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## Winter Term Questions

### General

1. Can you assure the student body that this is not simply the first step toward cancelling an on-campus Winter term?
  - a. If the College does decide to cancel housing on-campus for the Winter, when can we expect that decision? Would it be made before classes begin?

As Provost Helble noted during the Dec. 9 Community Conversations broadcast:

*I wish the progress of the pandemic were otherwise but in the interest of your health and community health, we needed to take this step to delay return to Jan. 16 and 17. Rest assured, and I cannot say this clearly and emphatically enough, that this is not a first step on the path to a fully remote term. Now, none of us anywhere in this country can offer guarantees because we don't know what conditions nationally will be like a month from now, but if things are as they are today, I assure you that we will be welcoming you back in mid-January.*

See <https://news.dartmouth.edu/community-conversations-december-9-2020-transcript>

2. Does the delay for returning to campus only apply to undergraduate students? If so, why?

As Provost Helble noted in his message to the community on Dec. 7:

*We know this is disappointing news and will require students to make changes to existing travel plans. We are sorry for the additional effort and challenge this will generate for many families, but given the surging rate of virus transmission, making room between the holiday break and the return to campus has become essential for navigating the winter residential term successfully.*

The delay in undergraduate arrival makes room for undergraduate pre-arrival testing between Jan. 4 and Jan. 12 for students approved to be on campus for winter term, and arrival testing and quarantine beginning on Jan. 16—two weeks after the holiday period ends. This will help reduce the risk of an early outbreak in the undergraduate congregate living setting in the residence halls and for students living locally off campus, and will increase the likelihood that we will be able to complete the term without a lockdown or campus evacuation.

3. Should students make travel plans with the expectation that this is the final change to arrival dates?

See above. Students should make individual travel decisions given all conditions, and students should make individual decisions about whether to continue to plan to enroll on campus if approved, to enroll remotely, or to convert to a leave term or withdrawal to take time away.

4. Can the College provide supplementary funding or resources to students who may be forced to cancel travel plans (which the College confirmed they could make after original arrival dates were published) without a refund and then make new plans?

We are all sorry about the escalating pandemic conditions, which affect us all and are not within the College's control. Students should determine whether they want to travel under those conditions, enroll remotely, or make other adjustments in their plans. Financial aid is responding to individual concerns from high-need students.

Is the length of the winter-spring interim subject to change?

As of now, we expect 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.

See <https://student-affairs.dartmouth.edu/resources/2020-2021-planning-information/winter-term-2021-pre-arrival-information>

5. What are the approximate dates for winter move-out and spring move-in?

See above.

6. If students arrive in the Upper Valley (for any reason) before their scheduled arrival date, will their quarantine period begin when they arrive on campus or when they arrive in the Upper Valley?

Students living locally are strongly encouraged to adjust their arrival to the weekend of Jan. 16-17, and are expected to comply with the quarantine requirements of New Hampshire or Vermont as their state of residence. All students arriving to move into room assignments on campus will quarantine for a minimum of eight days from their date of arrival. We anticipate that most students will be released from quarantine with confirmation of negative day-seven results on day-eight, as permitted by the state of New Hampshire.

7. How is the College working to increase access to mental health resources in this uncertain period? What is the prospect for allowing counselors and therapists to ensure patients receive care whether at home or at Dartmouth?

Many students are sharing that they miss daily interactions with peers, as well as being able to meet with friends, family, faculty, and their communities. Sadly, some have faced significant impacts on family members who have been ill or who have passed away, financial pressures due to the effects on the economy, and other life changes as a result of the pandemic.

We have hired four new counselors since August and are currently in searches for two additional clinicians. Six of our twelve clinical staff identify as people of color, including two Asian/Asian American clinicians, two Latinx, one Native American, and one African American. Three identify as LGBTQ and two are international. Counseling is among the most diverse departments on campus.

Counseling staff respond to mental health crisis calls within the same day. Counseling appointments are scheduled within 1-3 days. In addition to short-term individual counseling, we offer medication management, sports psychology services, consultations, nutrition, on-call services, and help with community referrals. We also offer Zoom drop-in discussion groups, drop-in single visits, Zoom anxiety workshops, and topical podcasts.

