COVID-19 ADDENDUM

Mercy College is focused on protecting and supporting the health, wellness, safety, and welfare of our students, faculty, and staff, as well as the public with whom we interact, including visitors, contractors, and vendors (referred collectively in this document as Community Members). In response to an unprecedented global health concern, the College is implementing COVID-19 specific policies in compliance with New York State mandatory and recommended guidelines. The following policies are in effect for the 2020-2021 academic year and it is expected that all Mercy community members adhere to these policies. The College reserves the right to update and make edits to this document to be in line with the guidance that comes from local, state, and national public health agencies as well as government officials. Students are also required to abide by all other College Policies, including the Student Handbook, which includes the Code of Conduct.

HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES & REQUIREMENTS

Mercy College is implementing comprehensive safety measures to try and prevent the spread of novel coronavirus which can be found in the attached Appendix D. Students, like faculty, staff and all other Community Members, are required to fully comply with these safety measures. Given the serious nature of the dangers posed by COVID-19, should a student fail to adhere to these guidelines, they may be subject to immediate removal from Mercy campuses, including housing, for the health and safety of our College community. Willful and repeated failure to adhere to these guidelines could lead to disciplinary action, with sanctions up to and including suspension, expulsion, and/or suspension, or permanent removal from housing.

Personal Safety Practices

The College’s success will be contingent upon how well our community follows social distancing and health and safety protocols. As such, the following protocols have been implemented to ensure your health and safety and require a commitment of personal responsibility, which can be found in the MavCare Pledge (Appendix A).

I. Wear Face Coverings:

Face masks or appropriate face coverings must be worn by students when in the presence of others and in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., libraries, classrooms, elevators, shuttles, bathrooms, stairwells, and other common areas). Appropriate use of face masks or coverings is critical in minimizing risk to others near you. You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick. The mask or cloth face covering is not a substitute for social distancing. A face covering is not required if you are studying alone in a confined office space: however, a face covering is required when studying in a large open environment. Mercy College will provide students with a reusable face mask.

All Mercy College students, faculty, and staff reserve the right to kindly ask that students and other community members wear a face covering if they are not wearing one in a required setting. It is recommended that all students carry an extra face mask while on campus. If a student does not have a face covering to put on in that moment, they can be directed to visit Campus Safety or the Health Office. For the health and safety of the College community, Mercy College reserves the right to remove a student from campus and/or prohibit campus access for not adhering to the face covering requirement.

1. Acceptable face coverings: Acceptable face coverings include: Mercy-issued cloth face coverings or other cloth face coverings (e.g., homemade sewn, quick cut), surgical masks, and N95 respirators. Bandanas, gaiters, and valve masks are not
considered acceptable face coverings while on campus. Individuals with disabilities or other needs may request a modification to the face mask requirement. Please see the College’s COVID-19 Reasonable Accommodations Policy for Students, Faculty and Staff.

2. Use and care of face coverings
   a. Putting on the face covering: Wash hands or use hand sanitizer prior to handling the face covering/disposable mask. Ensure the face covering/disposable mask fits over the nose and under the chin. Situate the face covering/disposable mask properly with the nose wire snug against the nose (where applicable). Tie straps behind the head and neck or loop around the ears. Avoid touching the front of the face covering/disposable mask throughout the process.
   b. Taking off the face covering: Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth when removing the face covering/disposable mask. When taking off the face covering/disposable mask, loop your finger into the strap and pull the strap away from the ear, or untie the straps. Never pull off from the front of the mask. Wash hands immediately after removing.
   c. Care, storage and laundering: Keep face covering/disposable mask stored in a paper bag when not in use. Cloth face coverings may not be used more than one day at a time and must be washed after use. Cloth face coverings should be properly laundered with regular clothing detergent before first use, and after each daily use. Cloth face coverings should be replaced immediately if soiled, damaged (e.g. ripped, punctured) or visibly contaminated. Disposable masks must not be used for more than one day and should be placed in the trash after your shift or if it is soiled, damaged (e.g., stretched ear loops, torn or punctured material) or visibly contaminated.

II. Maintain Physical Distancing:
   To the extent practicable, it is required that individuals maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others at all times. To the extent necessary, Mercy will modify or reconfigure the number of chairs in classrooms to ensure appropriate physical distancing. Social distancing is an important measure to limit the spread of COVID-19. It also helps prevent the spread of the virus by infected people who may be asymptomatic and protects people who are at higher risk of getting very sick. Social distancing will be strictly enforced.

   The following guidelines are being introduced to help ensure physical distancing and the safety of our community:

   1. Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms’ lengths) from other people at all times.
   2. Do not gather in groups that exceed 50% capacity of any room or meeting space (or as otherwise limited under local, state and federal guidelines).
   3. Stay out of crowded places and avoid mass gatherings.
   4. Replace handshakes with head nods and waves.
   5. Avoid using other students’ phones or computers when possible. If avoidance is not possible, such as in computer rooms and libraries—although those areas will be washed regularly—students should perform handwashing before and after contact and use available disinfectant or cleaning supplies to wipe down shared phones or computers.
   6. Follow visual cues such as floor decals, colored tape, or signs that indicate where individuals should stand while waiting in line.
The following guidelines pertain to specific spaces on campus. Please follow any limitations or guidelines specifically posted on campus:

1. **Restrooms:** Use of restrooms should be limited based on capacity to ensure at least 6 feet distance between individuals. Wash your hands thoroughly afterward to reduce the potential transmission of the virus.

