groups, unless the purpose of the gathering is free expression, in which case face coverings and physical distancing are required.
- The university has taken several actions to make physical distancing easier and provide periodic reminders. For example, the university has already or will before the fall term reduce seating capacity in the dining centers and reduce the maximum capacity of classrooms and other academic spaces.

Education about Personal Health Measures

- Student compliance with these preventative health measures is essential for the health of everyone who is physically on campus and is thus essential for in-person education to be an option in 2020–21.
- Before returning to campus, all AS&E students will be required to complete an online educational experience regarding the health precautions, policy changes, and other behavioral expectations that will be in place during the fall semester.

Contact Tracing, Isolation, Self-Quarantine

- Despite the many reasonable steps Tufts is taking to prevent the transmission of the virus, the presence and transmission of COVID-19 on campus is likely, if not inevitable, during this ongoing global pandemic. Therefore, the university has developed protocols for isolating people who have COVID-19 and helping people who may have been exposed to COVID-19 to self-quarantine.
- A student who is diagnosed with COVID-19 will be asked to provide information about other people they have been in close contact with during the time when they may have been infectious and able to transmit the virus. A representative will contact students who have been identified as having an exposure and provide them with information and resources to self-quarantine.
- Isolation housing will be provided in a residence hall that will be used exclusively for this purpose. Isolation housing will be made available to students who have COVID-19, whether they live on or off campus, subject to availability and public health guidance.
- Students who have been exposed and need to stay separated from others will self-quarantine in their current residence.
Academic Life

Coursework
• The academic calendar fall 2020 and spring semester 2021 remains as originally published. All scheduled university holidays, academic breaks, reading periods, and final exams remain as originally scheduled.
• Courses in 2020–21 will be offered in a variety of formats, giving students significant options to study in person or virtually. A large number of courses will be offered in a hybrid format that includes both in-person and virtual components to allow participation by people who are physically present and those who are remote, but some courses will be in person only, and others will be virtual only.
• Physical distancing will be required of everyone participating in coursework in person. Room assignments for many courses will be changed, and the number of people participating in a course section may be lowered to make this necessary distancing possible. Large lecture sections with more than 50 people will not take place in person.
• During 2020–21, normal grading policies will apply. Exceptional pass/fail (“EP/F”) is not currently being considered.
• SMFA studio courses will be offered in virtual format only in fall 2020. Students may use the studio spaces for project work by appointment at designated times.

Study Abroad
Unfortunately, study abroad has been canceled for fall 2020. Our goal is to move forward with spring plans, but we are closely monitoring the global situation.

Living on Campus

Assignment
• Housing options will be offered to undergraduate and graduate students in 2020–21. As usual, all first-year and sophomore students will be guaranteed university-provided housing. Juniors, seniors, and graduate students may opt into on-campus housing if space is available.
• Reallocation of specific residence hall spaces is necessary to de-densify some buildings. To accomplish this, the university will be housing undergraduate students in Blakeley Hall and a temporary residential complex called “The Mods,” which are modular residential units being assembled on the Vouté tennis courts and Fletcher parking lot this summer.
• Given the new housing options and the need to de-densify some buildings, the Office of Residential Life and Learning (ORLL) will embark on a modified housing confirmation and reselection process. All returning students who currently have a confirmed fall housing assignment and participate in the 2020–21 year in person are guaranteed to remain in on-campus housing but will be required to participate in this modified housing confirmation and reselection process and may end up with a different housing assignment.
• First-year students participating in person this year will be assigned a space in a first-year residence hall. Students should expect a notification from the ORLL in July with their housing assignment.
Residential Cohorts

- Students living on campus will be organized into residential cohorts. Residential cohorts are small groups, usually housing six to 12 students. The residential cohort provides students the opportunity for very close personal and social contact with others, including the ability to have a roommate and share meals.
- Face coverings are not required when students are in their bedroom and the only other person present is their assigned roommate(s). Any time students leave their bedroom and are or may be within six feet of others, including going to common spaces or bathrooms, face coverings are required.
- When interacting with only members of their residential cohort in residence hall areas, physical distancing should be maintained where possible, but may be relaxed where needed as long as masks are worn.
- Students will be assigned to use specific bathrooms, and limited occupancy in the bathroom spaces will be implemented.
- If a student is diagnosed with COVID-19, the people most at risk are likely their roommate(s) and those in their residential cohort. If one student in a residential cohort is symptomatic and/or tests positive for COVID-19, all members of the residential cohort will likely be required to self-quarantine.
- New students will be placed into residential cohorts based on living compatibility, as determined by the housing questionnaire. Continuing students will reengage in modified housing confirmation and reselection to determine the best space for them.

Guests

In order to limit the spread of SARS-CoV-2, it is necessary to limit contact between people, particularly in the residence halls, which have high density. Accordingly, absolutely no guests from outside the university, or Tufts students who live in other buildings, will be allowed in residence halls during the 2020–21 academic year.

Living Off Campus

- Students living in off-campus apartments will be considered assigned to a residential cohort with those people whom they share an apartment or house, as long as the group is no more than 12 people and all people in the apartment or house consent to this model.
- Gatherings at off-campus residences will be very limited in size during 2020–21. Currently the limit is 10 people, including the residents of the apartment.

Dining

- As the pandemic evolves and state regulations change, it is anticipated that dine-in service will be possible in the dining centers at various times during the academic year, while at other times all service will be takeout only.
- During takeout only, access to Carmichael and Dewick-MacPhie will be by reservation to prevent crowding in the dining centers at pick-up time. Meals will be packaged by Dining staff for takeout.
• When dine-in service is permitted, reservations will be required. Students may dine-in with members of their residential cohort and no one else. Seating availability will be significantly reduced to allow for proper physical distancing.
• Because many fewer people will be able to be in the dining centers at one time, extended meal hours will be offered throughout the year. Additionally, new locations may be employed, particularly for distributing to-go meals. Updated hours and locations will be posted on the Dining website later this summer.

Student Organizations

As much as possible, student organization events should occur through a virtual format. In-person events will need to be approved through the Office for Campus Life, will include attendance caps, and must meet all other university guidelines for physical distancing and personal protection.

Travel

• Students will generally not be permitted to participate in university-sponsored travel in fall 2020; a decision about spring 2021 will be made in the mid- or late-fall term.
• Students from across the United States and around the world will be welcomed back to campus this fall 2020 semester. Once the term begins, Tufts University strongly advises students to refrain from extended personal travel until such time as they return home or move elsewhere after the fall semester has concluded. This means that students should refrain from travel over weekends, on holidays, during Thanksgiving break, or otherwise from the time they arrive at the start of the fall term until the time they depart at the end of the semester. Tufts will be providing expanded services during Thanksgiving break and other break periods.

Facilities

• Reservations will be required to access some particularly high-traffic facilities, including the Steve Tisch Sports and Fitness Center, the Dining Center in Carmichael Hall, and the Dewick-MacPhie Dining Center.
• To provide for physical distancing, it may be necessary to design and implement a new “flow” of people through many buildings. Signs, floor markings, and other directions indicating this new flow will be installed in many buildings.
• There will be increased cleaning across campus by our contracted custodial services team, C&W. The frequency and type of cleaning for each space will be determined by space purpose and volume of use. Many academic spaces will be cleaned once per day, and residential common spaces will be cleaned twice per day. Designated high-traffic areas, such as high-volume elevator lobbies, high-volume restrooms, and other similar areas will be cleaned multiple times per day. Cleaning and disinfection protocols specified by public health authorities will be implemented.
Risk and Options

Even with these mitigation measures and students’ full compliance with the guidance provided in this document, it is unfortunately not possible to completely eliminate the risk of COVID-19 infection on campus. It is likely that there will be cases of COVID-19 on campus during 2020–21. It is possible that students may become ill and spread the disease to others in their residential cohorts, in their classes, and others on campus. It is also likely that some students will become infected at Tufts and spread it to family members and any other people they have close contact with outside of Tufts.

Options

Accordingly, each AS&E student has three options:

1. Participate in the fall 2020 semester in person.
2. Participate in the fall 2020 semester remotely.
3. Take time away from Tufts. New undergraduate or graduate students may request to defer their enrollment at Tufts. Returning undergraduate students may take a personal leave, and all returning students can take a medical leave.

In making a decision whether or not to return to Tufts this fall, each student should think carefully about their personal health and their tolerance for risk. Tufts encourages students to consult with their physician, family, and others important to them in making the decision about participation in the fall 2020 term.

Notification of Decision

- **All students are required to notify Tufts of their decision among these three options by June 30, 2020.** Continuing/returning students must indicate their plans on [this simple form](#). Incoming first-year and transfer students must indicate their intent through their [new student checklist](#).
- Students in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences should complete [this online form](#), and graduate students in the School of Engineering should submit their response via [this online form](#).

All students in the School of Arts and Sciences, School of Engineering, and School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts are required to notify Tufts of their decision by June 30, 2020.
BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

As an institution of higher learning, Tufts values intellectual curiosity, scholarship, and critical thinking. We are also an institution with a deep commitment to inclusivity, equity, and the personal growth and development of our students.

Our fall 2020 plans aim to structure the academic enterprise and other campus operations to be consistent with scientific evidence and public health guidance; honor our commitment to inclusivity; and create a vibrant environment for students to learn and grow. This section summarizes the information about the pandemic that informed the university decisions described in this guide and the principles that guided university decisions.

It is worth particular note that SARS-CoV-2—the virus that causes coronavirus disease 2019, or COVID-19—is new. Scientific understanding of the virus, the disease, and effective preventive measures is continuing to evolve; thus, guidance from public health authorities and directives from government may change. The information presented in this section is a brief, partial summary of relevant information known as of the date of publication. Due to the rapidly changing nature of the scientific knowledge of the virus and disease, some of this information may turn out to be incomplete or even inaccurate. As the pandemic continues, Tufts is committed to monitoring trustworthy sources of information about the pandemic. We also urge all community members to do the same.

What evidence exists about transmission of SARS-CoV-2 as of June 2020?

