



Dartmouth College Student Assembly
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January 14, 2021

Winter Term Questions Part 2

Academics

1. Given the continued uncertainty over the pandemic and residential situation on campus, would the College consider shifting to pass/fail (or expanded NRO) in order to alleviate stress and accommodate for changing public health conditions?

There has been no change. All instruction will be graded in accordance with normal grading policies as outlined in the ORC/Catalog. This includes the Non-Recording Option.

2. If students enrolled in classes with an on-campus component choose not to come to campus, following Provost Helble's email, will they be able to continue taking the course remotely?

Students who have chosen to shift to remote should be in direct touch with the individual faculty member to consult about shifting to a remote section.

3. If additional restrictions are put in place, is there a possibility that some research labs would stay open while others close?

The scope and nature of additional restrictions will depend on evolving public health conditions. Additional restrictions could affect student access to labs, classrooms, the libraries, and other college facilities. We will inform the community of changes as needed.

4. If restrictions are imposed on library operations, will the College consider reimplementing the scheduling system instead of entirely closing it?

Adjustments will depend on the nature and scope of the public health conditions, and may include additional limitations on access, or temporary closures. We will inform the community of changes as needed.

5. How will the College ensure students have access to printers throughout the term?

GreenPrint printers will be available with instructions for use and disinfection when facilities open for undergraduate use the week of January 26th. If facilities access is limited or deferred due to public health conditions, printer access will be limited accordingly as well. Faculty are aware that on-campus access to printers is limited, and

the majority of students enrolled are learning remotely and submitting work remotely. Students with disability-related concerns about access to hard copy materials should be in direct touch with Student Accessibility Services. Students with questions about the use of hard copy materials in any particular course should consult with their faculty member.

Residential Life

1. If additional restrictions are imposed will students be allowed to leave campus at that point?
 - a. Students may choose to leave campus to continue their studies remotely from somewhere else at any time, subject to the College refund policy at https://www.dartmouth.edu/finance/tuition/billing_paying_tuition/tuition_fee_refund_policy.php
 - b. If students leave campus early and enroll online will they receive a prorated refund for their room and board? **See above.**
2. If students retrieve belongings from controlled storage but are then forced to leave campus will the College store those belongings again? **See posted details below.**
 - a. Will students who were in-person in the Fall and planning to be on in the Winter but who switch to online enrollment have an opportunity to either retrieve their belongings or have them shipped home?
 - b. Will items currently in controlled storage continue to be stored there after 21W if students decide not to return to campus and previously had not picked up their items?

Students who leave campus will need to make their own storage arrangements. As posted on the 20/21 planning site at <https://student-affairs.dartmouth.edu/resources/2020-2021-planning-information/winter-term-2021-pre-arrival-information> in connection with Dean Lively's December 11th message to students:

RETRIEVING ITEMS FROM STORAGE

- Those of you who have items in controlled storage will be able to reserve a time and get your things as soon as your first arrival test is negative.
- You should plan to arrive with the things you need for the first 24-48 hours of quarantine, but you will be able to retrieve your items by appointment once you are released from phase one of arrival quarantine after a negative test.
- You'll have more information about the belongings reservation process in early January.

END OF TERM STORAGE CONSIDERATIONS

- As you pack, please plan ahead for the end of winter term. Note that there will be no controlled storage available at the end of winter term for students who are not approved for on-campus enrollment spring term.
- Students here only for winter will need to remove and store all personal belongings off campus.

Students who are on campus in the winter who have belongings from last spring that are in controlled storage or trunk rooms will be required to take those items with them at the end of winter term or move them to non-College off-campus storage location. Questions should be directed to Residential Operations.

3. Given the significant evidence that outdoor activity is safer than indoor, why do so many of the potential restrictions entail curtailing outdoor activity?

Depending on public health conditions, there may be potential restrictions on facilities access and a wide range of campus programming, both indoors and outdoors, in order to reduce the risk of transmission. The provost provided examples of “the types of restrictions that we may need to impose if the rate of local positive cases continues to increase, or if we see marked increases in our campus community,” and included some of the new outdoor activities planned for winter to be sure that students know they may be affected as well. As he said, “We continue work to implement these plans. However, we may have to scale back on some or all of these activities, as well as make other changes that will limit how you can enjoy your time on campus.” Public health conditions will inform any steps we need to take to reduce risk of transmission and protect the community. We are fully prepared to continue all offerings as planned if health conditions permit.