2. **Elevators:** No more than 50 percent occupancy is permitted in an elevator at a time. If you are using the elevator, wear your mask or face covering and avoid touching the elevator buttons with your exposed hand/fingers, if possible. Wash your hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizers with greater than 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol, upon departing the elevator.

3. **Appointments/Meetings:** Where feasible, students should make appointments in advance when meeting with various offices on campus. If possible, students should consider using collaboration tools (e.g. Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Skype for Business, phone, etc.). In-person meetings are limited to the restrictions of local, state and federal orders and should not exceed 50 percent of a room’s capacity, assuming individuals can still maintain 6 feet of separation for social distancing requirements. All attendees should wear a mask or face covering while sharing space in a common room.

4. **Entrances, Hallways and Stairways:** The College may establish protocols to reduce bi-directional foot traffic or large gatherings in hallways, stairwells, elevators, entrances or other high-traffic areas. Students must adhere to any such established guidelines and signage.

There may be certain limited circumstances (including but not limited to laboratory profession classes) where distancing 6 feet apart will not always be possible. In such cases, everyone must be wearing face coverings and limit the amount of time of the close contact.

III. **Hygiene, Cleaning and Disinfection**

1. **Handwashing:** Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place or used communal equipment (e.g. cafeteria, public transportation, shuttle, meeting room, classroom, communal photocopiers/printers, etc.), or after blowing your nose, coughing, sneezing, or touching your face. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, and wash your hands after touching your face.

2. **Gloves:** According to the CDC, gloves are not necessary or recommended for general use and do not replace good hand hygiene. Washing your hands often is considered the best practice for common everyday tasks.

3. **Cleaning/Disinfection/Hand Sanitizers:** Facilities teams will clean classrooms and libraries based on CDC guidelines for disinfection protocols. Facilities Management will also maintain hand-sanitizer stations at major building entrances and other high-traffic areas. Mechanical, electrical, plumbing and monitoring systems will be assessed and readied prior to reopening of buildings. Building occupants should also wipe down commonly used surfaces before and after use with products that meet the EPA’s criteria for use against COVID-19 and are appropriate for the surface. This includes any shared-space location or equipment (e.g. copiers, printers, computers, A/V and other electrical equipment, desks and tables, light switches, doorknobs, etc.).
4. **Cleaning Procedures for Impacted Spaces**: When a student or employee tests positive for COVID-19, cleaning procedures in accordance with state and CDC guidelines will be triggered and parts or all of an impacted campus may be closed depending on the circumstances.

5. **Coughing/Sneezing Hygiene**: If you are in a private setting and do not have on your cloth face covering, remember to always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. Then throw used tissues in the trash. Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

6. **Food and Beverage**
   a. **Generally**: Before and after eating, you should wash your hands thoroughly to reduce the potential transmission of the virus. If dining on campus, you should wear your mask or face covering until you are ready to eat and then put it back on afterward. Mercy dining establishments will be configured to meet social distancing requirements to allow at least 6 feet of distance between each customer, including lines and seating arrangements. Consumption of food is prohibited in classrooms during class-time and is prohibited in all Mercy College libraries.
   b. **Shared Food**: To minimize the risk of transmission of COVID-19, there should be no communal or sharing of food items among individuals in the form of buffets, potlucks, open food platters or the like. All gatherings with food must have individually packaged food items. Drinks should be limited to single individual bottles/cans intended for one person.
   c. **Food Delivery**: To keep the College community safe, food delivery personnel (with the exception of those related to our contracted vendors) may not go beyond the designated entry of any building to deliver to individual classrooms, conference rooms, dorm rooms or other campus locations. Instead, employees and students must meet the delivery person at the designated entry to a building (except when isolation or quarantine is mandated, as set forth below).

IV. **Additional Facilities and Gatherings Limitations**

The College is taking significant steps to reduce density on all its campuses. Students are required to adhere to max capacity signage in all classrooms and common spaces, including but not limited to, libraries, cafeterias, stairways and elevators.

The College reserves the right to limit what events and gatherings will take place on campus, as well as numbers permitted in any particular gathering. The College’s policy will adhere to the local, state, and federal COVID-19 guidance as it relates to gatherings and other on-campus events. Convening in groups increases the risk of viral transmission. Where feasible, meetings should be held in whole or part using available collaboration tools. Any necessary in-person meetings shall not exceed 50 percent of a room’s capacity (or as otherwise limited by guidelines) assuming individuals can still maintain six-feet of separation, and face coverings should always be worn. Meetings should be as brief as possible to conduct the business at hand.

Any outdoor gatherings must adhere to current state and local limitations on size. In addition, participants must follow social distancing guidelines and wear face coverings. Even if
permitted in the local jurisdiction, gatherings exceeding 15 people, other than academic classes, must be expressly approved in advance by the President or Provost.