SARS-CoV-2 is believed to spread primarily through respiratory droplets released when infected individuals cough, sneeze, talk, laugh, or sing.\(^1\)\(^-\)\(^4\) Evidence also increasingly suggests that aerosolized particles (tiny airborne particles smaller than respiratory droplets) contribute to the spread of COVID-19.\(^5\)\(^-\)\(^8\) Surface transmission may also be plausible; studies have demonstrated that the virus can remain detectable on surfaces—particularly smooth surfaces, like stainless steel and plastic—for up to several days.\(^6\)\(^,\)\(^9\)

Larger respiratory droplets are believed to spread about three to six-and-a-half feet from the infected person who releases them, while smaller droplets and aerosols spread farther—perhaps up to 26 feet during a sneeze.\(^10\)\(^-\)\(^11\)

Medical experts have determined that both asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic people can spread SARS-CoV-2.\(^12\) Transmission from people who exhibited no symptoms, or only mild symptoms, is likely responsible for the rapid spread of COVID-19 across the world.\(^13\)\(^-\)\(^14\) “Superspreader” events, in which one person infects a large number of people, may also play a significant role in the spread of COVID-19.\(^15\)
SARS-CoV-2 impacts different people differently. Most people (around 80%) diagnosed with COVID-19 experience a relatively mild form of the illness, while others experience severe complications that can lead to death.\textsuperscript{16-17} Immunocompromised people and people with pre-existing conditions, like hypertension, diabetes, and heart disease, appear to be at higher risk of severe complications and death from COVID-19.\textsuperscript{18-20} While people of all ages can contract and transmit COVID-19, data from the CDC show a positive correlation between age and number of deaths.\textsuperscript{21} Older people are more likely to develop severe forms of COVID-19 and more likely to die from the disease.\textsuperscript{22-23} The pandemic—both the disease itself and the resulting disruptions to people’s lives—can also negatively impact psychological health and well-being.\textsuperscript{24-25}

### What evidence exists about what can protect against COVID-19 as of June 2020?

In the absence of an effective vaccine, a multipronged approach that includes a number of public health interventions is most effective in limiting the impact of COVID-19.\textsuperscript{26-27}

Physical distance from infected people—even those who may not know they are infected—is critical in preventing the spread of COVID-19.\textsuperscript{28-30} A systematic review of studies of SARS-CoV-2 and similar respiratory viruses showed that one meter of distance (about three feet) from an infected person was strongly correlated with lower transmission rates, and two meters of distance (about six feet) was linked to even lower transmission rates.\textsuperscript{8} This is in line with what we understand about the distance respiratory droplets spread, and the current belief that respiratory droplets are the primary way SARS-CoV-2 is transmitted. The CDC recommends that everyone maintain at least six feet of distance from others, and the WHO recommends at least one meter of distance.\textsuperscript{31-32}

The need for physical distance to protect against the spread of COVID-19 can also be balanced against the need for social connection to protect against the negative psychological impact of strict isolation. Research has suggested that limiting large gatherings, but allowing social contact within small, strategically-created social clusters can effectively protect against both the spread of COVID-19 and the negative impacts of social isolation.\textsuperscript{33}

Facial coverings including masks can also substantially inhibit the spread of COVID-19 by blocking the respiratory droplets and aerosols that spread SARS-CoV-2. N95 and medical masks are most effective, but homemade cloth masks can still limit the number of respiratory droplets and aerosols the wearer spreads.\textsuperscript{27, 34} Cloth masks also retain respiratory droplets, so it is important to launder them after use.\textsuperscript{10}

Hand hygiene is also important in curbing the spread of SARS-CoV-2.\textsuperscript{35-36} Hands can transport respiratory viruses like SARS-CoV-2, and regularly washing hands with soap and water has been shown to limit the spread of respiratory viruses.\textsuperscript{36-38} Alcohol-based hand sanitizer can also be effective against respiratory viruses like SARS-CoV-2.\textsuperscript{35, 39}
Although surface transmission is not believed to be the primary way SARS-CoV-2 spreads, we can still take action against any remnants of the virus remaining on surfaces. Using cleaning agents, such as bleach, disinfectants, ethanol, and hand soap, can significantly reduce the level of infectious virus on a surface. 39-40

**Why did we decide to return to campus this fall based on the information known at this time?**

Until a vaccine or curative treatment is developed, there is no single strategy that will stop the pandemic or make it possible to return to pre-pandemic life at Tufts. However, using multiple layers of protection does make it possible to reduce the spread of SARS-CoV-2. In fall 2020, the layers of protection in AS&E will include frequent COVID-19 testing, wearing face coverings, physical distancing, contact tracing, a protocol for rapid isolation of students who become infected with COVID-19 and self-quarantine for those exposed, and a variety of changes to coursework, housing, dining, and other aspects of campus life. The rest of this guide summarizes many of those changes.

At its core, Tufts is a student-centered institution. The richness of the Tufts experience comes from all aspects of campus life, not from classroom settings alone. Tufts students learn by meeting people from diverse backgrounds, by joining new extracurricular activities, by engaging in volunteer work, and by immersing themselves in a community of other bright, creative, passionate people who are actively expanding their world views. We believe the connections students make on campus are vital—especially now, as our society faces new challenges presented by COVID-19.

The School of Arts and Sciences (including SMFA at Tufts) and the School of Engineering, are fortunate to have the resources, facilities, and support services to manage a return to campus this fall. The nature of our programs and our campus are highly adaptable, allowing us to take reasonable steps to mitigate the risk of the spread of COVID-19. In light of our commitment to student-centered learning, we believe there is significant value in inviting students to participate in the fall semester in person.
PERSONAL HEALTH ON CAMPUS

The COVID-19 pandemic demands many changes in daily life in order to minimize the further spread of infection within our communities. People who are present on campus at Tufts must be particularly attentive to these changes. Collective experiences based on strong social ties are cherished parts of the Tufts experience that must be adapted to prevent the spread of COVID-19. By being aware of their physical health, students will play a vital role in prioritizing the health and safety of the Tufts community.

While the risk of COVID-19 infection cannot be eliminated altogether, it can be mitigated. That is why Tufts is implementing multiple layers of protection that are designed to prioritize the health and safety of the entire community and taking reasonable and practical steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. There are four layers to this plan: testing and symptom monitoring, face coverings, physical distancing, and enhanced personal hygiene.

Testing and Symptom Monitoring

COVID-19 Testing
An important part of preventing the spread of COVID-19 is robust testing. At Tufts, the testing strategy will have three components:

- **Testing upon arrival:** All students who choose to participate in the fall semester in person will be screened and tested for the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Students living in the residence halls will be tested upon their arrival to campus. Students living off-campus will be tested at a designated time prior to the start of the fall term. The testing protocol may involve a single test or multiple tests several days apart. Students will be notified of the protocol later this summer. Testing will be coordinated with a physically distanced move-in.
- **Symptom-based and exposure-caused testing:** When a student has symptoms that indicate a SARS-CoV-2 test should be performed, a test will be administered. When a student is identified as having a positive test, they will be required to isolate and their close contacts will be notified, advised to quarantine, and offered testing in accordance with public health guidelines.
- **Regular testing of healthy students:** In addition to universal testing upon arrival, SARS-CoV-2 tests will be administered to healthy students frequently throughout the 2020–21 academic year. The frequency of testing needed to detect infections in order to catch spread quickly and initiate contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine procedures is being modeled and will be announced later this summer. All students who participate in the 2020–21 year in person are required to complete testing when scheduled.

All students who choose to return to campus for the 2020–21 academic year will be required to participate in testing upon arrival, symptom-based and exposure-caused testing, and the regular testing program. Additionally, students will be required to give permission to Health Services to disclose the results of their tests and their compliance with the testing procedures, but no other health information, to public health authorities and relevant university offices.
The purpose of regular testing is to detect individuals who may be infected with the virus but who are not experiencing any symptoms. Research has shown that people without symptoms who have the virus are able to spread the infection to others. In fact, a person may be at highest risk for transmitting the virus one to two days before they develop symptoms. When a student tests positive for COVID-19, the contact tracing and isolation procedure noted in a section below will be activated.

Except as otherwise permitted or required by law, the university will not disclose a student’s COVID-19 test results to their families, emergency contacts, or anyone else other than to facilitate contract tracing, treatment, infection control at the university or for other public health purposes. Whenever possible, the university will use and disclose test results without names or identifiers.

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, the contact tracing and isolation procedure noted in a section below will be activated. Students who test positive for COVID-19 are encouraged to share this information with their emergency contacts, family and friends, or anyone else who may be able to support them during their isolation period and subsequent recovery. Students are also free to authorize the university to share such information on their behalf for public health and student support purposes.

**Testing Methods**
Testing will be done using a reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (PCR) method. Collection of the sample involves placing a swab within the lower part of the nasal passages. This type of sampling is generally much more comfortable than a nasopharyngeal swab, which is how most samples were collected in the early part of the outbreak.

Currently Health Services is not recommending routine antibody testing. At this time, antibody testing is useful for research, epidemiological surveillance, and in certain cases for confirming a diagnosis in someone who is sick. There is not enough scientific information to prove that the test is reliable or that having antibodies means that someone is immune to the virus.

Regular COVID-19 testing will be provided by Tufts University at no charge to students. COVID-19 tests done when illness is suspected will be billed to insurance. The student health insurance plan covers diagnostic testing at 100 percent with no copay or other out-of-pocket costs at Health Services, so there will be no cost for this testing to students enrolled in this plan. Many other private insurance plans also cover SARS-CoV-2 testing and treatment at 100 percent as of the date of publication. If a student has an insurance plan other than the UnitedHealthcare Student Resources plan, they should check before arriving on campus to determine if their insurance plan covers diagnostic COVID-19 testing.
Daily Symptom Monitoring
Students will be required to monitor themselves for symptoms associated with COVID-19 and consult with a health-care provider when appropriate. To help students monitor their daily symptoms, the university will provide each student with an online daily health report to complete. The daily health report will require students to take their temperature and answer questions regarding any symptoms they may be experiencing. Students who report a fever or other symptoms that may be associated with COVID-19 will be directed to Health Services for further evaluation.

Health Services will send instructions for daily symptom monitoring to students later this summer.

All students physically returning to campus are asked to bring a working thermometer with them to facilitate this daily symptom monitoring.

Self-Reporting Symptoms and COVID Exposures
If a student returns physically to Tufts in 2020–21 and develops any symptoms, or comes into close contact with a person who has COVID-19 (or is suspected to have COVID-19), the student is required to email covid19@tufts.edu as soon as possible. This will allow the university to take appropriate steps to begin contact tracing and to alert individuals to any potential exposure.

If a student is sick with COVID-19-associated symptoms or believe that they have been exposed to the virus, they should not leave their residence. Instead, the student should contact Health Services via phone at 617-627-3350 for assessment and testing. At their guidance, the student may be assigned to isolation until they are cleared by a health-care provider to return to classes, or the student may be asked to self-quarantine to avoid exposing others while waiting to see if symptoms of COVID-19 develop. Isolation and self-quarantine protocols are described in greater detail in a later section.

Face Coverings
All students are required to wear face coverings that cover their mouth and nose at all times when another person is within six feet of them, in both indoor and outdoor spaces, both on and off campus. The only time face coverings are not required is when students are (1) in their bedroom with only their roommate(s) who share the same bedroom, (2) when eating, and (3) when doing personal grooming.

Face coverings must completely cover the nose and mouth. Tufts will be providing disposable masks to students, free of charge. Students will be provided with one mask per day beginning with their initial screening test. Distribution protocol will be shared with students closer to the start of the fall semester. If students choose to bring their own cloth face covering, it will need to be laundered after each use (at the end of the day, prior to the next day’s use). Students who wish to use their own reusable masks should plan accordingly based on their ability to effectively launder/clean the masks. Masks with one-way valves will not be allowed on campus, as these masks do not effectively protect others from the individual wearing the mask.
Mask Required Outside Bedroom

Students who live on campus must wear face coverings in all residential areas outside their bedroom including bathrooms, lounges, hallways, and all other common spaces in the residence hall. The only space in the residence hall where a student can be without their mask is their bedroom, and this is possible only if the only people present in the bedroom are assigned roommate(s) (not suitemates, housemates, or apartment-mates).

Similarly, students who live off-campus should only have their mask off when in their bedroom with others who live in the same bedroom. Students are required to wear masks when in living rooms, kitchens, yards, driveways, sidewalks, porches, or other interior or exterior areas of the property, regardless of the number of people present or whether all such people are members of the same residential cohort.

Eating

It is necessary to remove a face covering in order to eat. When they remove their face covering to eat, students may choose either to stay six feet away from others or to eat with members of their residential cohort. Students will be allowed to sit at tables together in the dining centers and other campus spaces only to eat with members of their residential cohort. Residential cohorts are described further in the “Living on Campus” section.

