

Important Information for Resident Students about Move-in and COVID Testing

8/17/2020

Trailblazers,

Classes start Sept. 2, and we are counting down the days until you arrive. We want to make sure you're prepared for move-in, which will look very different this year in order to prioritize everyone's health and safety.

We know you are wondering what to expect around moving into your residence area, the process for testing, and more. In this email, you'll find information about move-in, the where, when, and how of our testing process, and other helpful details. We know this semester is going to be very different, and in some ways, challenging. But we are glad to welcome you back. You are a part of our community and will always be valued here, no matter what is going on in the world.

Move-In

You received detailed information from RPS last week about the process for moving into your residence area, including your assigned/chosen 2 hour move-in window. **This communication today does not change the directions you have already received.** It is intended to supplement them and to provide information about the COVID testing process that will take place before you can move into your assigned room. If you have any questions after reading this message, please reach out by responding to this message.

As you know, you are allowed one helper for move-in. While we understand the excitement that many families have when a student goes off to college for the first time, we are asking that you please not bring extra people to campus with you, particularly young siblings or grandparents. Only the student and their helper will be able to get out of the car on campus, so if it is a hot day, anyone extra in the car may be very uncomfortable. Please understand that for the safety of our community, including the many staff members involved in the move-in process, we must limit the number of people with whom they are interacting. Your helper is expected to depart from campus as soon as your move-in is complete.

Scheduled Move-In Times:

Please note that you may only move in on the day and time that you have been assigned (new students) or chosen (returning students). This is critically important because of the required COVID-19 testing, which is scheduled to correspond to your move-in schedule. If you need to change your move-in window, you may be able to do so by contacting RPS directly as soon as possible. **The deadline to change your move-in time, if necessary, is 4 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25.**

Please pay careful attention to this because if you arrive on the wrong day/time, we will not be able to test you and you will have to go home and arrange for another move-in appointment at a later date.

Screen Yourself for COVID Symptoms Before Coming to Campus:

Before coming to campus on your scheduled move-in day, please be sure you are feeling well and free of any potential COVID-19 symptoms, such as fever, sore throat, congestion, headache, etc. If you are not feeling well, please do not come to campus; contact the COVID Hotline (413-662-5550) and ask to re-schedule your move-in. Similarly, if you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, please do not come to campus, even if you do not have symptoms until you are sure that you have not contracted the virus. Please call the COVID hotline (413-662-5550) for further instructions. You will not be penalized for taking this pre-caution and we will make arrangements for you to start your classes remotely, should that be necessary.

Move-In Day COVID Testing

Because we have a shared responsibility to reduce the risk of infection and the spread of the COVID-19 virus, **all resident students will be tested for COVID-19 prior to moving into residence, except those who have tested positive for COVID within the last 90 days.**

If you have tested positive, you cannot be re-tested. Please contact Health Services at 413-662-5412 or HealthServices@mcla.edu and plan to bring your positive result with you.

Drive-in testing will be held as follows in the Ashland Street Parking lot (next to building #9 on the [Campus Map](#) for those of you who are new to campus):

- August 27 for **new students enrolled in the LEAD and STEM** (closing at 2 p.m.)
- August 29 for **new first year and transfer students** (closing at 4 p.m.)
- August 30, 31 and September 1 for **returning students** (closing at check)
- Special arrangements have been made for **out of state students** subject to the [Massachusetts Travel Order](#).

Testing is your first stop on your assigned move-in day; once tested you will receive a testing receipt that will allow you to check in and pick up your keys. Your testing window will correspond to your move-in window and you may arrive at testing no more than 30 minutes prior to your scheduled move-in time, i.e., at 9:30 for a 10 a.m. move-in time.

Testing process:

When you arrive for testing, you will be directed into the Ashland Street Parking lot. You and anyone else in the car must be wearing a face covering. The greeters at the **Check-In Tent** will ask you to stop the vehicle so they can obtain your temperature and ask six COVID screening questions. If you owe immunization records, they will collect them at this location.

You will then proceed to the **Registration Tent** where staff will confirm your identity. Please be sure you have a state-issued photo ID with you for this process. The staff will then collect your signed Consent Form and find your pre-printed label and bagged test tube specimen bag before directing you to the observation tent.

Please review, print and sign the Consent Form which is included as an attachment to this message. Bring it with you to testing. This will expedite the process and get you to move-in more quickly.