All College-supplied furniture and equipment must remain in the designated areas. Removal or relocation of College furniture and/or equipment from classrooms, libraries and common spaces is prohibited.

V. Daily Symptom Monitoring
All students must conduct a health screening every day before coming to campus and may be asked to display the results of such screening to gain entry into any Mercy location. The daily self-screening questionnaire is available through the College’s notification app, Maverick Safe. Students who do not have access to smartphone technology may print a copy of the questionnaire and show it upon arrival at a Mercy Campus.

Students shall not come to class or leave their dorm room if they have any symptoms potentially related to COVID-19, as defined below.

The screening questionnaire will seek to determine whether an student has: (a) been in close contact – within 6 feet for at least 10 minutes – with anyone while they had COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19 during the last 14 days, (b) tested positive on a COVID-19 diagnostic test in the past 14 days, (c) experienced any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 – including fever of 100.4 degrees F or greater, new cough, or shortness of breath – in the past 14 days, (d) visited in the past 14 days a state or country with a NYS (https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory) or U.S. State Department travel advisory related to COVID-19 (https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information.html). Per NYS Guidance, the College will review all screening activity on a daily basis.

At this time, according to the CDC, symptoms of COVID-19 include one or more of the following:

1. Fever or chills
2. Cough
3. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
4. Fatigue
5. Muscle or body aches
6. Headache
7. New loss of taste or smell
8. Sore throat
9. Congestion or runny nose
10. Nausea or vomiting
11. Diarrhea

See CDC website for the most up-to-date guidelines: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html

VI. Experiencing Symptoms of or Confirmed to have COVID-19
Any student who is feeling sick or experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, must notify the Health Office immediately at 914-674-7255, healthalert@mercy.edu, or through the Student Health Portal. Students may be required to be tested and directed to quarantine or isolate. See Quarantine and Isolation Procedures below for additional information.
VII. Reporting and Contact Tracing
All students who have tested positive or have been exposed to COVID-19 are expected to report to the Health Office at 914-674-7255, healthalert@mercy.edu or through the Student Health Portal and cooperate with contact tracing efforts conducted by College officials and local Department of Health officials. The College will protect and maintain the confidentiality of your information as required by law. Students will be expected to quarantine or isolate. See Quarantine and Isolation Procedures below.

VIII. Travel and Transportation
Mercy College strongly urges students to refrain from traveling out of state during the academic term. If a student must travel out of state, they may be required to quarantine for 14 days, as per the New York State Travel Advisory. Residential students required to quarantine will be responsible for any expenses for quarantining off-campus. Students should refer to CDC, local and state guidelines regarding considerations for traveling.

It is likely that some students will have to change their normal commuting practice. Using mass transit may not be an option or may be considered too risky for some. Students should take steps now to identify all potential options for a safe commute, such as a personal vehicle, ride-share services, or biking.

IX. Visitors
In an effort to protect the health of the Mercy College community during the COVID-19 pandemic and prevent the spread of the virus, the College has implemented the following limitations on visitors to any College campus or location until further notice. Access to all Mercy College buildings is restricted to students, faculty, staff, designated vendors and service operators, and invited guests (including prospective students and families, board members, donors, partners, etc.) who are essential to our business model. Parents and families of residential students may be allowed on campus during move-in and move-out periods, as well as during emergency situations such as if a student is injured or ill, or needs to quarantine or isolate due to COVID-19, to assist students. All other visitors will be admitted by appointment only.

All students and visitors must comply with the guidelines set out in the COVID-19 Interim Visitor’s Policy (Appendix C) related to (1) Scheduling and Hosting Visitors, (2) Required Health Screening and Safety Precautions, and (3) Contact Tracing.

Students must provide visitors in advance with a copy of the Visitor Screening Form (Appendix C).

Mental and Emotional Wellbeing
Mercy College understands that the COVID-19 pandemic has increased stress levels of students, not just here but across the nation and the world. Students who experience stress related to COVID-19 and would like to speak with a counselor immediately can call NYC’s Emotional Support Line: 1-844-863-9314. You can also go to our Helpful Links page for more resources.

As of March 17, 2020, the Student Counseling Center will be offering all appointments through the virtual platform, Doxy.me. To schedule an appointment, please email CounselingCenter@mercy.edu. Due to licensing restrictions, clinical appointments are only available to students who are located in the state of New York. If you are not in New York but would like an appointment, please contact us to discuss your options.
Virtual sessions allow counselors to provide support while adhering to the CDC’s health recommendations. These changes are not meant to provoke fear, but to ensure the well-being of all. Counselors at the SCC are dedicated to supporting all Mercy Students. For questions, please email: CounselingCenter@mercy.edu or visit us at https://www.mercy.edu/student-affairs/counseling-services.

Reasonable Accommodations
Students who may need any academic adjustments or class or housing accommodations relating to COVID-19 should review the College’s Reasonable Accommodations for Faculty, Staff and Students due to COVID-19 Pandemic, contact the Office of ACCESSibility at accessibility@mercy.edu or (914) 674-7764, or contact the Health Office through the Student Health Portal.