Personal Grooming

Wearing masks in bathrooms is generally required, but they may be removed while doing personal grooming that is not possible with a mask on (e.g., showering, brushing teeth, washing face, etc.). Students are advised to stay six feet apart from others while their masks are removed for this purpose.

The ability to wear face coverings in a variety of settings (indoor and outdoor) and temperatures (hot and cold) and for extended periods of time will be an essential requirement for students who intend to register at Tufts in person this fall. If students have a disability or medical condition that requires accommodations for a specific type of mask or face covering, they should contact The StAAR (Student Accessibility & Academic Resource) Center.

Students are expected to launder and care for their own cloth masks if they choose to bring them. Students are responsible for any costs associated with cleaning their cloth masks. Instructions on use of and care for face coverings is available from the CDC.

Laboratories and Clinic Settings

Students working in laboratory settings are subject to additional guidance regarding the use of face masks and/or face coverings. Reusable cloth masks are strongly discouraged in laboratory settings, and students who come to class wearing cloth masks may need to change masks upon entering a laboratory setting. For additional information regarding the appropriate use of face masks in laboratories and other research areas, check with the relevant lab manager or principal investigator.
Physical Distancing

Keeping space between people is one of the best tools to avoid being exposed to the SARS-CoV-2 virus and to slow its spread. Because a person can spread the virus before knowing they are sick, it is important to maintain physical distance from others when possible, even if there are no symptoms. Physical distancing is important for everyone and helps to protect people who are at higher risk of getting very sick. Students are required to follow these physical distancing practices:

- Always stay at least six feet (about two arms’ length) from other people, except those in the student’s residential cohort. This applies to all classrooms, indoor and outdoor spaces, residential spaces, any dining location, lab and clinical spaces, studios, libraries, gyms, and workout spaces.
- Do not gather in groups of more than 10 people at any time, on or off campus, unless all people are in the student’s residential cohort or six feet of physical distance can be maintained between all people present. This means that no large parties will be permitted and a variety of other events will change to a different format or be canceled.
- Stay out of crowded places and avoid mass gatherings. Gatherings of any size for the purpose of freedom of expression are permitted, but organizers are cautioned to promote the health of attendees by encouraging face coverings and structuring activities in a way that permits physical distancing. Students who participate in large gatherings for the purposes of freedom of expression, on or off campus, are required to maintain physical distance from others and wear a face covering at the event, as is required in every other circumstance.
- Follow current public health guidance, which may change as new scientific data emerges.

The university has taken several actions to make physical distancing easier and provide periodic reminders. For example, the university has already or will before the fall term:

- Reduced seating capacity in the dining centers and spaced the tables and chairs further apart.
- Reduced the maximum capacity of classrooms and other academic spaces. Room assignments for courses, and thus academic schedules, will be updated over the summer. Students will receive further communication about this prior to the start of the fall term.
- Adjusted courses with enrollments of 50 or more to meet virtually instead of in person or changed the schedule so that fewer people are present at once.
- Placed signs, floor markings, and other directional aids to make entrances and exits to certain buildings one-directional.
- Changed seating configuration in the Tisch Library, Mayer Campus Center, and a variety of other student spaces.
- Decreased the number of people who can be in the Tisch Fitness Center, Eaton computer labs, and a variety of other spaces at once.
• Where many students share one residential bathroom, occupancy has been reduced to cap the number of users. Additionally, students will be assigned to specific bathrooms where possible to adhere to usage numbers.

Students will be responsible for following all physical distancing guidelines, occupancy limits, and reduced seating configurations.

Enhanced Personal Hygiene

Handwashing
Students should wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after they have been in a public place, or after blowing their nose, coughing, sneezing, or touching their face. If soap and water are not readily available, they should use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol. When using hand sanitizer, students should cover their hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Hand sanitizer will be placed around campus in strategic locations, but students are advised to bring a personal supply when returning to Tufts for the 2020–21 academic year.

Touching Face
Students should avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth, with unwashed hands. Students should wash their hands after touching their face.

Gloves
According to the CDC, gloves are not necessary for general use in the COVID-19 pandemic and do not replace frequent and thorough handwashing. Students working in health care or in high-risk areas should use gloves while working. Gloves and other personal protective equipment may be required in certain labs or other areas.

Coughing/Sneezing Hygiene
If students are in a private setting and are not wearing their face mask or covering, they should always cover their mouth and nose with tissues when they cough or sneeze or use the inside of their elbow. All tissues should be thrown in the trash. Students should immediately wash their hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.

Education about Personal Health Measures

Student compliance with these preventive health measures is essential for the health of everyone who is physically on campus and is thus essential for in-person education to be an option in 2020–21.
Wearing a face mask, staying physically distant from others, and taking the other measures specified in this guide will be challenging and will have a significant impact on the student experience at Tufts. However, these are the conditions that we believe are reasonably necessary to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 infection when we physically return to campus this fall. As students reflect on the plan described in this guide and consider the options for the fall term, we ask that they consider the extent to which they are willing to change their behavior to adhere to these guidelines. We ask that students only agree to return to Tufts if they are willing to adhere to all the expectations described in this guide.

All AS&E students will be required to complete an online educational experience regarding the health precautions, policy changes, and other behavioral expectations that will be in place in the fall semester before returning to campus. Further details will be sent later this summer to all students returning to campus in person.

**Contact Tracing, Isolation, Self-Quarantine**

Despite the many reasonable steps Tufts is taking to prevent the transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the presence and transmission of COVID-19 on campus is likely, if not inevitable, during this ongoing global pandemic. Therefore, the university has developed protocols for isolating people who have COVID-19 and helping people who may have been exposed to COVID-19 to self-quarantine. Additionally, Tufts has created a protocol for identifying individuals who may have come into contact with a person with COVID-19 in order to notify them to self-quarantine.

**Contact Tracing**

Contact tracing is a key public health strategy for preventing further spread of COVID-19. Contact tracing begins when a person who has tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 or diagnosed with COVID-19 is asked to provide information about other people they have been in close contact with during the time when they may have been infectious and able to transmit the virus. Close contact is defined as being closer than six feet for longer than 10 minutes, regardless of whether a face covering was worn. The results of the positive test and the list of close contacts a student has had will be shared with the relevant board of health as appropriate. A Tufts University staff member, a medical professional at an outside organization affiliated with Tufts University, or a staff member from the relevant board of public health will reach out to students who have been identified as having had close contact with the person who had COVID-19 and will provide them with information and resources to self-quarantine.

Those identified as having been exposed through close contact will be required to participate in the self-quarantine protocol described below. All students are required to cooperate with the contact tracing process, participate in isolation or self-quarantine when directed, and share information requested by public health authorities, contact tracing staff, and Health Services in order to facilitate this important aspect of limiting the spread of COVID-19.
To protect privacy, contacts are only informed that they may have been exposed through close contact to someone with the infection. They are not told the identity of the person who may have exposed them.

In order to make contact tracing easier, students are encouraged to keep an electronic calendar for small group meetings, including classes, meetings, co-curriculars, and travel off campus, so that information can rapidly be provided to contact tracers when needed.

**Isolation**

Isolation is a condition for people who test positive for SARS-CoV-2 or are diagnosed with COVID-19 and who need to be separated from others. Isolation will mean temporarily moving residences to avoid infecting others and remaining in the isolation location until medically cleared to leave.

Isolation housing will be provided to students who have COVID-19, whether they live on or off campus, in a residence hall that will be used exclusively for this purpose in 2020–21, subject to availability and public health guidance. The university intends to use temporary modular housing units being installed on campus (“The Mods”) for this purpose, though isolation housing assignments are subject to change. Isolation housing will be staffed by medical professionals who will perform daily health assessments. Meals will be delivered to students in isolation. Students in isolation who feel well enough to do so can continue to participate in coursework and other activities virtually until they complete the isolation period. No visitors will be permitted in isolation housing.

Isolation assignments usually last around 10 days from the onset of symptoms. However, some students may require additional time in isolation, depending on the course of their symptoms. No student with a positive test will be permitted to return to their fall/spring housing assignment until medically cleared, and students who live off-campus are strongly advised against returning to their off-campus housing. Students who wish to return to a permanent address away from Tufts rather than remain in isolation on campus will be permitted to do so and will be subject to additional testing upon return. There will be no additional charge for isolation housing, meals, or medical monitoring while in isolation housing. Students who require additional medical intervention during the isolation period will be referred to local area hospitals.

**Self-Quarantine**

In contrast to isolation, self-quarantine is a way for students who may have been exposed to SARS-CoV-2 through close contact with an infected individual to limit their contact with others while time passes, which will determine whether they have COVID-19. During self-quarantine, students stay in their current bedroom and do not leave for any reason except to use the bathroom or in health emergencies. They do not receive visitors. Their meals are delivered to them. They wear a mask at all times except when sleeping, grooming, or eating. Strict physical distancing is required even around people in their own residential cohort. Students will generally participate in coursework and other activities virtually until they complete the self-quarantine period. Students in self-quarantine will be required to submit a daily symptom report and remain in contact with Health Services during the quarantine period.
Contacts are provided with education, information, and support to understand their own risk; the possibility that they could spread the infection to others even if they themselves do not feel ill; and how to separate themselves from others who are not exposed and monitor themselves for illness.

This self-quarantine procedure means that if someone in a residential cohort develops COVID-19, that person will be moved to isolation. All other members of the residential cohort will likely be directed to self-quarantine together in their original housing assignments. Self-quarantine generally lasts 14 days from last exposure to the person with COVID-19, though medical guidance may alter this time period based on individual circumstances.

**Duty to Cooperate**
All students who return to Tufts physically for 2020–21 are required to consent to and cooperate with contact tracing, isolation, and self-quarantine protocols; participate in isolation or self-quarantine when directed; agree to share test results and other necessary medical information with the university and other contact tracers; and follow the directions of contact tracers, medical staff, and the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs regarding this procedure.
ACADEMIC LIFE

Tufts faculty have been hard at work preparing for in-person, virtual, and hybrid course formats. The academic rigor and quality of education that characterizes a Tufts education continues to be the priority for faculty this year, regardless of the format of courses, research, civically engaged learning, and other academic activities.

Academic Calendar

The academic calendar for fall 2020 and spring 2021 remains as originally published. All scheduled university holidays, academic breaks, reading period, and final exams remain as originally scheduled. Classes for the fall term begin on September 8, 2020. We currently plan for courses to resume in person after Thanksgiving break as usual. We discourage students from traveling over Thanksgiving break and other academic breaks to minimize the risk of spreading infection to family and friends over the holiday and to the Tufts community upon return. The academic calendar may require adjustment as the pandemic progresses. Any changes will be communicated to the university community.

Coursework

Courses in 2020–21 will be offered in a variety of formats, giving students significant options to study in person or virtually. A large number of courses will be offered in a hybrid format that includes components to allow participation by people who are physically present and those who are remote, but some courses will be in person only and others will be virtual only. Students are encouraged to carefully consider their own learning style; their experience with in-person, hybrid, and virtual coursework in the past; and the nature of their planned coursework this year in deciding what options are best for them. Many courses will be asynchronous (they can be taken at any time), but some will be synchronous students must participate in real time).