During COVID-19, some state licensing boards loosened restrictions for practicing in their state to allow for temporary practice. This has made it possible for us to provide counseling services to many students living outside of New Hampshire. Individual students should consult with our clinicians to identify their need and help us determine how to address it.

If you or someone you know would benefit from talking with a counselor, please call 603-646-9442. After hours, on weekends and during the break, on-call counseling clinicians are available by calling Safety and Security at 603-646-4000 and asking to speak to the counselor on call.

See <https://www.dropbox.com/s/rqx4fpwlq9k917b/CounselingCenter.mp4?dl=0>  
<https://students.dartmouth.edu/health-service/counseling/about/counseling-during-covid-19>  
 and  
<https://students.dartmouth.edu/wellness-center/wellness-mindfulness/covid-19-wellbeing-tips>

8. Given the increase in the endowment, recorded this year, will the College consider returning financial aid back to its previous level?

Dartmouth continues to meet 100% of demonstrated need. Financial aid awards include living and remote learning allowances.

9. Will students approved for 21W and 21S be allowed to remain on campus between the two terms?

See responses to question 4 above.

10. How is Dartmouth's decision-making process affected by decisions at the IVY+ and other peer institutions?

Our decision-making process is informed by consultation with the CDC, the state of New Hampshire, and College and DHMC health/epidemiology experts. Colleges and universities consult with one another at every level through Ivy plus groups, COFHE groups, and professional associations, but every institution makes its own decisions based on its own structure and local conditions.

### Decision Making

1. What rationale was behind a 10-day (as opposed to any other number) delay? How does the College believe the 10-day delay will affect our pandemic preparedness?

As Provost Helble explained in his Dec. 9 community message, national and state modeling predict a continued increase in virus transmission rates into the new year—including locally—exacerbated by a surge resulting from the upcoming holiday season. While we expected some growth in community transmission through November, that growth has been more rapid and reached far higher levels than we had anticipated. Based on projections for a post-holiday surge in virus transmission, we need to provide additional separation between the holidays and the return to on-campus enrollment.

See response to question 1. The delay in undergraduate arrival makes room for undergraduate pre-arrival testing between Jan. 4 and Jan. 12 for students approved to be on campus for winter term, and arrival testing and quarantine beginning on Jan. 16 - two weeks after the holiday period ends. This will help reduce the risk of an early outbreak in the undergraduate congregate living setting in the residence halls and for students living locally off-campus, and will increase the likelihood that we will be able to complete the term without a lockdown or campus evacuation.

2. How did the College account for the disparate impact this decision would have on low-income, housing insecure, and international students?

See above, and the response above to question four. This decision was made to reduce risk for all students in light of the escalating pandemic conditions. We know this is difficult and we regret the impacts of the pandemic on students, families, and communities. Campus resources are responding to individual circumstances, and mental health resources have been expanded as described in the response to question seven.

3. Given the on-campus quarantine in place prior to this decision, how does delaying arrival reduce the chance of transmission?

See question one above.

4. How does the College balance the need to delay access to Dartmouth facilities (to stop the spread of COVID-19) with the financial and mental health impacts on students caused by those delays?

As Provost Helble affirmed during the Community Conversations broadcast on Dec. 9, we have two overarching objectives—doing all that we can to support and protect the health and safety of the Dartmouth community and the local community, and prioritizing educational continuity for all of our students. The delay in winter-term arrival, and the de-densification and delay in access to Dartmouth facilities until undergraduate arrival quarantine is complete, furthers the goal of supporting and protecting the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff. That is our primary goal, and we continue to work to mitigate the impacts within that context.

See responses to questions four and seven above.

5. Were any student leaders consulted in making the decision to delay move-in?

This was an institutional decision to further the goal of protecting health and safety, and academic continuity, made with full awareness of the potential impacts on students, families, faculty, and staff. The goal to reduce risk for students and all community members in light of escalating pandemic conditions is paramount. Throughout the pandemic, we have received extensive feedback from Student Assembly leadership, the Student Advisory Board, Palaeopitus, student leadership groups, and individual students. That feedback is wide-ranging, always encouraged, and always fully considered, whatever the College decides.