Enforcement and Reporting
The policies and guidelines relating to COVID-19 are necessary in order to maintain a safe and healthy environment for everyone on Mercy’s campuses. As noted above, failure to adhere to the requirements in this Guide, as well as other College policies, relating to COVID-19 could lead to immediate removal from campus or housing due to health and safety necessity. In cases of willful and repeated disregard of these policies, disciplinary action may be warranted under the Code of Student Conduct as well as enhanced sanctions, including suspension for the semester or longer, suspension from housing or even expulsion.

If a student believes that other Community Members are not appropriately abiding by the restrictions relating to COVID-19, they can contact their PACT mentor, members of the Student Affairs staff, Residential Life staff, the Office of Human Resources or the General Counsel. In addition, complaints can be made via the College’s Whistleblower Hotline at 1-888-OK-MERCY (1-888-656-3729) or the online Complaint Form, which offers anonymous reporting and prohibits retaliation against anyone who reports a violation of College policy in good faith. For more information refer to the College’s Whistleblower Policy.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENTIAL LIFE STUDENTS

I. **Face Coverings:** All resident students must wear a face covering at all times while in the residential areas, including but not limited to, hallways, common spaces, laundry room, kitchens, stairways and elevators. The following are exceptions to when and where a student is required to wear a mask/face covering:
   a. When in your assigned room
   b. When using communal bathrooms for showering and/or dental hygiene

II. **Guest Policy:** Non-Residential students and non-Mercy individuals are not permitted into any residential area. Resident students are not permitted to enter Residence Halls that they do not reside in.

III. **Limits on Gatherings:** Residential students entering a room other than their own, must receive prior approval from all students who reside in the room. No more than three individuals (including resident, or a number of people equal to double of the occupancy of the room, whichever is lower) may gather in a residential room. Face coverings must be worn, and social distancing recommendations must be followed.
IV. **ID Card Access Required:** Residential students are expected to carry their Mercy College ID cards with them at all times. Residential student ID cards are required to gain access to the residence hall in which a student resides.

V. **Travel:** Students are expected to remain on campus or the local surroundings. Students may leave campus for work, to visit local businesses, or for medical appointments, and they are expected to practice preventative behavior when off campus including wearing a mask and maintaining a physical distance of at least 6 feet.

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**QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION PROTOCOL AND PLANNING**

Quarantine and Isolation help protect the public by preventing exposure to people who have or may have a contagious disease.

**Quarantine** separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick. A typical quarantine period lasts 14 days.

**Isolation** separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 typically isolate for at least 10 days from the time they are tested, or symptoms first appear but could isolate for longer periods of time if symptoms persist.

Mercy College has developed procedures for both residential and commuter students who are required to quarantine or isolate due to possible exposure to COVID-19.

I. **Who needs to quarantine?**

Anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 will need to quarantine. This includes people who previously had COVID-19 and people who have taken the antibody test and have antibodies for the virus. What counts as close contact?

a. Being within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 10 minutes
b. Providing care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
c. Having direct physical contact with a person who has COVID-19 (touched, hugged or kissed them)
d. Sharing eating or drinking utensils with someone who has COVID-19
e. Getting respiratory droplets on you after a person who has COVID-19 sneezed, coughed, etc.

II. **Quarantine Procedures for Residential Students**

If a residential student is informed through contact tracing or other methods that they were possibly exposed to COVID-19, the following procedures must be adhered to:

a. If necessary, the resident student will be removed from their current assigned living space and moved away from other resident students.
b. If the resident student lives within 200 miles of campus or is otherwise capable of returning home and has suitable space at home for quarantining, the student must return home for the duration of the quarantine period. The quarantine will not be at the student’s expense except where the student is required to quarantine as a result of visiting and returning from a state or country deemed high risk and requiring quarantine by New York State order.
c. If the resident student is incapable of returning home, the student will be housed in a space designated by Residential Life.
d. Mercy will ensure meals are delivered to the resident student while in quarantine.
e. All academic activities will be delivered virtually, and the resident student should inform in-person faculty members that they are required to attend class remotely. The resident student should also contact their assigned PACT counselor for additional support.
f. The resident student will be contacted as necessary by a contact tracer to monitor their status. Medical and mental health referrals will be made as appropriate. Any development of COVID-19 signs and symptoms may require testing and referral to a medical provider.
g. The resident student may move back into the residential area after completing the state-mandated 14-day quarantine period with continued self-monitoring and without presenting any symptoms of COVID-19. The resident student will be informed when they are eligible to return to their assigned room by the Health Office and/or the Office of Residential Life.

III. Quarantine Procedures for Commuter Students
If a commuter student is informed through contact tracing or other methods that they were possibly exposed to COVID-19, the following procedures must be adhered to:
a. The commuter student must quarantine in their place of residence for the required 14 days.
b. All academic activities will be delivered virtually, and the commuter student should inform in-person faculty members that they are required to attend class remotely. The commuter student should also contact their assigned PACT counselor for additional support.
c. The commuter student will be contacted as necessary by a contact tracer to monitor their status. Medical and mental health referrals will be made as appropriate. Any development of COVID-19 signs and symptoms may require testing and referral to a medical provider.
d. The commuter student with in-person courses may return to campus for class after completing the state-mandated 14-day quarantine period with continued self-monitoring and without presenting any symptoms of COVID-19. The commuter student will be informed when they are eligible to return to campus by the Health Office and/or a designated College official.