Physical distancing will be required of everyone participating in coursework in person. Room assignments for many courses will be changed, and the number of people participating in a course section may be lowered to make distancing possible. Large lecture sections with more than 50 people will not take place in person. Instead, such lectures will be offered virtually, additional sections will be added so that a smaller number of people are present for each section, or lectures will follow a hybrid format where students alternate attending in person and participating virtually. The registrar’s office will be updating SIS this summer with changed section and room assignments and information about whether each course is hybrid, in person only, or virtual only. Students are encouraged to check individual department websites for a listing of fall course offerings and delivery methods.

Students and faculty will be required to wear masks during in-person lectures, labs, recitations, and other academic experiences. Most classrooms and other academic spaces will be cleaned and disinfected daily. Students will be responsible for wiping down their own desk, chair, and other frequently touched surfaces with alcohol wipes or other approved disinfectant upon arrival and departure from the classroom, lab, or other academic space. Cleaning supplies will be provided for this purpose.
Students who choose to return to campus physically may enroll in any courses regardless of format. Students who choose to remain remote in the fall will only be able to participate in courses that are hybrid or virtual. Students should seek input from their academic advisor or graduate advisor if they need help considering this option.

**Grading System**
During 2020–21, normal grading policies will apply. The faculty voted to establish a temporary exceptional pass/fail grading option (“EP/F”) in spring 2020 because of the rapid mid-semester switch to a new format of coursework, the short time available for students and faculty to adjust, and the need to alter course assignments and activities from what was planned at the beginning of the term. In contrast, for 2020–21, faculty and students know what both in person coursework and remote coursework is and can make effective plans accordingly. Thus, EP/F is not currently being considered as an option in 2020–21.

**Course Selection**
Students are advised to consider their course selections carefully for fall 2020 and spring 2021 with the knowledge that coursework will be different this year than in past years due to the variety of challenges created by the pandemic. Students are encouraged to consult with their academic advisor to discuss course taking plans. Students can review this guide if scheduling changes are needed. There are instructions on how to adjust lab or recitation while maintaining enrollment in the lecture, and how to switch a lecture section while maintaining enrollment in the lab or recitation.

**SMFA Studio Courses**
SMFA studio courses will be offered in virtual format only in fall 2020. Students may use the studio spaces for project work by appointment at designated times. All students using studio spaces will be required to practice physical distancing, wear masks, and clean frequently touched personal surfaces.

**Research**
The research enterprise of the university will resume in the fall 2020. Graduate students and others who work in labs and complete research outside of courses should consult their individual lab managers and advisors for detailed directions on resuming research. Students are required to follow the directions of the Office of the Vice Provost for Research (OVPR), the research dean of the School of Arts and Sciences or the research dean of the School of Engineering, their advisor, and relevant lab managers. OVPR’s website has information about the fall 2020 research ramp-up here.
Study Abroad

Unfortunately, study abroad has been canceled for fall 2020. This includes all external (non-Tufts) study abroad programs, Tufts in Madrid, Tufts in Paris, Tufts in Tübingen, Tufts in London, Tufts in Beijing, Tufts in Ghana, Tufts in Chile, and Tufts in Japan. We plan to offer these programs during the spring 2021 semester if conditions allow, and students will have the opportunity to defer their enrollment in these programs to the spring 2021 or a future term. Our goal is to move forward with spring plans, but we are closely monitoring the global situation. Tufts in Oxford will be offered starting later this fall; the format will be either in person or virtual.

If students decide to go abroad in fall 2020 through an external study abroad program, they will not receive transfer of credit for study abroad, and there will be no Tufts connection or support, no International SOS, and no international health insurance. We plan to offer study abroad options during the spring 2021 semester. Students wishing to discuss spring 2021 study abroad are encouraged to contact Tufts Global Education.

Academic Policy Adjustments for Undergraduates

We understand that some students may not be able to return to campus physically and may prefer to take all of their classes remotely or may choose to take a personal leave. The School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering have made adjustments to some academic policies in order to assist students who need these options, given the unusual circumstances presented by the pandemic.

• **Exceptional Waiver of Residency Requirement for Fall 2020 Enrollees:** Given the extraordinary circumstances, the AS&E faculty have decided to waive the eight-semester residency requirement for any matriculated undergraduate who enrolls in fall 2020. Matriculated Tufts undergraduates who enroll full-time at Tufts in fall 2020 will be partially exempt from the eight-semester residency requirement going forward. This means that, effective in spring 2021, students may elect early degree completion or to enroll on a part-time basis after at least six semesters of full-time enrollment. Early completion of the degree will still require that all usual degree requirements have been satisfied. Waiving the eight-semester requirement may offer greater flexibility and some financial relief for students who complete their degree early.

• **Personal Leave of Absence:** Undergraduate students may initiate a request for a personal leave of absence by July 1 for the fall 2020 semester and by October 26 for the spring semester through SIS. The request will be sent to the student’s advising dean, and under most circumstances will be approved. Please note that there is a limit on the number of semesters of personal leave a student may take (four) before they are required to apply for reinstatement.
• **Transfer of Credit:** Students who have been granted a personal leave of absence for the fall and/or spring semester are permitted to study elsewhere full-time or part-time, if they wish. If full-time, a $1,250 study-elsewhere fee would apply. However, not all classes taken at other universities will be accepted for transfer of credit. Tufts will not accept transfer of credit for online courses taken elsewhere, or courses taken at community colleges. Please note that the exceptional policy that permitted transfer of credit for online and community college courses applied only to courses taken in spring and summer 2020.

**Academic Support and Advising**

Tufts will provide the full suite of academic support that students are used to in 2020–21. As usual, this academic support includes subject tutoring, writing consultations and support, time management consultations and study strategies support, and consultations with research librarians. This fall, all StAAR Center appointments, tutoring sessions, and study groups will be offered virtually; workshops will be available both remotely and in person.

Academic support available in 2020–21 also includes access to specialized facilities and materials, including use of the library's collections and services. Remote access to facilities and materials will be provided whenever possible, but some services are only available to those students who are in person. Services that are offered in person only include JumboPrint; borrowing technology, books, and other physical objects from the library; use of the Nolop FAST Facility maker space; and use of specialized studios, performance spaces, and labs.

Academic advising of incoming first-year undergraduate students will happen virtually (online or via phone call) in July and August depending on degree program. During the fall semester, most advising will be virtual, but there may be some opportunities for in person meetings. The Advising team will make themselves available through individual online appointments and online group advising sessions. To identify your advisor, please visit this page. Many faculty members will also be available for advising students.
LIVING ON CAMPUS

Tufts will offer housing to undergraduate and graduate students in 2020–21. As usual, all first-year and sophomore students will be guaranteed university-provided housing. Juniors, seniors, and graduate students may opt in to on-campus housing if space is available. The pandemic necessitates several important changes to typical living arrangements, however. Tufts will be de-densifying certain areas, implementing a residential cohort system, carefully sequencing move in and arrival, prohibiting guests from all residence halls, increasing cleaning, and providing special housing for students to isolate from others when medically necessary.

Housing Options and De-Densification

All on-campus residential communities will open in fall 2020, and most housing styles (e.g., singles, doubles, triples, suites, apartments, and houses) will be operational. The multiple layers of protection described in this document will be particularly important in residential communities. Frequent cleaning of bathrooms and common surfaces, mask wearing outside the bedroom, physical distancing, and enactment of the residential cohort model make it possible to retain typical occupancy levels in the majority of our spaces while prioritizing student health and reducing the spread of SARS-CoV-2. De-densification will occur where there are many individuals assigned to one single bathroom facility. Living with others in the same room is an important part of the developmental experience of a Tufts education, and this occupancy strategy allows students the opportunity to share a room with one or more other students.

This year, in order to accomplish de-densification while providing housing to all students who are currently guaranteed housing, the university is expanding housing choices for undergraduates. All existing residence halls will be operational, though some will be de-densified, and the university is also housing undergraduate students in Blakeley Hall and a temporary residential complex called “The Mods,” which are modular residential units being assembled on the Vouté tennis courts and Fletcher parking lot this summer. The Office of Residential Life and Learning (ORLL) will share more information with students about these options as the summer progresses.

Assignment

First-year students participating in person this year will be assigned a space in a first-year residence hall. Students should expect a notification from ORLL in July with their housing assignment.

Although housing assignments have been made for returning students following the housing lottery process in the spring semester, reallocation of specific residence hall spaces is necessary to de-densify some buildings. Additionally, students may wish to change their roommates given the residential cohort model described below, the prohibition of guests from outside the building in the residence halls, and the other changes to on-campus housing that were necessitated by the pandemic. Accordingly, ORLL will embark upon a modified
housing confirmation and reselection process. All returning students who currently have a confirmed fall housing assignment and participate in the 2020–21 year in person are guaranteed to remain in on-campus housing but will be required to participate in this modified housing confirmation and reselection process and may end up with a different housing assignment. Students who have a housing assignment for the fall will be able to use their same lottery number in this new process, thus retaining their in-class selection order, should they opt to select a new housing space and/or form a new group for the purposes of residential cohorting. While some students will be able to remain in their current assignment, they will need to either pull in friends to live in any vacancies in their room or apartment, understand that another student may be placed in their space, or they may opt to leave their space and re-form a residential cohort group with others. They may also opt to leave their space and enter housing selection as an individual.

All undergraduate students, regardless of housing plans, are required to indicate their housing interest by June 30. Undergraduate first-year students must submit their decision via their new-student checklist; all other undergraduates must submit their decision via this online form. Upon receiving this submission, ORLL will activate follow-up action:

- First-year students will be assigned housing automatically if they are completing the 2020–21 year in person.
- Sophomores who are completing the 2020–21 academic year in person will be contacted with information about the modified housing confirmation and reselection process.
- Juniors, seniors, and graduate students with current assignments will be asked if they wish to remain on campus or would like to pursue off-campus housing. If they would like to remain on campus, they will be contacted with information about the modified housing confirmation and reselection process.
- Juniors, seniors, and graduate students without current assignments will be asked if they wish to be placed on a waitlist for housing should it become available. If so, they will be contacted with information about the modified housing selection process.
- Any student who believes they have a need for a special housing accommodation based on a documented disability should submit their accommodation request to the StAAR center by July 1. Students seeking housing-based accommodations following this deadline are not guaranteed any disability-related housing accommodations.

Fall 2020 Move In

All students who are participating in the fall 2020 semester in person will be required to be tested for COVID-19 when moving in. To encourage physical distancing and to reduce the number of individuals moving onto campus at any given time, move-in times will be assigned, and arrivals will be staggered. ORLL will communicate with residents directly about move in later this summer, and more details will be posted on the ORLL website. Due to the need to control move-in timing and frequency, “early move in” prior to official move-in dates will not be permitted.
Students are permitted to have individuals assist them with moving their belongings, but all visitors to the community must wear masks, maintain physical distance from others in the building, and aim to drop off items and leave within the designated times.

**Residential Cohorts**

Students living on campus will be organized into residential cohorts. Residential cohorts are small groups, usually housing six to 12 students each. The residential cohort provides students the opportunity for very close personal and social contact with others—including the ability to have a roommate and share meals with others.

Face coverings are not required when (1) students are in their bedroom and the only other people present are their assigned roommate(s), (2) when eating, and (3) when doing personal grooming. Any time students leave their bedroom and are or may be within six feet of others, including going to common spaces or bathrooms, face coverings are required.