## Testing

1. How can students communicate where their pre-arrival test should be sent?

Students approved for on-campus enrollment will receive directions from Health Service Director Dr. Mark Reed on Jan. 4. See the testing information posted at: <https://student-affairs.dartmouth.edu/resources/2020-2021-planning-information/winter-term-2021-pre-arrival-information>

2. How will the pre-arrival test process work for students currently residing outside of the US?

See above.

3. Some students living off-campus may be arriving in the Upper Valley before the College's on-campus move in dates. When will they be able to begin testing at Leverone?

As posted in the section on students living locally off-campus at <https://student-affairs.dartmouth.edu/resources/2020-2021-planning-information/winter-term-2021-pre-arrival-information>:

All students living locally will be able to participate in College testing protocols - testing on the day of arrival, days three and seven after arrival, and twice weekly after that. All students will have access to the online scheduling tool that will enable them to schedule their weekly testing appointments. Some have asked if they will be able to register to do so; we'll be sending more information soon to enable students living locally to let us know they'll be here.

4. What will the testing hours be during move-in? What should a student do if they move in after testing closes for the day?

Testing begins at 10:00 am the weekend of Jan. 16-17 and will extend to 8:30 pm. Undergraduate housing is responding to individual inquiries about potential evening arrivals.

5. The previous COVID threshold for concern was set at 1% of the student body in residence for fall term. What is that threshold for winter term?

Our approach and our threshold for reviewing operations hasn't changed from fall term. As a reminder, there is not a single factor that determines whether campus operations and campus facilities can remain open, as a combination of public health and operational conditions are constantly being reviewed and evaluated. As we did in the fall, we will update the College dashboard daily, and continue to monitor conditions closely in consultation with local, state and national experts.

6. What is the policy for students who have tested positive at some point before coming to campus? What kind of testing and quarantining should they expect?

See the testing information posted at: <https://student-affairs.dartmouth.edu/resources/2020-2021-planning-information/winter-term-2021-pre-arrival-information>

7. If a member of the community were to receive a COVID vaccination, would this change their testing requirements? If so, how?

As has been reported nationally, vaccine availability is limited and distribution will take place over many months. Information about vaccination timelines and implications for the College community will be provided this winter when we know more.

## Academics

1. We have received many questions concerning the change in move-in dates with regard to academics.
  - a. Did the College consider the distance students have to travel in order to get to campus?  
Yes, but as explained above, the decision was made to defer on-campus arrival to the weekend of Jan. 16-17.
  - b. Did the College consider moving the start of classes to allow students as much time on campus as possible? In addition to the goal of protecting the health and safety of the community, we are also committed to providing academic continuity. Shortening the ten-week term, or changing the academic calendar in a way that would impact the start of spring term and any possible Commencement activities, were not viable options.
  - c. Will the College provide academic accommodation for students traveling to Hanover on or around Friday, Jan. 15? Will there be resources to ensure students are supported in their efforts to attend class, complete schoolwork, and stay focused when they may be traveling across the country or the world?

The faculty are aware of the change in arrival dates, and Dean of Faculty Elizabeth Smith will continue to be in touch with them about the implications. The faculty are aware that students are in many different time zones and have different distances to travel if they choose to return for on-campus enrollment. As always, we encourage students to be in direct touch with their specific faculty members about individual circumstances. Students who haven't done so already are also encouraged to connect with their undergraduate dean, who can be a good source of academic and personal advice and support. For information about scheduling an appointment, follow this link: <https://students.dartmouth.edu/undergraduate-deans/>.

2. Will professors be made aware of the challenges posed by travel during Week 1 and encouraged to assign lighter workloads?

Faculty have been informed about the deferred arrival dates and will determine whether there is a need to adjust individual course syllabi or make any adjustments for individual students.

3. Will Professors be required to record classes to accommodate students in different time zones, during week 1, to ensure that all students are able to access a fair learning environment?

More information about the availability of recordings in specific courses will be available in January.

4. If students reside in an environment unsuitable for learning at home will there be a process by which they can request housing that would begin before classes start?

Given the public health conditions, and for all the reasons noted above, students are expected to align their arrival with the new assigned arrival dates the weekend of Jan 16-17. Students also have

the option to enroll remotely for winter. Some students have chosen to change their D-plans, or to withdraw in consultation with their undergraduate dean.