IV. Who needs to isolate?
Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will need to isolate, whether or not they are displaying symptoms for COVID-19. COVID-19 is extremely contagious, meaning that it is easily transmitted from one person to another. Individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 or think they might have it because of their symptoms are advised to not come in close contact with others, including people they may live with. This is called "self-isolation."

V. Isolation Procedures for Residential Students
If a residential student tests positive for COVID-19, the following procedures must be adhered to:
a. For proper containment, the resident student in necessary isolation will be relocated to a private room with a private bathroom.
b. If the resident student lives within 200 miles of campus or is otherwise capable of returning home and has suitable space in their home to isolate, the student must return home for the duration of the isolation period. The isolation will not be at the student’s
expense except where the student is required to quarantine as a result of visiting and returning from a state or country deemed high risk and requiring quarantine by New York State order.

c. If the resident student is incapable of returning home, the student will be housed in a space designated by Residential Life.

d. The resident student in necessary isolation may not interact in person with other people in the hallway or common area and may not leave the building.

e. If the resident student in necessary isolation needs an item from their regular housing assignment, they should contact their assigned Residential Life representative.

f. The resident student who is in necessary isolation is not permitted to order take-out food for delivery to campus. Mercy will ensure meals are delivered to the resident student while in isolation.

g. The resident student in necessary isolation will be contacted daily via phone or telehealth by Health Services to monitor their status. Medical and mental health referrals will be made as appropriate.

h. All academic activities will be delivered virtually, and the resident student should inform in-person faculty members that they are required to attend class remotely. The resident student should also contact their assigned PACT counselor for additional support.

i. The Health Office will determine when the resident student is able to return to their regular housing assignment and in-person courses following the New York State Department of Health Release from Quarantine and Isolation guidelines.

VI. Isolation Procedures for Commuter Students

If a commuter student tests positive for COVID-19, the following procedures must be adhered to:

a. The commuter student will be confined to their place of residence. If this is not possible, the commuter student should review the Hotel Program information below.

b. The commuter student will be contacted daily via phone or telehealth by the Health Office to monitor their status. Medical and mental health referrals will be made as appropriate.

c. All academic activities will be delivered virtually, and the commuter student should inform in-person faculty members that they are required to attend class remotely. The commuter student should also contact their assigned PACT counselor for additional support.

d. The Health Office will determine when the commuter student is able to return to campus for classes following the New York State Department of Health Release from Quarantine and Isolation guidelines.

VII. Isolation Hotel Program for Those with COVID-19

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 or think they might have it because they are experiencing signs or symptoms may qualify for isolation in a hotel, free of charge, for up to 14 days if they do not currently have a safe place to self-isolate. This can mean:

a. Their home does not have space for them to stay six feet away from others

b. They share rooms or a bathroom

c. They live with someone who is vulnerable

Hotel rooms are also available for New York residents who do not have COVID-19 but live with someone who has COVID-19.
Students who are currently at home and think they may have COVID-19 can call 311 or 844-NYC-4NYC (1-844-692-4692) between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

A medical provider will assess their situation and then refer them to a hotel if appropriate.

VIII. Preparation for Quarantine or Isolation
Students who are asked to quarantine or isolate by the College will not be able to go back to their assigned living space to gather supplies. They will also be unable to leave their quarantine or isolation space during the quarantine/isolation period. To prepare for this, students should assemble a Go-Kit before arriving to campus so that another individual can easily pick it up and deliver it to them. Recommended Go-Kit supplies include:

a. **Cleaning Supplies:** Students should pack EPA-approved disinfecting wipes to use in their living spaces before, during, and after any possible isolation or quarantine. They will need to use these in any common areas of their residence while they are in isolation, quarantine, or anytime they are not feeling well.

b. **Self-care Medicine:** Students should pack fever/pain reducers such as acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Advil). They should not use multi-symptom medications in combination with these as it can be easy to take too much. They may want to pack lozenges for sore throats and cough medications.

c. **Prescription Medications:** Students should pack several days’ worth of any prescription medications they need. They should speak with their provider about how to access medications while they are in quarantine or isolation.

d. **Thermometer:** Mercy will be providing all residential students with a personal thermometer.

e. **Face Coverings:** Students should pack multiple face coverings so that they can wear a fresh one each day.

f. **Comfort Food:** Students should pack their favorite snacks and drinks, along with a reusable water bottle. Mercy will ensure meals are delivered to residential students in quarantine or isolation, but their favorite snacks can sometimes provide comfort. Commuter students should maintain a supply of food at home and be knowledgeable about ordering food delivery from their local grocery store.

g. **Comfortable Clothes:** Students are encouraged to pack a few days’ worth of comfortable clothes, including two weeks’ worth of undergarments.

h. **Hygiene Supplies:** Students should pack shampoos, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine products, etc.

i. **Towels:** Depending on the quarantine or isolation location, students may need to bring a spare towel. Students should bring more than one towel if possible.

j. **Spare Set of Twin XL Sheets:** Depending on the quarantine or isolation location, students may need to bring a spare set of bedsheets. Students can use their pillow and blanket from their current bed.

k. **Phone and Laptop Chargers:** Students should pack chargers for all electronic devices they plan to use.

l. **Self-Care Items to Support Well-Being:** These may include art supplies, puzzles, crafts, playing cards, portable exercise equipment (fitness bands, hand weights or yoga mat) or books, etc.