When interacting only with members of their residential cohort in residence hall areas, physical distancing should be maintained where possible, but may be relaxed where needed as long as masks are worn.

Students will be assigned to use specific bathrooms and limited occupancy in the bathroom spaces will be implemented.

Students living in off-campus apartments will be considered assigned to a residential cohort with those people who they share an apartment or house with, as long as the group is no more than 12 people and all people in the apartment or house consent to this model.

Students are accountable to themselves and the other members of their residential cohort. If a student becomes infected but is asymptomatic or becomes symptomatic with COVID-19, the people most at risk are likely their roommate(s) and others in their residential cohort. Accordingly, students should carefully observe the physical distancing and face-covering guidelines presented in an earlier section. If one student in a residential cohort is symptomatic and/or tests positive for COVID-19, all members of the residential cohort will likely be required to self-quarantine in their current housing assignment as described in a previous section. However, if masks were worn frequently during close interactions with the other members of the residential cohort, it will help minimize spread from the infected person. We will test the other members of the cohort frequently for COVID-related symptoms and presence of virus to identify any infected individuals to prevent further spread.
New students will be placed into residential cohorts based on living compatibility (as determined by the housing questionnaire). Continuing students will reengage in the modified housing confirmation and reselection process to determine the best space for them and, if they wish, they will be able to form groups for the purposes of cohorting. In the event that a student does not have a larger group to join, they will be able to select into a residential area and still have the benefits of a cohort experience, as well as the opportunity to meet new people in the process.

The residential cohort model has benefits and risks. The most significant benefit is the opportunity for close social interaction with a small group of trusted others. An important component of the personal development students receive from their Tufts education arises from the close connection with other students. This option facilitates those connections while reducing the risk of the spread of COVID-19 in the community by limiting the number of people with whom students have such close contact. Additionally, the residential cohort model allows students to share meals with others. Eating requires the removal of a face covering and without a residential cohort model, eating would require people to stay physically distanced at all times while dining. The residential cohort model also provides a mechanism for collective responsibility and peer accountability, which is necessary to safely operate during a pandemic. The residential cohort model also has drawbacks. Spending time with people without physical distancing increases the risk that one could get COVID-19 from them if they are infected, even when wearing a face covering. However, wearing a mask is an important measure to reduce spread of infection. Additionally, being in frequent, close contact with a small group of people may tend to increase conflict and emotional challenges, and moving to a different housing assignment will be far more challenging than usual this semester given the very limited space on campus and the residential cohort model.

**Guests**

In order to limit the spread of SARS-CoV-2, it is necessary to limit contact between people, particularly in the residence halls, which have high density. Accordingly, **absolutely no guests from outside the university, and no Tufts students who live in other buildings, will be allowed in on-campus residential spaces during the 2020-21 academic year.** Residence halls and houses will only be accessible to those students living in the specific building and to authorized university officials. Students are not permitted to have any guests in their room (except other students in the same residential cohort) or in their residence hall common space. This is necessary because the density of the residence halls needs to be carefully maintained to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19. Students are encouraged to work on group projects, socialize, and otherwise spend time together in groups of less than 10 by reserving classrooms, going to the Campus Center or Tisch Library, and spending time outdoors. Note that socializing with anyone other than the assigned residential cohort requires strict physical distancing, in addition to the masks that are worn even with members of the residential cohort.
Residential Facility and Cleaning

Facility adjustments will be made to residential buildings. This will include limiting the use of common rooms, lounges, and common kitchens. The custodial team will work to clean residential common spaces, including common bathrooms, on a scheduled basis consistent with CDC and other public health guidelines. Apartment bathrooms (Hillsides, Latin Way, and Sophia Gordon) will, for this year, be cleaned by custodial staff, although this is not normally the case outside of this pandemic.

Cleaning
As usual, students are responsible for cleaning their own bedrooms, apartments, and other non-common spaces. Students should follow CDC recommendations when cleaning their individual spaces. Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces (e.g., tables, hard-backed chairs, doorknobs, light switches, phones, tablets, touch screens, remote controls, keyboards, handles, desks, toilets, sinks) daily in their bedrooms and other non-common spaces. The CDC recommendations provide information for cleaning different types of surfaces, including porous surfaces, non-porous surfaces, and electronics. Students are responsible for bringing appropriate cleaning supplies.
LIVING OFF CAMPUS

Students residing off campus in Medford, Somerville, Boston, or other nearby communities and participating in the 2020–21 academic year in person are required to participate in symptom monitoring, COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, isolation, quarantine, and other health guidelines described in a previous section. Additionally, they are required to wear face coverings, practice physical distancing, and self-report symptoms as described in a previous section. Off-campus students diagnosed with COVID-19 may be required to convalesce on campus in the isolation residence hall.

Capacity

Students are reminded that both Medford and Somerville have ordinances limiting the number of non-related people who can live together in off-campus housing. The limit is three people per apartment/unit in Medford and four people per apartment/unit in Somerville. Students are advised to expect increased enforcement of these ordinances this year due to the need to de-densify residential neighborhoods to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Students who have already signed leases with more than the maximum number of allowed tenants can consult with the ORLL and must also consider applying for on-campus housing or seeking alternative accommodations off campus.

In addition to limiting the number of people who live in a particular apartment or house, students are required to limit the number of people present at any one time, regardless of whether the people are tenants of the apartment/unit. Off-campus residential spaces may have no more than ten people present at one time based on current state guidelines.

Off-Campus Residential Cohort

All students who live off campus are required to wear a face covering at all times, including inside their off-campus apartment/unit except when (1) in their bedroom with only their roommate(s) who share the same bedroom present, (2) when eating, and (3) when doing personal grooming. Eating requires either physical distancing of at least six feet or being only with members of the residential cohort. Students living in off-campus apartments will be considered assigned to a residential cohort with those people who they share an apartment or house with, as long as the group is no more than 12 people and all people in the apartment or house consent to this model. Students should review “Living On Campus” above for more information about the residential cohort model.
Gatherings

Gatherings at off-campus residences are very limited in size during 2020–21. Currently the limit is 10 people, including the residents of the apartment/unit. If Massachusetts allows larger gatherings, Tufts will consider whether or not to permit larger gatherings based on the unique dynamics of virus transmission on campus. All residents and guests are required to wear a face covering and practice physical distancing for the duration of the gathering. Violations of this gathering size directive make the spread of SARS-CoV-2 more likely and thus endanger students and other people they come into contact with. Accordingly, such violations will result in prompt disciplinary action. See “Social Events and Gatherings” section below for more information.

Cleaning

Students living off campus should follow CDC recommendations when cleaning their individual and common spaces. Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces daily in household common areas (e.g. tables, hard-backed chairs, doorknobs, light switches, phones, tablets, touch screens, remote controls, keyboards, handles, desks, toilets, sinks). The CDC recommendations provide information for cleaning different types of surfaces, including porous surfaces, non-porous surfaces, and electronics.
DINING

More than a necessity, mealtime is an important way to connect with friends, share traditions, and take a much-needed break from other aspects of daily life. How we operate our on-campus dining facilities will be informed by current guidance from the Commonwealth as well as local health departments, which define standards for physical distancing and cleaning protocols to prevent the spread of the virus. Many new practices adopted in 2020–21 are a reflection of these new requirements.

In 2020–21, Tufts Dining will offer high-quality, fresh, flavorful, nutrient-dense food, along with the variety and choices students need. Hours, seating arrangements, and other details of dining service will change throughout the year as public health conditions warrant.

Meal Plans

The same meal plans and meal plan requirements will be in place as in previous years. Information about these plans is available online.

Previously, meal plan swipes could be used only at Carmichael and Dewick-MacPhie Dining Centers, Hodgdon Food-on-the-Run, Pax et Lox Glatt Kosher Deli, SMFA Café, and Late Night in Carmichael and the Commons Marketplace. This year, students may use their meal swipes in every Tufts Dining location at any time, including the Commons Marketplace, Hotung Café, Tower Café in Tisch Library, Mugar Café, and Kindlevan Café in the SEC.

Returning students who canceled their meal plans last spring and wish to re-enroll are encouraged to do so before September 1.

Dining Centers

To comply with state guidance for restaurants, the experience in the Carmichael Dining Center and the Dewick-MacPhie Dining Center will be significantly changed in 2020–21.

As the pandemic evolves and state regulations change, it is anticipated that dine-in service will be possible in the dining centers at various times during the academic year, while at other times all service will be takeout only. The timing of inside seating availability will be determined by public health guidance and state and municipal regulations for restaurants. It is thus important for students to familiarize themselves with both the takeout only and dine-in options.
Only Takeout
When takeout is in effect:
• All food and beverages will be packaged for takeout. Students may not dine-in, nor may they gather or congregate in the dining centers.
• Access to Carmichael and Dewick-MacPhie to pick up takeout will be by reservation only to prevent crowding in the dining centers at pick-up time.
• Students will be able to select from an appetizing menu of high-quality, nutritious food similar to what they are used to from Tufts Dining. Specials and featured menu items will still be offered on the menus.
• Meals will be packaged by Dining staff for takeout. No self-service is currently allowed.
• Students are required to wear a face covering at all times in all campus dining locations.

Dine-In Service
When dine-in service is permitted, the following practices will be employed:
• Takeout will remain available using the protocol specified above. Since there is not enough seating for everyone who may want it, all food and beverages will be packaged for takeout.
• Reservations will be required for dine-in service. Students may make a reservation to visit the dining center up to several days in advance. The most popular dining centers may limit the number of times an individual student can visit per day to enable more people to enjoy them.
• Students may dine-in with only members of their residential cohort.
• Many chairs and tables will be removed from the dining centers to increase physical distancing. This reduces the number of people who can be in each dining center at one time, therefore many people will need to be flexible with meal times. Students who cannot access the dine-in service can use their meal swipes at any retail location as well as several new service locations being planned. More information on these new “pop-up” locations will be announced later this summer.

Extended Hours and New Locations
Because many fewer people will be able to be in the dining centers at one time, extended meal hours may be offered throughout the year. Additionally, new locations may be employed, particularly for distributing to-go meals. Updated hours and locations will be posted on the Dining website later this summer.

Dining with Food Allergies
The gluten-free pantry and food free of the nine most common allergens will be prepared and served at each meal period from the ALL 9 FREE platform in Dewick-MacPhie. Students with specific dietary needs may be eligible for accommodation and should contact the StAAR Center for more information. The Tufts Dining dietitian is available for more specific information and can be reached at Kelly.Shaw@tufts.edu.
Enhanced Cleaning
Because the dining operations are high-traffic areas, enhanced cleaning protocols are being implemented in 2020–21. Workers will wash their hands even more frequently; hard surfaces and high contact surfaces will be disinfected every 30 minutes; high traffic locations will close for a period of time between meal periods for deep cleaning; and seating—when available—will be cleaned and sanitized after each use. New Lexan barriers will be installed at the cashier stations and a variety of other locations throughout the food service areas, and a physical distance of six feet between students and dining workers will be required whenever possible. Self-service is currently prohibited. Students will indicate their food choices to a staff person who will package the food for takeout and provide contactless pick-up. Dining staff ask for student understanding of the very different way of operating that will be necessary in 2020–21 and ask for patience, kindness, and compassion as we adapt to this new reality.

Dining Worker Safety
Conscious of the impact that new procedures will have on Dining staff, Tufts will publish guidelines for protecting the safety of Dining staff during these extraordinary times later this summer. The university cares deeply about our team and works to facilitate everyone’s safety.