The test will be a self-administered, monitored nasal swab collected at the observation tent. To prepare for performing the self-swab, please watch the video at this link: <https://vimeo.com/445084591/b75142a75c>

At the **observation tent**, health care providers will confirm your name and date of birth, answer any questions you have about the self-swab, and monitor the process to ensure you get a good specimen for testing. Tissues and hand sanitizer will be available at this tent. Once you have completed the swab, the observers will collect your specimen and you will be free to proceed to your residence area for move-in.

Reminders:

- Please bring a state-issued ID to the testing site.
- If possible, please bring you printed, signed consent form with you as this will expedite your time in the testing lot.
- Please use your MCLA email address on all paperwork.
- Please include your cell phone number.
- Please bring your signed testing Consent Form.

After Testing:

Your sample will be couriered to the Broad Institute, our testing partner, at the end of the day. Results are expected within 24-72 hours. Negative test results will be shared via email (please be sure to use your MCLA email address on all testing paperwork). Positive results will automatically be shared with Health Services and the Department of Public Health, who will immediately begin the state reporting and contact tracing processes. If your test is positive, you will be contacted by one of our local Berkshire County DPH nurses by cell phone call and text. You will be required to isolate (see Isolation below).

Continued Testing Post Move-in

Resident students will be tested three additional times during the three-week period following their initial test on move-in day. Testing will be conducted in a tent outside the Wellness Center.

You will be assigned appointment times and students **must** keep their assigned appointment or contact Health Services immediately to reschedule only when absolutely necessary. Students are expected to report for testing as a condition of continued campus residence. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action and repeated violations could result in loss of college housing.

After this initial testing phase, 25% of resident students will be tested randomly throughout the semester. A random generator will be used to select those to be tested and to assign appointment

times. Additionally, students may be asked to test due to close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID.

Continued cooperation with Health Services and reporting to all testing appointments is a condition of continued campus residence.

Test results will be available within 48 hours.

Isolation after a positive COVID Test

MCLA has set aside a number of townhouses for students who test positive for COVID and are required to isolate for 10 days. If your test result is positive and you are required to isolate, you will be assigned to one of the available isolation rooms and assisted in moving there for at least 10 days from the date of the positive test result. The Berkshire County DPH nurse will monitor your health daily via phone calls; MCLA Health Services personnel will check on you daily via video tele-medicine appointments. Counseling Services will be available for tele-counseling appointments. Most students will recover fairly quickly, but if at any time your symptoms worsen or you have any mental health concerns, you should call MCLA Campus Police at 413-662-5100.

Your meals will be delivered to you at pre-scheduled times directly to your townhouse door. MCLA Dining Services will work with you to ensure the quarantine meals are consistent with any dietary restrictions you may have. Coursework can be completed virtually during this time assuming you are well enough to participate. CSSE can make contact with your faculty to assist you with any necessary accommodations while you are isolating.

Preparing for Isolation

When you arrive on campus at move-in a detailed guide to Quarantine and Isolation will be provided. At this time though, we want to be sure that as you prepare to come to campus, you consider all the things you might need should you have to isolate so you will have it handy, if needed. We strongly recommend you prepare a **Go Kit** that would include the following items:

- Prescription medicines
- Self-care medications such as fever/pain reducers
- Comfortable clothes for the isolation period
- Extra set of sheets
- Soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, personal hygiene products
- Additional face coverings
- Towels
- Electronics chargers
- Cleaning supplies
- Comfort food and snacks

You will also want to be sure that your academic materials are readily accessible.

Future Communications/Town Halls

I know this is a lot of information and that it may spark questions. In anticipation of this, we have scheduled two virtual resident student town halls, one for new students and one for returning students.

New Students can join us at 4 p.m on Wednesday, August 19 at
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/740121267973982987>

Returning Students can join us at 4 p.m. on Thursday, August 20 at
https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YmRmMjU0NTYtMTM5OS00ZWExLWE1MzctMzI2MjgyNzQxM2E0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22e805dd39-f6fd-44eb-9871-3b549b30fe56%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229496e3ea-4abe-487c-9ab2-4a4960c7a240%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3atru%7d

Please watch your email for additional communications, and feel free to reach out if you have questions.

We look forward to your arrival back on campus!

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[MCLA COVID-19 Information](#)