In addition to the Go-Kit, students should ensure their academic materials (laptop, books, etc.) are readily accessible to be brought to them.
If students forget anything, the Campus Bookstore will have supplies available for purchase. They can also communicate with Residential Life staff to coordinate delivery of any items they may have forgotten in their room.

SHUTDOWN
In the event the College is forced to shut down, in whole or in part, relating to COVID-19, the College has a contingency plan in place for continuing education remotely, in accordance with directions from the College’s Emergency Response Team.

If Mercy College is required to close and/or if students are required to vacate the housing premises by federal, state, or local governmental authorities or applicable law, or if Mercy College determines such action to be warranted, in light of continuing or potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mercy College expects to do what it did in Spring 2020 (when required by state order to close the campus), which was to refund students a pro rata portion of the housing charges attributable to the period during which such action becomes necessary. Mercy College’s calculation of the amount of a refund pursuant to this paragraph shall be binding absent manifest error. If a student elects to vacate their assigned unit due to their own illness or based on concerns related to COVID-19 (or otherwise), or due to quarantine or isolation during the course of the term, in the absence of such a mandated departure, refunds, if any, will be determined in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 10 of the Contract for Housing at Mercy College, and the schedules referred to in paragraph 3 of that Contract.

All other Mercy College policies, rules and regulations, including the College Catalog and Bulletin, shall remain in effect.

CONCLUSION
It is expected for all Mercy College students to be informed not only on the policies referenced in the Student Handbook, but to also educate themselves on the health and safety guidance set forth by Mercy College, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and New York State.

I. Mercy College OnCampus Plus: https://www.mercy.edu/oncampus-plus
II. CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/
III. NY State: https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home

As we return to campus in the fall and begin this “new normal,” we understand that students may have concerns about their safety and well-being. We want every student to be assured that we are taking their concerns and their well-being seriously. Student questions and concerns should be addressed to your PACT mentor and/or the Office of Student Affairs.
APPENDIX A

COVID-19 MAVCARE PLEDGE

In addition to the COVID-19 Code of Student Conduct policies, Mercy College developed the MavCare Pledge. This is a set of principles and daily actions that reflect guidelines from public health experts and agencies allowing us to create a healthy and safe environment conducive to the Mercy experience.

As a Maverick, I pledge that I will adhere to the following principles in order to ensure a safe and healthy return to campus:

1. **Always Wear My Face Mask**
   Mavs commit to wearing a face covering (or other appropriate safety gear) while on campus. Mercy will provide a reusable face covering to all students.

2. **Wash My Hands Frequently**
   Community members commit to rigorously practicing hand hygiene and cough etiquette. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after having been in a public place, or after blowing one’s nose, coughing or sneezing. Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

3. **Clean and Sanitize**
   Sanitize frequently touched surfaces including but not limited to desks, chairs, and keyboards before and after use. Mercy College will provide disinfectant wipes in common areas/spaces such as libraries and cafeterias.

4. **Stay at Least 6 Feet Apart**
   Mavs will follow physical distancing guidelines requiring individuals to maintain at least 6 feet of separation from others. In addition, Mavs will take other precautions like avoiding gathering in groups, sharing equipment, and shaking hands.

5. **Monitor my health**
   Before coming to campus, students commit to conduct daily symptom monitoring using the Mavericks Safe app. COVID-19 signs and symptoms include cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat or a new loss of taste or smell. Other less common symptoms have been reported, including gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting or diarrhea. For additional information please visit the CDC’s Symptoms of Coronavirus page: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html).

6. **Stay Home If I’m Sick or Exposed to Someone with COVID-19**
   Mavs experiencing signs or symptoms of COVID-19 will stay home or leave campus immediately and seek medical evaluation by calling their primary care physician or local urgent care center. Students who are diagnosed with probable or confirmed COVID-19 will report their diagnosis to Mercy’s Office of Health and Wellness to facilitate contact tracing and will follow other guidance about isolation or quarantine.

7. **Mavs will Help Mavs**
   Mavs commit to being patient and courteous to their fellow Mavericks during this unusual time and provide help to anyone around who may be in need of support.
APPENDIX B
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK FORMS
MERCY COLLEGE
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK FORM

Student Information

First Name: __________________________ Last Name: ________________________________

CWID Number: ______________________ Phone Number: ____________________________

Acknowledgement of Risk

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, is a highly infectious, life-threatening disease declared by the World Health Organization to be a global pandemic. There is no current vaccine or cure for COVID-19. COVID-19’s highly contagious nature means that contact with others or contact with surfaces that have been exposed to the virus, can lead to infection. Additionally, individuals who may have been infected with COVID-19 may be asymptomatic (i.e. not showing symptoms) for a period of time or may never become symptomatic at all. Because of its highly contagious and sometimes “hidden” nature, it is currently very difficult to control the spread of COVID-19 or to determine whether, where, or how a specific individual may have been exposed to the disease. COVID-19 is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact.