Retail Locations
In addition to the large dining centers, Tufts will continue to provide food and beverages at a variety of retail locations including: Commons Marketplace and Hotung Café in the Campus Center, Pax et Lox below the bookstore, Tower Café in Tisch Library, Kindlevan Café in the SEC, Mugar Café, and the SMFA Café at 230 The Fenway in Boston. All these retail locations will accept Meal Swipes this year. Two swipes can now be used at a time for purchases. All locations will have a pre-order option from an app, for on-site pick-up. Some locations will have an in-store order/takeout option in addition to pre-ordering from the app. Check the Tufts Dining website later this summer for more details.

Dining for Students in Self-Quarantine and Isolation
For anyone who is in self-quarantine or isolation on campus, delivery services will be available so those students have access to high-quality, healthy, fresh food. Tufts dining is providing this service free to students participating in the isolation and self-quarantine protocols specified above.
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Student organizations are an important part of feeling a sense of belonging and finding community on campus. Student organizations are encouraged to find ways to operate and engage their members in a way that is consistent with public health and campus guidelines.

Recruitment

- Student organizations should plan all recruitment efforts virtually.
- The Office for Campus Life will offer a virtual Student Organizations Fair and work with Student organizations in assisting with opportunities to recruit new members.
- The Office for Campus Life will be introducing a new student organization engagement platform called JumboLife in the fall. This platform is designed to help student organizations with recruitment, advertising and all parts of the management of their organizations including budget management, event registration, and organization rosters.
- Tabling, vending, solicitation, and fundraising will not be allowed in the Campus Center, dining halls, or other campus common spaces during the fall 2020 semester.

Meetings

- Meetings, including General Interest Meetings (GIMs), should be done through virtual platforms (e.g., Zoom, WebEx, Microsoft Teams, Google Hangout, telephone, etc.) as much as possible.
- In-person student organization meetings are allowed with no more than 10 people together with physical distancing ability for six feet between participants, as well as meeting all other university guidelines regarding physical distancing and personal protection. Hosts should remove or rearrange chairs and tables or add visual cue marks in meeting rooms to support physical distancing practices between attendees. Face coverings are required at all student organization meetings and events.
- Attendance at all in-person meetings should be accurately taken and saved for contact tracing purposes.
- Outside guests are not allowed on campus to participate in student organization meetings.

Events and Programs

- As much as possible, student organization events should occur through a virtual format. In-person events will need to be approved through the Office for Campus Life and will include attendance caps and must meet all other university guidelines for physical distancing and personal protection. Maximum capacity, in approved spaces, that allow for physical distancing of this number of people, will not be more than 50 attendees.
• Student organizations hosting approved events must promote the use of face coverings for all participants.
• Student organizations will have regular access to Reserve Tufts; however, availability of space will be limited and students must adhere to university space and event guidelines.
• The Office for Campus Life will continue to review space requests and host the weekly Event Registration meeting and meet with student organizations as needed in addition to collecting event registration virtually via the new JumboLife platform.
• Tufts Tickets will operate as normal for approved events.
• Tufts students must be the only attendees at approved events. Outside guests, speakers, presenters, trainers, coaches etc. will not be allowed on campus.
• Student organizations that provide services or volunteer with local outside organizations will need to be approved prior to any involvement through the Office for Campus Life.
• Free expression is central to the mission of Tufts and an important freedom of everyone in American society. Accordingly, several exceptions to the student organization event policies noted in this section apply to protests, demonstrations, and free expression events. Organizers and attendees at such events are encouraged to be mindful of the risks posed by large gatherings and to act in a way that is protective of their health and the health of others.
  - As is Tufts’ usual policy, OCL approval of free expression events is not required.
  - While there is no designated attendance cap for outdoor protests, demonstrations, and other gatherings for the purpose of free expression, attendance caps will apply to events held indoors because of the increased risk of transmission.
  - Protests, demonstrations, and free expression events are exempt from the requirement that only Tufts students can attend events.
  - Face coverings and physical distancing are required at all events, both outdoor and indoor.
  - Protests, demonstrations, and other free expression events may, but are not required to, collect event registrations or track attendance via JumboLife.

Travel

• Student organization-related domestic travel is prohibited by the Office of Campus Life for the duration of the fall 2020 term.
• Student organizations that are involved with local and daily community travel may be able to continue with their work but must adhere to university regulations and any regulations at the outside locations. This type of travel must be approved by the Office for Campus Life.
• Students participating in ROTC are permitted to travel to nearby university campuses to participate in ROTC activities.
• Use of student organization vehicles may be allowed but will be limited to an approved number of riders based on university guidelines.
Graduate student travel to conferences is not permitted, but the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences will provide funding opportunities for Arts and Sciences graduate students to register for conferences that they can attend virtually. Graduate students in the School of Engineering are encouraged to talk with their advisor about conference opportunities.

**Budgets**

- For budgeted student organizations the TCU Treasury will be operating as normal with most communications done virtually. All communications should be sent to tcutreasury@tufts.edu. The TCU Senate Exec team or the TCU Senate Treasury will not hold regular office hours and contact should be made through email to set up meetings. The office will remain open while the Campus Center is open to drop off Treasury paperwork.
- Campus Life Financial Office: The Campus Life Financial Office will be operating during regular hours. Contact with CLFO staff should be made through email or phone.

**Event Advertising**

- Distribution and distributors of print materials should be limited and university guidelines for physical distancing and personal protection must be adhered to. Student publications should consider moving to online platforms as much as possible. Other student media organizations may operate but must adhere to all university guidelines for physical distancing and personal protection.

**Student Organization Office and Other Spaces**

- Student organizations with office/programming space on campus will be able to utilize space; however, these organizations will need to follow university guidelines for physical distancing and personal protection. The Office for Campus Life will work directly with each of these organizations regarding capacity numbers and use requirements.
SOCIAL EVENTS AND GATHERINGS

Gatherings in indoor and outdoor spaces will be limited in size in accordance with public health guidelines, both on and off campus. Hosting and attending large parties is prohibited for the 2020–21 academic year because such events are incompatible with the physical distancing that is necessary to reduce the spread of SARS-CoV-2.

Student Organizations should refer to the information in the previous section regarding student organization-related events and gatherings. Theme, special interest houses, fraternities, and sororities may generally only host in-person social events attended by people outside their residential cohort with the permission of the Office of Residential Life and Learning.

Given our shared interest in supporting the required measures outlined in this guide, hosting or attending large parties or other events without approval will be a violation of this policy and will result in disciplinary action.
ATHLETICS, RECREATION, AND FITNESS CENTER

Club Sports, Intramurals, and Recreation

Competitive club sports and intramurals have been suspended for the fall semester. Outdoor athletics facilities, including the track and the tennis courts located on the South Garage, will be available for student use subject to applicable safety guidelines. The Department of Athletics and the Office for Campus Life will collaborate to provide low-risk, non-contact recreation activities and expanded e-sports opportunities for students in the fall.

Fitness Center

The university anticipates that the Steve Tisch Sports and Fitness Center will be open for use by students, faculty, and staff this fall. However, new protocols are currently being developed to prioritize the health and safety of everyone using or working in the facility, including physical distancing, spacing out of fitness equipment, and regular cleaning and disinfecting of equipment and surfaces. The implementation of these protocols is likely to cause significant changes to the normal use of the facility. For example, some equipment and areas of the fitness center may not be available for use; masks will likely need to be worn for most activities; limits will be placed on the number of concurrent users and the duration of each visit; and advance reservations may be required to access the facility.

Physical Education Classes

The university is planning to offer many of its Physical Education (PE) classes this fall, subject to social distancing requirements and new safety protocols. Some PE classes will be canceled for health and safety reasons, but the university plans to replace as many of those classes as possible with additional sections of the classes that can be offered safely. A complete list of PE course offerings will be published as soon as further guidance from state health officials is available.

Varsity Sports

The Department of Athletics and Tufts medical staff are working together with the NESCAC, public health officials, and the NCAA to determine how and when varsity sport student-athletes, coaches and staff can return to practice and competition. As the NESCAC continues to develop plans for the return of athletics, the university is hopeful there will be significant opportunities for coaches to provide meaningful athletic experiences for student-athletes at Tufts this fall. Coaches will communicate directly with varsity student-athletes as soon as final decisions are made.
TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION

Domestic and International Travel

One of the strengths of Tufts University is that we are a global community. Our current student population includes students from all parts of the United States and more than 50 other countries. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted various parts of the world to different degrees, and local governments have responded in a variety of ways, some of which are more consistent with the goals described in this document and others less so. Additional complexity is added by the reality that physical distancing is often less possible while in transit (e.g., on an airplane, in a train car, etc.) and while in travel-related locations (e.g., subway stations, airports). Accordingly, travel is an activity that often increases the risk of spreading the virus. Thus, the following changes to travel should be noted by all students.

University-Related Travel

AS&E students will generally not be permitted to participate in university-related travel in fall 2020; a decision about spring 2021 university travel will be made in the mid- or late-fall term. Fall 2020 study abroad has been cancelled, and we are hoping to operate study abroad in the spring. Tufts Global Education will keep students updated.

Student organization travel will be prohibited in fall 2020. Student organizations will not be funded for travel to conferences, meetings, symposia, or competitions. Virtual participation in these activities is encouraged, and TCU Senate-funded student organizations should work directly with the TCU Treasury on fund approvals. Student organization special circumstance travel inquiries should be directed to the Office for Campus Life. Student organization travel plans for Spring 2020 should be held off as well until further information on Spring 2020 is available. Student organizations who travel daily and locally as part of their operation may be allowed to continue as long as members adhere to university guidelines for physical distancing and personal protection during all trips; all such travel must be approved by the Office of Campus Life.

Extended Personal Travel

Students from across the United States and around the world will be welcomed back to campus this fall 2020 semester. All students should expect to participate in a robust testing protocol upon arrival. Once the term begins, Tufts University strongly advises students to refrain from extended personal travel until such time as they return home or move elsewhere after the fall semester has concluded. Extended personal travel is defined as leaving the area of the campus community overnight or engaging in any activity off campus that would increase the risk of COVID-19 exposure (such as refraining from physical distancing, not wearing a mask, etc.). This means that students should refrain from travel over weekends, on holidays, during Thanksgiving break, or otherwise from the time they arrive at the start of the fall term until the time they depart at the end of the semester. Tufts will be providing expanded services during Thanksgiving break and other break periods.
This advisory is in place for the health of our entire community, since reducing the number of individual exposures is important to reducing further community spread and protecting those who are vulnerable to complications and death from COVID-19. Students should recognize that traveling puts others they come into contact with at risk.

**Transportation in Medford/Somerville and Boston**

**Public Transportation**
We know that students rely on a variety of modes of transportation to commute to and from our campuses. Students are required to follow state and the safety guidelines noted in an earlier section when using the MBTA, Boston’s public transit system. When on MBTA subway trains, busses, or commuter rail trains, or at MBTA stations or stops, students are required to wear face coverings, maintain physical distancing, and advised to avoid touching surfaces where possible. Additional information about available schedules and safety protocols for riders can be found on the [MBTA website](#).

**Davis Square Shuttle and SafeRide Program**
The Davis Square shuttle and the SafeRide program will operate during 2020–21. Face coverings are required for everyone boarding a shuttle bus or a SafeRide van. Fewer people will be permitted to board each bus or van to facilitate physical distancing. Information on the service adjustments, schedule, and routes for these programs is available online.