4. Are the restrictions outlined in the email a worst-case scenario plan or do they seem likely to be imposed? *See above.*
5. Will spaces such as the Top of the Hop be completely closed, or will their capacity be de-densified? *See above.*
6. What resources is the College prepared to offer to protect students’ mental health if additional restrictions are imposed?

See response to December question #7 at https://student-affairs.dartmouth.edu/sites/student_affairs.prod/files/student_affairs/wysiwyg/12.18.20_sa_faq_responses.pdf. In addition, see Student Wellness Center Director Caitlin Barthelmes’ comments during last week’s Community Conversations broadcast at <https://news.dartmouth.edu/community-conversations-january-2021-transcript>, and postings on the campus Listserv and the Student Wellness Center site, which is now a

“virtual student wellness center,” featuring asynchronous virtual recordings of yoga and meditation, sign-ups for virtual wellness check-ins and trainings, details on our mindfulness 15-day challenge, and tools students can utilize as gateways to more therapeutic paths. As Director Barthelmes, shared:

... I also want to emphasize [that] this is hard times for all of us. And so, any things that can help support managing stress, navigating transitions, facing challenges, and in seeking out opportunities that may be presenting themselves, can ultimately help contribute to more positive mental health and wellbeing in general. And so, our programs are really designed ... to elevate that regardless of where you're at on the spectrum, and then to act additionally as complementary ways to augment more clinical services as well.

7. Can students help one another move into the dorms provided they've both been checked in (i.e. help one another carry items up the stairs)?

We answered this question individually for students who asked before and during arrival weekend. As posted on the 20/21 arrival page at <https://student-affairs.dartmouth.edu/resources/2020-2021-planning-information/winter-term-2021-pre-arrival-information>, and in the arrival logistics message on January 13th, students were asked to **“bring only what you can carry with you yourself** in case you have to leave on very short notice. You will not be able to leave belongings in your room or controlled storage if that happens. Family and friends are not permitted to enter the residence halls or other facilities, so you will be moving your things into and out of your room yourself.” Students in arrival quarantine should not be in close contact, and students should not be bringing items that they can't manage on their own.

COVID

1. Do all off-campus students have access to Dartmouth COVID Testing?

Yes. We have provided testing information to all students known to be living locally off-campus. In December, we made adjustments to the local address field in DartHub so that we could pull mailing lists about testing and health issues for all students known to be living locally in New Hampshire and Vermont. Students have continued to update their local address through the weekend.

2. What are the testing hours on arrival days?

Students have been provided the link to schedule their own testing appointments. Start and end times for any given day are visible by clicking on that date.

3. Does the College have a student vaccination plan? If so, what is it?

See <https://covid.dartmouth.edu/testing-health> for updated information.

- Students and employees who receive a COVID-19 vaccine should continue to participate in the Dartmouth virus surveillance testing program. Experts are still working to learn more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide, and everyone who receives a vaccine should maintain precautions such as [wearing a face covering](#), [physical distancing](#), hand washing, and avoiding travel and gatherings.
- Vaccination for COVID-19 in New Hampshire is managed through the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, which determines priorities for vaccination and the distribution of vaccines. For information on New Hampshire's vaccine roll-out and updates about local vaccination efforts, please review the most recent information from the [New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services](#) and their [Vaccine Phase Check](#) tool.

Dartmouth is eager to support opportunities for those students, faculty, and staff who have not already received a vaccine to be vaccinated as soon as possible. We are actively tracking vaccine developments and preparing to help distribute and administer vaccines if and when we are asked or permitted to do so. As we learn more in the coming weeks, we will share updates through our [Community Conversations webcast](#), community emails, and social media.

4. If students have demonstrated antibodies will their quarantine or restrictions be any different?

All students must continue to follow all health guidelines, including quarantine, face covering, physical distancing, group gathering, facilities use, etc. As Provost Helble said during the January 7th Community Conversations broadcast: “What this means, as I said last month, is that we need to remain vigilant and adhere to all the protective measures we have in place through all of winter term and likely through spring term, as well.” See the full transcript at <https://news.dartmouth.edu/community-conversations-january-2021-transcript>

5. Does campus testing reveal which variant is dominant in positive cases? Can it make that variant breakdown public?

See above. Dr. Adams reported that there are no current active systematic surveillance programs in the U.S. for these new variants, but they are in development.