Aware of the foregoing, I acknowledge that notwithstanding precautions taken by Mercy College, coming to a college campus carries inherently elevated risks of contracting communicable diseases such as COVID-19. I acknowledge and agree that I am choosing to come to a Mercy College campus at my own risk, which involves a risk of bodily illness, injury or even death due to exposure to COVID-19. My decision to come to a Mercy College campus is voluntary, and I know of, and understand all the risks.

By signing this agreement, I understand and acknowledge that Mercy College is implementing comprehensive safety measures to try and prevent the spread of novel coronavirus, which can be found in the attached Appendix. I agree to fully comply with these safety measures, including wearing a cloth mask or other appropriate face covering while in all public spaces, regularly washing or sanitizing my hands, staying at least six feet apart from others in public spaces whenever possible, conducting daily health self-screenings and self-reporting to the Student Health Office if I have COVID-19 signs or symptoms, and following all safety directives required by the College. I acknowledge that attending classes on a Mercy College campus is contingent upon fulfillment of these safety measures and all Mercy College policies, rules and regulations, and that the College Catalog and Bulletin remain in effect.

My signature below indicates that I am at least eighteen years of age and that I have read and understand the above statement and intend to be bound legally by its terms.

Student Signature: ___________________________ Date: _____________
IF STUDENT IS UNDER THE AGE OF 18, STUDENT’S PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN:
By signing this agreement, I acknowledge that I have read the foregoing regarding the risks of my child participating in Mercy College programming and that as a result, my child could be exposed to personal injury, illness, disability, and even death due to exposure to COVID-19. My decision to allow my child to attend a Mercy College campus is voluntary, and I know of, and understand all the risks.

Signature of Parent or Guardian: ______________ Date: ______________
MERCY COLLEGE
RESIDENTIAL LIFE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK FORM

Student Information

First Name: ________________________ Last Name: _______________________________

CWID Number: ____________________ Phone Number: ____________________________

Acknowledgement of Risk

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, is a highly infectious, life-threatening disease declared by the World Health Organization to be a global pandemic. There is no current vaccine or cure for COVID-19. COVID-19’s highly contagious nature means that contact with others or contact with surfaces that have been exposed to the virus, can lead to infection. Additionally, individuals who may have been infected with COVID-19 may be asymptomatic (i.e. not showing symptoms) for a period of time or may never become symptomatic at all. Because of its highly contagious and sometimes “hidden” nature, it is currently very difficult to control the spread of COVID-19 or to determine whether, where, or how a specific individual may have been exposed to the disease. COVID-19 is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact.

Aware of the foregoing, I acknowledge that notwithstanding precautions taken by Mercy College, occupancy of group living facilities such as Mercy College housing carries inherently elevated risks of contracting communicable diseases such as COVID-19. I acknowledge and agree that I am choosing to live in Mercy College housing at my own risk. I acknowledge that living in Mercy College housing involves a risk of bodily illness or injury or even death due to exposure to COVID-19. My decision to live in Mercy College housing is voluntary, and I know of, and understand all the risks.

By signing this agreement, I understand and acknowledge that Mercy College is implementing comprehensive safety measures to try and prevent the spread of novel coronavirus, which can be found in the attached Appendix. I agree to fully comply with these safety measures, including wearing a cloth mask or other appropriate face covering while in all public spaces, regularly washing or sanitizing my hands, staying at least six feet apart from others in public spaces whenever possible, conducting daily health self-screenings and self-reporting to the Student Health Office if I have COVID-19 signs or symptoms, and following all safety directives required by the College. I acknowledge that occupancy of Mercy College housing and my assigned housing unit is contingent upon fulfillment of these safety measures and all Mercy College policies, rules and regulations.

I understand that Mercy College reserves the right to require me to temporarily relocate to other housing facilities in the event that the College determines such action to be necessary or advisable in the event I or any other person have a positive COVID-19 test or have a suspected exposure to COVID-19. These facilities may be located in Mercy College housing or at an offsite location of the College’s choosing. I understand that such relocation does not entitle me to a refund or result in an abatement of housing charges, though I will not be charged any additional expenses except if I have to quarantine after returning from a visit from a state or a country considered high risk and requiring quarantine. In such a case, quarantine may be at my own expense if any additional expenses are incurred.

I understand that in the event I experience symptoms of COVID-19 or am advised by the Student Health Office to be tested for COVID-19, I will have to be in isolation or quarantine for a period of time. The protocol for isolation or quarantine will be that if I live within 200 miles of campus or am
otherwise capable of returning home, and my home has suitable space to allow me to quarantine and isolate, I will return home to my permanent residence for the duration of my isolation or quarantine and will not return to the Mercy campus until released by the Student Health Office to do so.

