



Policy Name:	COVID-19 Interim Visitor Policy		
Associated Form(s):	N/A	Policy Number:	2021-4
Reviewed:	Non-Academic Policy Review Committee	Approved:	June 9, 2021
Approval Authority:	President <i>Timothy L. Hall</i>	Adopted:	June 28, 2021
Responsible Executive(s):	1) VP Operations and Facilities 2) Chief Advancement Officer	Revised:	September 3, 2021
Responsible Office(s):	1) Facilities 2) Advancement	Contact(s):	1) Director of Operations 2) Director of Alumni Relations

## **1. Policy Statement**

In an effort to continue to protect the health and safety of the Mercy College community during the COVID-19 pandemic and prevent and control the spread of the virus, the College has implemented the following requirements for visitors to any Mercy College campus or location until further notice.

## **2. Visitors on Campus**

Access to all Mercy College buildings is restricted to students, faculty, staff, designated vendors and service operators, and invited guests (i.e. parents/guardians, prospective students and families, board members, alumni, donors, partners, etc.) who are essential to our business model. All other visitors will be admitted by appointment only.

All visitors to campus shall comply with the following guidelines:

- Visitors are required to wear masks at all times while indoors, and outdoors when social distancing is not feasible. Visitors may remove masks when eating or drinking so long as they maintain 6-foot distancing.
- Visitors shall refrain from coming to any Mercy campus location if they are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days, or have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days.
- Visitors 12 years of age and older attending events on campus or Mercy sponsored events off-campus with 50 or more attendees will need to provide proof of full COVID-19 vaccination at entrance to event. For medical or religious exemptions, visitors must contact the College's Equity Compliance Specialist ([TitleIX.Equity@mercy.edu](mailto:TitleIX.Equity@mercy.edu)) at least 3 days in advance of the event. Any exceptions to this policy must be reviewed and approved by the Provost or the President in writing.
- Employees must meet their visitor at the designated entrance to the building where they will be meeting and escort them to and from the meeting space.
- Mercy employees should consider meeting visitors via virtual platforms as much as practicable, in order to limit the number of visitors to Mercy's campuses.

### **3. Alumni**

Mercy College alumni shall be granted access to the campus by obtaining an alumni identification card prior to accessing any of Mercy's indoor facilities. To obtain an alumni card, they must show proof of vaccination. They must contact the Office of Alumni Relations at [alumni@mercy.edu](mailto:alumni@mercy.edu) or 914-674-7759 to request an Alumni Card.

Alumni must abide by the terms and conditions of the College's policies, including the Visitors Policy, and current COVID-19 gatherings and mask guidance.

### **4. Spectators at Athletic Event**

Spectators at all Mercy College sporting events must abide by all requirements in this Policy, as well as the following:

#### **A. Outdoor Sports**

- They must wear face masks whenever they go indoors, and outdoors when they cannot maintain social distancing.
- Mercy fans will be required to sit opposite the Mercy team bench; the opposing team's spectators will be required to sit opposite their team's bench.
- 6-foot social distancing is required between families or groups that came together, and congregation of fans is not permitted.
- No one shall be permitted to stand by the fence abutting the field.
- Tailgating is not permitted.

#### **B. Indoor Sports**

- Proof of vaccination must be provided before entering the gym.
- Face masks must be worn at all times, regardless of vaccination status.
- Athletes are permitted up to 2 spectators each. Lists containing the names and contact information of the expected spectators must be provided to Mercy's Athletic Director by both Mercy and the opposing team prior to the game.
- Anyone present must have 6-foot spacing except those with whom they came, and congregation is not permitted.
- Mercy fans must sit opposite the Mercy bench; opposing teams will sit opposite their team's bench.

## **5. Safety Precautions**

Campus visitors must comply with the College's established personal safety practices, which currently include:

- Wearing a face covering at all times while indoors and outdoors when social distancing is not feasible.
- Complying with social distancing norms and other established safety guidelines while on campus.
- Sanitizing hands upon entry to the campus.
- Refraining from coming to campus if experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.

## **6. Contact Tracing**

All Mercy employees who receive visitors for 15 minutes or more shall obtain their contact information and retain that information for two weeks in the event there is a positive case on campus.

Any visitor who shows signs or has a positive COVID-19 test after a visit to Mercy College should email [healthalert@mercy.edu](mailto:healthalert@mercy.edu) to inform the College when they were on campus and who they met with.

## **7. Disclaimer**

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, is a highly infectious, life-threatening disease declared by the World Health Organization to be a global pandemic. While COVID-19 vaccines are available to the general public, COVID-19, including its variants, still remains a significant threat. Mercy College continues to implement comprehensive safety measures to help to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19, which can be found on the College's website at: <http://www.mercy.edu/oncampus-plus>.

Despite the College's best efforts to control the spread of the virus, the College cannot guarantee a virus-free environment. As such, visitors to campus voluntarily assume full responsibility for any and all risks of illness or injury associated with their exposure to COVID-19, and completely absolve Mercy College, its trustees, officers, employees, agents, and contractors from any and all legal or financial responsibility, including, but not limited to, any personal injury, disability, illness, damage or death from exposure to COVID-19, whether such exposure occurs before, during or after the visit at any campus of Mercy College.

*The College maintains the discretion at all times to modify this policy, including but not limited to, denying access to Mercy's campuses by visitors in order to maintain the health and safety of the College community in light of the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic.*