### On-Campus Life

1. Given this decision, can students opt out of living on campus in the Winter?

As always, students are free to make that choice. There were a number of students who chose to shift to remote learning before and during the fall term. We have already heard from some who have chosen to do so for winter. Students who want to shift from on-campus enrollment should send a message to [Dean.of.the.College@dartmouth.edu](mailto:Dean.of.the.College@dartmouth.edu).

2. Who should students contact if they have a concern about the new move in date? Will students with special circumstances be allowed to move in before January 16? If not, why?

See multiple responses above. Students may send questions or concerns to [WinterTerm2021@dartmouth.edu](mailto:WinterTerm2021@dartmouth.edu).

3. Will the College work with the Dartmouth Coach to ensure additional spots are added to the buses coming from Boston and New York City on the new move-in dates?

College officials have been in contact with Dartmouth Coach officials throughout the year to keep them apprised of academic calendar and arrival/departure adjustments. The Coach, which is not affiliated with the College, has been very responsive in adapting to meet student demand.

4. Will Controlled Storage be opened at the end of the winter term? If not, what are students expected to do with the belongings they cannot bring home?

Information on retrieving items from storage and storage considerations for the end of winter term is posted at <https://student-affairs.dartmouth.edu/resources/2020-2021-planning-information/winter-term-2021-pre-arrival-information>

5. Will the College publish a detailed, definitive guidebook outlining what students are and are not allowed to do on campus (similar to the College Student Handbook)?

Every student who signed and acknowledged the terms of the Community Expectations Agreement can refer again to the terms at <https://covid.dartmouth.edu/community-expectations#comm-ex-ug>. Additional information specific to winter term was announced during the Dec. 9 Community Conversation and described more specifically in a message every undergraduate received from Dean Lively on Dec. 11. That message is posted at <https://student-affairs.dartmouth.edu/resources/2020-2021-planning-information/community-messages/december-11-2020-update>.

6. What dining facilities will be open? Where will students be able to eat?

- a. How will the delay in move-in impact students currently residing on-campus under the winter break meal plan? When will dining services resume for them in particular?

See the dining guidelines posted at <https://student-affairs.dartmouth.edu/resources/2020-2021-planning-information/winter-term-2021-pre-arrival-information>. DDS will continue to serve students currently in winter-break interim housing who will be here through the start of the term as planned.

7. When will students be able to access Hinman?

See the Hinman Mail Center information posted at <https://student-affairs.dartmouth.edu/resources/2020-2021-planning-information/winter-term-2021-pre-arrival-information>

8. How will pods work this winter?

The College has not established a formal pod framework and will not be restricting student choice about whom they interact with. We know that students are connected to one another in many different ways. Students are free to interact with others across friend groups and activities as they wish, provided that they are following all facility, physical distancing, gathering, and other health and behavioral guidelines.

### Off-Campus Life

1. Will students living off-campus in the area have access to labs at any point in the term?

See information for students living locally off-campus posted at <https://student-affairs.dartmouth.edu/resources/2020-2021-planning-information/winter-term-2021-pre-arrival-information>. As was the case in fall term, only students approved for on-campus enrollment have access to Dartmouth facilities after the arrival quarantine period ends, and only students approved for on-campus enrollment may work in person for any College department after the arrival quarantine period ends.

2. Will there be a waitlist process for students who are living off-campus without on-campus privileges who would like to access on-campus facilities?

See above.

3. Will there be penalties for students who move into off-campus residences before Jan. 16th?

To reduce risk of transmission, all students living locally are strongly encouraged to align their arrival in the Upper Valley with the weekend of Jan. 16/17. That is the safest thing to do. Students living locally off-campus will not be subject to revocation for early arrival.

4. Can students living off-campus access stored belongings before January 16th? Specifically, can they be given access to cold-weather clothing?

Any student who has a specific need for an item in controlled storage that can't hold for the first 24-48 hours should contact Residential Operations.

5. Can students who are residing off-campus outside of the Upper Valley request their stored belongings? Will the College ship items to students who may unexpectedly be gone from campus longer than anticipated?

Students living locally off-campus who have items in storage should contact Residential Operations about scheduling an appointment to retrieve belongings after the quarantine arrival period.