I understand that if I cannot return home or do not live within 200 miles of campus, or the space is not suitable for quarantine or isolation, I will be housed in an isolation or quarantine location on campus or at an offsite location of the College’s choosing. I may have to temporarily move out of my current room and will be advised as to what steps I need to take in order to do that.

Except as provided in the preceding paragraphs, if Mercy College is required to close and/or if students are required to vacate the premises by federal, state, or local governmental authorities or applicable law, or if Mercy College determines such action to be warranted, in light of continuing or potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mercy College expects to do what it did in Spring 2020 (when required by state order to close the campus), which was to refund students a pro rata portion of the housing charges attributable to the period during which such action becomes necessary. Mercy College’s calculation of the amount of a refund pursuant to this paragraph shall be binding absent manifest error. If I elect to vacate my assigned unit due to my own illness or based on concerns related to COVID-19 (or otherwise) in the absence of such a mandated departure, refunds, if any, will be determined in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 10 of the Contract for Housing at Mercy College, and the schedules referred to in paragraph 3 of that Contract.

My signature below indicates that I am at least eighteen years of age and that I have read and understand the above statement and intend to be bound legally by its terms.

Student Signature: ___________________________ Date: _____________

IF STUDENT IS UNDER THE AGE OF 18, STUDENT’S PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN:

By signing this agreement, I acknowledge that I have read the foregoing regarding the risks of my child living in Mercy College Housing or participating in Mercy College programming and that as a result, my child could be exposed to personal injury, illness, disability, and even death due to exposure to COVID-19. I acknowledge that living in Mercy College housing involves a risk of bodily illness or injury or even death due to exposure to COVID-19. My decision to allow my child to live in Mercy College housing is voluntary, and I know of, and understand all the risks.

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _______________ Date: _____________
I have been informed of the safety measures that Mercy College has undertaken to ensure the safety of students and employees, including, but not limited to:

- Requiring that all employees and students conduct a health self-screening daily before reporting to work or campus and requiring that employees and students with COVID-19 signs or symptoms stay home, all residential students with COVID-19 signs and symptoms stay in their on-campus residence, and all non-residential students with COVID-19 signs and symptoms stay home.
- Providing a cloth mask to all employees and students and requiring that masks or approved face coverings are worn at all Mercy College locations.
- Maintaining hand sanitizer stations at major building entrances and other high-traffic areas.
- Assessing and readying mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and monitoring systems and increasing cleaning of offices, workspaces, and classrooms.
- Disinfecting commonly used surfaces, such as copiers, printers, light switches, doorknobs, using products that meet EPA criteria.
- Phasing in employee and student return-to-campus to coordinate on-campus capacity and staggering shifts to reduce crowding especially during popular entry and exit times.
- Reducing occupancy of classrooms to approximately 40% - 45%, reducing density of common spaces, and eliminating major in-person events.
- Creating the conditions for social distancing in shared workspaces and public areas.
- Requiring that all employees view a return-to-campus training video discussing information about COVID-19, how to limit exposure, and steps taken on campus to protect the community, and encouraging students to watch a similar video.
- Posting signage to ensure all members of the College are aware of on-campus expectations.
- Minimizing external visitors to campus and residence halls.
- Increasing the frequency of virtual meetings and appointments.
- Publishing and publicizing the MavCare Pledge with seven principles for keeping the community safe.
- Training a team of internal contact tracers to supplement the efforts of the regional health authorities where possible.
- Monitoring key metrics related to virus spread on the campus and in the wider community.
- Requiring that employees and students comply with New York State travel restrictions, specifically quarantining for 14 days after returning from restricted states or countries. [https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory)
- Requiring that students maintain social distancing on all Mercy College campuses.
APPENDIX C

COVID-19 INTERIM VISITOR POLICY

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

Visitors on Campus

Access to all Mercy College buildings is restricted to students, faculty, staff, designated vendors and service operators, and invited guests. Parents and families of residential students may be allowed on campus during move-in and move-out periods, as well as during emergency situations such as if a student is injured or ill, or needs to quarantine or isolate due to COVID-19, to assist students. All other visitors will be admitted by appointment only. Residential students are encouraged to speak with their assigned Resident Director prior to inviting a visitor to campus. All visitors to campus shall comply with the guidelines listed below.

Scheduling and Hosting Visitors

- All visitors and guests must be pre-scheduled by close of business the day before their visit by completing a Visitor Screening Form (https://mercy.formstack.com/workflows/visitor_form) that will inform Mercy College Campus Safety of their arrival.
- Visitors and guests will be required to present a completed Visitor Screening Form to gain entry to a campus location. Students who invite a guest to visit the College should provide their visitor with a copy of this policy and the Visitor Screening Form in advance of their visit.
- Unannounced visitors or visitors who do not have a Visitor Screening Form will be asked to wait at the entrance to the building until their appointment on campus can be verified and they fill out the visitor form.
- Students 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.
- Visitors are not permitted into the Residential Areas unless otherwise authorized by Residential Life and only to assist a residential student during move-in and move-out periods or during an emergency.
- Visitors and guests must adhere to all health and safety measures including, but not limited to wearing appropriate face coverings and maintaining recommended social distancing.