**SMFA Shuttle**
The SMFA shuttle will operate during 2020–21. In order to allow for physical distancing on the shuttles from Medford to/from SMFA and SMFA to/from Beacon Street, students must reserve a spot on the shuttle to board. Shuttle service will be more frequent because fewer people will be allowed on each bus in order to facilitate physical distancing. Failure to use the shuttle during a scheduled reservation without an advance cancelation may result in loss of shuttle privileges.
FACILITIES

The physical distancing and other measures needed to address the COVID-19 pandemic necessitate several changes to Tufts buildings and facilities, and the cleaning and maintenance protocols used to support faculty, students, and staff who use buildings.

Reduced Building Capacity

The capacity of many buildings, and many individual rooms and spaces within buildings has been reduced to allow for physical distancing. To best manage building capacity for effective physical distancing, entry to many Tufts-owned and operated facilities will be access-controlled in a new way in 2020–21. A Tufts ID card may be required for entry to many buildings, even during normal business hours. Reservations will be required to access some particularly high-traffic facilities, including the Steve Tisch Sports and Fitness Center, the dining center in Carmichael Hall, and the Dewick-MacPhie Dining Center. Certain locations that do not promote physical distancing, such as lounges and certain activity spaces, will be closed entirely for 2020–21. Residence hall access including common spaces will be restricted to only residents of that particular building.

New Building Flow

To provide for physical distancing, it may be necessary to design and implement a new “flow” of people through many buildings. Examples of changes to flow include making hallways, stairwells, and exterior doors one-way, closing certain entrances or hallways, and preventing queueing in certain locations. Directions indicating this new flow will be installed in many buildings. Directions will take the form of floor decals, colored tape, and signs to indicate where individuals should wait in line for various services, as well as which doors to enter when going into buildings. All students are required to follow posted signs, decals, and the directions of university staff regarding building flow.

New Barriers

In certain high-density locations (e.g., circulation desk at the Tisch Library, Student Services Desk in Dowling Hall, cashier stations in Dining Centers, etc.), plastic barriers are being installed to allow necessary interaction while reducing the risk of transmission.
Using Restrooms, Elevators, and Other Close Quarters

Use of restrooms, elevators, and other close quarters should be limited to allow maximum distance between individuals. Current public health guidance specifies no more than four people may be in an elevator at one time. Using stairs where available and accessible can help to alleviate long waits to use the elevator. Individuals with disabilities have priority for elevators, and all students are expected to allow anyone with a disability to board an elevator without waiting.

Enhanced Cleaning

There will be increased cleaning across campus by our contracted custodial services team, C&W. The frequency and type of cleaning for each space will be determined by its purpose and volume of use. Many academic spaces will be cleaned once per day, and residential common spaces will be cleaned twice per day. Designated high-traffic areas, such as high-volume elevator lobbies, high-volume restrooms, and other similar areas will be cleaned multiple times per day. Cleaning and disinfection protocols specified by public health authorities will be implemented.

We are conscious of the impact of these new procedures on all frontline workers and will continue to monitor and updated processes and protocols for facilitating their safety and appropriate working conditions, as circumstances change and published public health guidelines are updated. C&W is assigning additional cleaning staff to handle the increased responsibility, providing PPE to all cleaning staff, and completing COVID-19 specific training for all cleaning staff.

Even with the increased cleaning protocols and staff, there are reasonable limits to cleaning protocols. Door-knobs will not be disinfected after one person touches it, restrooms will not be cleaned after each use, chairs in individual classrooms will not be wiped down by staff between each class meeting. Students should use good judgment in the things they use and touch.

Each person is responsible for cleaning areas that they personally use where reasonable. Students will be responsible for using alcohol or bleach wipes or spray disinfectant to wipe down occupied spaces before and after use. For example, students can use bleach wipes to wipe down their desk before taking a seat in a classroom or the doorknob of their residence hall room. Cleaning supplies will be provided for this purpose. As noted in the on-campus living section, students will be responsible for cleaning their own bedrooms and other non-shared space in the residence halls. As noted in the academic section, students are responsible for wiping down their own desk and chair upon their arrival and at the end of class each day.

Hand sanitizer will be provided at a variety of new locations around campus, including the entrances to most buildings and the hallways near many public restrooms.
Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Systems

Based on CDC recommendations, Facilities is following recommendations provided by American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) to review and confirm compliance of our HVAC systems across all buildings. ASHRAE states that filters with a minimum efficiency reporting value (MERV) of 13 and above are efficient at capturing airborne viruses. We will be changing out filters to MERV 13 in our buildings. Research Labs and Clinics that already utilize a higher MERV 12 filter will be transitioning to a MERV 15 filter. All buildings are being reviewed to confirm that HVAC and air systems are fully operational and meet ASRAE and building code standards prior to occupancy.
MENTAL HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES FOR CONDITIONS OTHER THAN COVID-19

Mental Health

During these challenging times, attending to mental health is more important than ever. Please know that Tufts is committed to each student’s health and well-being, and the staff at the Counseling and Mental Health Service (CMHS) is here to support every student. Counseling can help a student gain a better understanding of themselves as well as help the student develop skills to cope better emotionally, socially, or academically. Each year, approximately 25 percent of Tufts students seek support through our service for a range of issues, including those relating to identity, relationships, managing stress and anxiety, trauma, behavioral issues such as eating and substance use issues, and mood disorders.

CMHS offers a variety of services that are confidential and at no charge to eligible students. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the importance in counseling encounters of being able to communicate without masks, CMHS will deliver services remotely as the year begins, as they have since March. Once conditions make it possible to meet in the office, CMHS will return to in-person services.

CMHS services this fall will include individual teleconsultations and teletherapy, assistance with referrals, as appropriate, and a variety of virtual discussion groups and workshops that aim to enhance coping strategies and foster connection among Tufts students. All events will take place on a secure Zoom platform.

CMHS also provides 24/7 crisis intervention in the case of a mental health emergency.

To make an appointment with CMHS, call 617-627-3360. For more information about CMHS services, visit their website here.

Health Services for Conditions Other Than COVID-19

The staff at Health Services is prepared to provide students with both COVID-19–related health care as well as care for non-COVID-19–related illness and health maintenance in the fall semester. Services will include both virtual visits (Telehealth) and on-site appointments for conditions that require a clinician to perform an exam. In-person visits will be by appointment only to avoid crowding and allow for physical distancing in the waiting area and other spaces. All students coming into Health Services for an appointment will be screened by a nurse by phone for symptoms related to COVID-19 and will have a temperature check. This procedure will mitigate the need for students to spend time together in the waiting room. Masks will be worn at all times by both students and staff.
Students with respiratory symptoms that may be concerning for COVID-19 will be seen in a specified Health Services area where we have implemented environmental controls to minimize the risk of transmitting infection, including an updated air handling system, UV lights for disinfection, physical barriers to promote distancing, and separation of sick individuals from others who are receiving care. Guidelines for cleaning and disinfection have been developed and will be followed.

The Health Services staff has all received training on the proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and are engaged in monitoring for fever and other signs of illness. Staff members who have symptoms that maybe associated with COVID-19 or test positive for SARS-CoV-2 will not be permitted to provide health care to students in person. Regular testing of the staff for SARS-CoV-2 is planned.
TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID

Tuition and Fees for 2020–21

Estimated tuition and fees for undergraduate students in 2020–21 are:

- Full Time Tuition.................. $59,560
- Room (Double Room)............. $8,516
- Board (Premium Plan)............. $7,114
- Mandatory Health Fee............ $906
- Student Activity Fee.............. $396
- Medical Insurance (optional)..... $3,465

The estimated tuition and fees for graduate students vary by program. Graduate students can view their 2020–21 tuition and fees in SIS or by consulting the Bursar’s Office.

There will be no reduction in tuition or mandatory fees for 2020-21. This is for two reasons. First, despite the hardships imposed by the pandemic, we will continue to deliver the high-quality academic programs and services that our students and their families expect from a Tufts education. The School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Engineering, and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts will continue to devote their resources to delivering excellence in course instruction, student services, and extracurricular activities. Our students will continue to have access to the many services and elements that make Tufts an outstanding education and experience. The faculty and administration of our schools are deeply committed to enriching in-person, virtual, and hybrid instruction so that students receive the benefits accruing from a rigorous academic experience complemented by a compelling community experience.

Second, the university’s costs are not going down. The costs of providing a Tufts’ quality educational experience have increased, not diminished, in light of the pandemic. Nor does our model of instruction this year seek to reduce costs; to the contrary, we are using technology to enhance the Tufts experience and provide as much individual engagement with students as possible. Moreover, we expect that our students will continue to experience significant benefits from all that they will learn at Tufts and the networks that they will establish as Tufts students.

Given that we are not reducing the quality or cost of our programs, nor the value of our degree as a means to advance students’ careers, we are not lowering tuition for 2020–21.

Students who participate in the 2020-21 academic year remotely but full-time will be required to pay full-time tuition, the student activity fee, and the mandatory health fee. As always, the student activity fee goes to support undergraduate student organizations and programs. All undergraduate students pay the student activity fee and therefore are members of the Tufts Community Union (TCU). Members of the TCU are eligible for all programming and involvement opportunities, as well as the right to vote in TCU Student Government.
elections. Students choosing to be remote will maintain all TCU membership rights and responsibilities. The health fee supports Health Services, the Counseling and Mental Health Service, the CARE Office, and the Health Promotion and Prevention office, and enables students to access insurance support. Emergency and after-hours consultations and advice are available to all in-person and remote students. Students who participate remotely may have access to tele-medicine services (including tele-therapy through the Counseling and Mental Health Service), though certain legal restrictions may apply depending on the location. All remote students have virtual access to the services of the CARE Office and the Health Promotion and Prevention Office. Accordingly, the health fee is required of all students.

**Refunds**

The general refund schedule for student withdrawals is available [here](#). This policy remains in effect during 2020–21.

There will be no refund of tuition, the student activity fee, or the health fee in the event that Tufts determines that all courses must move to a virtual format. In the event that students are required by the university to permanently vacate their on-campus housing before the end of the housing license period, Tufts will provide a pro-rated refund of room charges. Students may request partial refunds of the unused portions of meal plans if the university decides to close the dining halls for the remainder of the academic year. Students who are approved to remain on campus despite the closure because of an inability to depart will be responsible for housing fees for the duration of their stay.

**Financial Aid**

Tufts remains committed to our long-term practice of meeting the full demonstrated financial need of all admitted undergraduates. This commitment is expected to be more expensive for Tufts in 2020–21 as the economic toll of the pandemic reduces the abilities of some students to finance their Tufts education, but it is no less central to our mission. Accordingly, Tufts will meet the full demonstrated financial need of all undergraduate AS&E students in 2020–21.

Students whose ability to fund their education has changed as a result of the pandemic are encouraged to write to the Financial Aid office at finaid@tufts.edu or contact their financial aid advisor directly to communicate changes in their financial situation.

Students who participate in the 2020–21 year fully remotely will not have the cost of room and board calculated into their cost of attendance, and financial aid awards will be reduced accordingly. Students who elect to
take a personal leave and have already taken out loans as part of their financial aid package are reminded that most loans require the borrower to begin payments six months after they were last enrolled. Students with questions about financial aid or loan repayments should contact their financial aid advisor directly.