6. Why are pre-arrival tests being considered in this decision making process considering students who test positive will not be returning to campus until they no longer have COVID?

Pre-arrival testing is only one of many indicators that transmission and cases have been increasing. Students who tested positive pre-arrival did not come to campus on arrival weekend, which reduced risk of transmission for the community.

Decision Making Process

1. Does the College anticipate new restrictions to be imposed gradually?
 - a. If changes are made, how will they be announced? Will there be an opportunity to ask for clarity before they are imposed?

See all above. Any new restrictions will be responsive to public health conditions and will be focused on reducing the risk of transmission in our community. Announcements may be gradual or immediate depending on public health conditions.

2. What specific metrics will be used to determine how the College implements restrictions? Will these metrics be available to students so we can better understand why activities that may be considered “safe,” such as socially-distance ice skating or skiing, are cancelled?

As Provost Helble and the Task Force chairs have indicated previously in community messages and broadcasts, there are many factors to consider. Again, see <https://news.dartmouth.edu/community-conversations-january-2021-transcript>.

Anderson:

Joe, you mentioned the positivity rate of 0.11%, and rightfully describe that as being quite low. A question about what we said last term about the threshold at which we would reconsider residency, which was 1%. Is that still the case? Is that still the number that we're looking at?

Helble:

That's still our operating threshold. Remember that that is a factor that we said would be a trigger to reevaluate our plans. That is not an automatic shutdown threshold, that is also not a threshold that we say we will continue operating residentially no matter what. That is one of several parameters we are watching, and when the positivity rate in a defined period of time approaches or exceeds 1%, that will cause us to convene our internal group and ask questions about our ability to manage. Is it something that affects on-campus students and off-campus students disproportionately? What is the rate of increase that has taken us to 1%? What are the conditions on the ground around us? What is the availability of support capacity in Dick's House and at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center? All these kinds of things factor into that discussion. But 1% positivity is a trigger that causes us to step back and have those conversations.

3. With COVID interrupting the term, will the College consider reducing tuition? Further, if campus is closed will the Student Activity Fee be reduced or eliminated?

There will be no change in tuition and fees.

4. Will students who choose to not be on-campus this winter have priority on the spring waitlist?

Decisions made about this term have no impact on eligibility for on-campus enrollment in future terms. We will be returning to planning for spring term later this month and in February, when we know more about likely public health and enrollment conditions for spring. We will know then whether we are able to offer a spring term waitlist.

5. If students are approved for Winter and Spring will they have the option to stay on campus during the interim in order to avoid COVID exposure due to travel?

See above, and the text below posted in connection with the December 11th message. We will know more in February depending on evolving public health conditions.
<https://student-affairs.dartmouth.edu/resources/2020-2021-planning-information/winter-term-2021-pre-arrival-information>

LOOKING AHEAD: Planning for end of winter term, spring break, and spring term

- As of now, we presume that students will remain on campus through the winter term exam period.
 - We will return to planning for spring later in January, when we are better able to project public health and enrollment conditions for spring. We are going to have a very short amount of time to prepare residence hall rooms for spring arrivals. We won't be able to provide information about possible interim housing until February.
6. When can athletes expect more information about Winter and Spring sports practice and competition so they can plan accordingly?

Dartmouth Athletics will update athletes as new information becomes available.

Off-Campus Life

1. If off-campus students arrive after January 17 can they still participate in testing?

Students should be following all guidelines for the state in which they will be living and should begin testing twice weekly as soon as they arrive.

2. Will students who are living off-campus without on-campus privileges have the opportunity to request on-campus privileges if students currently on-campus decide to return home?

Given the escalating public health conditions, students not currently approved for on-campus enrollment will not receive winter on-campus room assignments or on-campus privileges. We cannot offer substitutions, as we need to continue to de-densify and reduce risk.

3. When can students expect additional information about gym and library access?

Given the ongoing public health concerns, information about building openings, hours and conditions for use will be provided early the week of January 26th. As previously shared, we plan for facilities to open next week after all students are out of arrival quarantine on campus. We will inform the community of building openings early next week.