Agreement

By registering at Tufts University, students acknowledge and agree that Tufts University reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to modify its educational, extracurricular, and other programs for its students at any time, including without limitation, its right to provide any of the educational and extracurricular programs remotely. Tuition and mandatory fees have been set regardless of the method of instruction and will not be refunded in the event instruction or programs occur remotely for any part of the academic year for any reason.
PANDEMIC SAFETY POLICY FOR STUDENT BEHAVIOR

In 2020–21, the student experience at Tufts will be different from previous years. Accordingly, this policy is enacted, effective July 1, 2020, and remains in effect until further notice. This policy applies to all students in the School of Arts and Sciences (including SMFA at Tufts) and the School of Engineering. The purpose of the policy is to establish a shared understanding of what behavior is expected from every community member. The expectations outlined in this policy are designed to reduce the number of people in our community who contract and spread SARS-CoV-2, while also providing an engaging college experience. Our community’s health and safety depend on all members abiding by certain standards.

As the pandemic continues, scientific understanding of the virus and resulting health effects evolves, and thus the guidance from public health authorities and directives from government may change. All community members are expected to monitor trustworthy sources of information about the pandemic, and the university will do the same. In the event that public health guidance or government policy is announced that requires more restrictive measures than this policy, all students are expected to immediately comply with the new measures announced. In the event that restrictions are reduced by the government or public health guidance, all students are expected to continue following this policy until notified the policy has been updated by the university. Given the unique dynamics of university life, Tufts may find it necessary to continue restrictions longer than mandated by authorities. Any changes to this policy will be announced via email and updated on coronavirus.tufts.edu.

New Policy

This Fall 2020 Campus Guide for Students is a published university policy, and all students who participate in the 2020–21 academic year in person are required to follow it. If the student chooses to attend Tufts University in person this year, the student is agreeing to follow all of the expectations specified in this document, including the requirements to wear a mask; practice social distancing; participate in the SARS-CoV-2 testing program; submit daily health reports; cooperate with isolation, self-quarantine, and contact tracing; follow directives prohibiting large gatherings; and abide by residence hall guest policies. Students who do not attend in person are required to follow the applicable parts of this policy if they are on campus or if doing so is otherwise relevant for the university community. All students are also required to follow the directives of faculty and staff at all times related to SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19, including testing, health and safety practices, and any preparation needed to mitigate risk of contracting the virus in a classroom, lab, studio, or academic setting.

All students are advised to carefully reflect on the degree to which they are willing to commit to following these policies as they decide whether or not to participate in the fall semester in person.

Failure to follow the guidelines specified in this document will constitute a violation of university policy and may result in disciplinary action.
Revised Policy

In addition to creating a new policy specified above, one existing policy requires modification due to the changed circumstances. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the following changes are being made to the existing policies at Tufts University. These policy changes are in effect July 1, 2020, and will remain in effect until further notice. An excerpt of the current policy is in plain text and changes to the policy are noted in red.

Student Code of Conduct, section IV (J): Gatherings, Protests, and Demonstrations:

...2. Wearing masks, bandanas, or other material to cover a person’s face in order to conceal their identity is prohibited, unless there is a declared public health emergency which requires the wearing of masks to prevent the spread of disease or the student or student organization has approval from the Department of Public and Environmental Safety....

Enforcement

It is everyone’s responsibility to comply with the new policy, the revised policy, and all existing university policies. The Student Code of Conduct and these policies will be enforced by appropriate university staff, student staff, and faculty. Although we anticipate that all students will do their part to keep our campus safe, students who choose to put the health and well-being of their peers and faculty and staff of the university at risk by not adhering to these policies will be referred to the Student Conduct Resolution Process.

In addition to the policies noted in this document, all other provisions of the Student Code of Conduct will apply as usual this year. Among the policies that are most important as we transition to the new reality in 2020–21 is the academic integrity policy. Students are encouraged to be particularly observant of Tufts’ academic integrity expectations as they engage in new course instruction formats.
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

We recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic creates particular burdens for students who are from countries other than the United States. As of June 2020, international students currently face a number of barriers, including temporary suspension of U.S. visa services, imposition of worldwide travel restrictions, limited international flight availability, and related issues. In addition, as Tufts schools and departments make decisions regarding fall 2020 classes, international students may have questions about their ability to start or continue their studies for the upcoming term.

In this context, the Tufts International Center is responsible for assisting international students with understanding changes to U.S. visa and immigration requirements and identifying their visa options. Keep in touch by going to the I-Center’s website frequently, as changes and updates are taking place every day.

The I-Center advises students that:

• The International Center is currently issuing visa certificates (I-20s) for students who are expecting to arrive by the start of the fall 2020 semester; however, the I-20 may need to be reissued if the student is approved by the school to defer studies (or take a leave of absence) until a later term, such as spring 2021 or fall 2021.
• Similarly, if the student is enrolling in a graduate program that is offering online only courses for the fall 2020 semester, the student will need to contact the International Center, as students cannot come to the United States to start new programs if the programs are offered only online.
• If the student plans to come to Tufts this fall, but is unable to get a visa appointment in time to enter the United States, please note that visa appointment availability is expected to improve by mid-summer. However, Tufts understands that some students may be delayed in their ability to arrive by the start of the fall semester due to visa or travel delays. If this is the case, please update us by emailing internationalcenter@tufts.edu.
• Continuing students should check in with the International Center about their visa options for the fall 2020 semester.

During these challenging times, please be aware that the International Center staff are here to assist students with navigating not only immigration and visa issues, but also with other questions and concerns relating to student well-being and adjustment.
STUDENTS WITH MEDICAL CONCERNS ABOUT RETURNING TO CAMPUS IN FALL 2020

The current global pandemic may be reason for some students and families to consider alternatives to a traditional campus experience, or to request accommodations based on a documented disability.

Services and Consultation Available at Health Services

Students who have medical concerns about the fall 2020 term are encouraged to consult with their health-care providers for individualized assistance determining whether it is appropriate to participate in the fall 2020 semester in person. Students may also visit the Tufts Student Health website to learn more about medical services, insurance, and other ways in which Health Services might provide support. The physicians and other clinicians at Health Services are available to consult with students over the summer about their health conditions in light of the plan for the fall semester. A student may contact Health Services at 617-627-3350 to initiate a consultation of this nature.

Students with Documented Disabilities

Students with disabilities seeking accommodations regarding any part of the fall 2020 experience may submit proper documentation to the StAAR Center to initiate a request for accommodations. Students interested in housing-related accommodations for fall 2020 should submit their documentation by July 1, 2020 so their accommodation request can be considered.

Options

As documented in the next section, any student may opt to participate in the fall 2020 term fully in a remote format. This can be indicated on the intent form that all students will be required to complete by June 30, 2020. This option may be preferable for students who wish to remain home rather than traveling to campus or for those who otherwise do not want to be on campus in any way this fall semester but remain interested in continuing in their academic program. Students with disabilities choosing to stay remote do not need to register with Student Accessibility Services unless they need academic accommodations. Note that course schedules may need to be adjusted based on virtual-only offerings. Students should consult their advising dean with any specific questions about remote participation.
• Students may take a **Medical Leave of Absence** from campus in order to receive treatment for health concerns. A Medical Leave of Absence is also appropriate if a student finds it difficult to productively or safely manage the demands of their academics and campus life due to their health concern. Students may learn more about a medical leave and request a medical leave through the [Dean of Student Affairs Office](#).

• Students may initiate a request for a **personal leave of absence**. Such requests must be initiated through SIS by **July 1, 2020**, for the fall semester and by **October 26, 2020**, for the spring semester. The request will be sent to the student’s advising dean and ordinarily will be approved.

• Note that leaves are only applicable to continuing students. Incoming students should contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, or the Office of the Dean of Graduate Education in the School of Engineering to request a gap year or a **deferral of their admission** should they wish to postpone the start of their Tufts education.
RISK AND OPTIONS

Even with these mitigation measures and students’ full compliance with the guidance provided in this document, it is unfortunately not possible to completely eliminate the risk of COVID-19 infection on campus. It is likely that there will be cases of COVID-19 on campus during 2020-21. It is possible that students may become ill and spread the disease to others in their residential cohorts, in their classes, and to others on campus. It is also likely that some students will become infected at Tufts and spread it to family members and any other people they have close contact with outside of Tufts.

Options

Accordingly, each AS&E student has three options:

1. **Participate in the fall 2020 semester in person.** Students may take classes in person, via hybrid format, and online. They may live in on-campus housing (subject to availability and policies noted above) and use all available services typically provided at Tufts, with the modifications noted earlier in this document. Students living off-campus locally may also take classes in person and use available services.

2. **Participate in the fall 2020 semester remotely.** Students may take only hybrid format and online-only courses. They may not be on campus at any time for any reason and may not use physical services provided by Tufts (e.g., housing, dining, printing, makerspaces, etc.), but they are eligible to use all virtual services provided by Tufts (e.g., electronic access to academic journals, videoconference meetings with academic advisors and other staff, etc.). Accordingly, the IDs of students attending remotely will not work for these on-campus locations, and remote students will be required to remain away from campus for the semester, even if public health conditions improve during the semester. While physical access to the campus will not be available for remote students, they may still utilize many services and professional development programs remotely. Students will have remote access to the library and academic resource services such as tutoring.

3. **Take time away from Tufts.** New undergraduate or graduate students may request to defer their enrollment at Tufts. Returning undergraduate students may take a personal leave, and all returning students can take a medical leave, as noted in previous sections. Students who are approved to defer are guaranteed enrollment for the future term specified by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Students who are approved to take a personal leave are guaranteed return for the term that is approved at the time of leave. Students who take a medical leave will be permitted to return once the health condition that has prompted the leave has been resolved. Restrictions apply as to whether credits earned at outside colleges and universities will be accepted at Tufts. Further details about deferral for new students is available from the Office of Undergraduate Admission, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and the Office of the Dean of Graduate Education in the School of Engineering. Information about personal leave is available.
from the Office of Undergraduate Education, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and the Office of the Dean of Graduate Education in the School of Engineering. Information about medical leave is available from the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs. Students who take time away from Tufts may not be on campus at any time for any reason and may not use physical services provided by Tufts (e.g., housing, dining, printing, makerspaces, etc.) Accordingly, the IDs of students who take time away from Tufts will not work for these on-campus locations, and remote students will be required to remain away from campus for the semester, even if public health conditions improve during the semester.

In making a decision whether or not to return to Tufts this fall, each student should think carefully about their personal health and their tolerance for risk. Tufts encourages students to consult with their physician, family, and others important to them in making the decision about participation in the fall 2020 term.

**Notification of Decision**

**All students are required to notify Tufts of their decision among these three options by June 30, 2020.**

Undergraduate first-year students submit their decision via their new student checklist; all other undergraduates submit their decision via this online form.

Graduate students in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences should complete this online form, and graduate students in the School of Engineering should submit their decision via this online form.

If students have any questions about this guide or their decision to return, they are encouraged to check the FAQs posted here for additional details or email covid19@tufts.edu.

All students in the School of Arts and Sciences, School of Engineering, and School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts are required to notify Tufts of their decision by June 30, 2020.
REFERENCES


15. Adam D, Wu P, Wong J, et al. Clustering and superspreading potential of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infections in Hong Kong. Epidemiology. Published online May 21, 2020. doi: 0.21203/rs.3.rs-29548/v1


