

Wheaton College

COVID Safe, Thunder Strong Fall 2020 Commitment for Graduate Students

A Wheaton College education is intended to primarily be an embodied experience. Being together in person is a high value for members of our college community; God has created us for relationships. For those able to return to campus in the Fall of 2020, being together in person as much as possible will require personal commitment to prevent the spread of COVID-19, which unfortunately would result in a return to remote learning. We are interconnected. Our individual behaviors have repercussions for fellow campus members and the surrounding community. The *COVID-Safe, Thunder Strong* commitments are based on national, state and local guidance from public health experts. They will only be in place until phase 5 of the Restore Illinois plan is reached.

We ask every graduate student to make the following commitments, including those living on campus and off campus:

1. **I will protect myself by:**
 - a. Monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19 by taking my temperature twice a day and coming directly to Student Health Services on campus or my local doctor off campus for a COVID-19 test if I experience a fever at or above 100.4 F (38 C) or have any of the other COVID-19 symptoms, which currently include: cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.
 - b. Washing my hands often with soap and water or frequently using hand sanitizer, with an alcohol content of 60% or higher.
 - c. Avoiding touching my eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - d. Maintaining a distance of at least six feet (about two arms' length) from other people with whom I do not immediately live (e.g. roommate, people sharing a house or apartment).

2. **I will protect others by:**
 - a. Abiding by the [Wheaton College's COVID-19 Face Covering Policy](#). This includes wearing a [CDC-approved face covering](#) when in the presence of others outside my living space. This includes any outdoor public spaces where social distancing of at least 6 feet may be difficult to maintain AND whenever inside any campus building.
 - b. Socializing with individual and/or small groups of fellow campus members on campus in the outside seating areas provided and in open outside areas with my own blanket/portable chair. The group size is currently set at 50 people per Illinois guidelines, and will be adjusted as necessary.
 - c. Socializing with family members and non-Wheaton College friends outdoors in [local parks, forest preserves](#) or on [local biking/walking trails](#) while observing social distance.
 - d. Following COVID-safe classroom policies as described in my course syllabi.
 - e. Using the provided disinfecting supplies to clean any surfaces before and after my use of the item/space on campus.
 - f. Limiting guests in my campus housing space to one Wheaton College student per resident at a time, with all parties wearing a face covering and remaining at a social distance when inside my living space.

- g. Remaining at home for a minimum of 10 days, in the event I test positive for COVID-19.

3. **I will protect my Wheaton community by:**

- a. Self-quarantining at home or off campus for 14 days, prior to coming to campus.
- b. Submitting a negative COVID-19 result, taken within the previous five days, at or just before check-in to receive my student ID.
- c. Remaining at home, for a minimum of 14 days, if I have been identified as a **close contact** of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. A close contact is defined as a roommate, housemate, apartment mate; a caregiver for someone who has COVID-19; someone in contact with a positive case within 6 feet for greater than 15 minutes; or someone who has had direct exposure to droplets from a COVID-19 infected person (e.g. coughing, sneezing, kissing, utensil sharing, etc.).
- d. Identifying and responding promptly and truthfully to Contact Tracers who will be seeking the names of all close contacts upon request if I test positive for COVID-19.
- e. Following campus signage that will include reserving elevators for those with health needs and walking on the right side of hallways and stairways without lingering.
- f. Organizing virtual appointments with campus offices and signing up in advance for in-person activities (e.g. Chrouser) in order to limit the number of people gathering at one time and to promote equal access.
- g. Avoid inviting outside guests (including family members and friends from other schools) into my living space on campus or any campus building.

We are called to acknowledge the Lordship of Christ over all life, to love God with our whole being, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. The *COVID-Safe, Thunder Strong* commitments are a way to exercise such love, especially for the vulnerable members of our community.

I have read and agree to follow these commitments for my own wellbeing and also for the wellbeing of my fellow students, faculty, and staff members. I understand that it is impossible for the College to provide a COVID-free environment and that there is a possibility that I may become ill while on-campus and knowingly assume this risk. I understand that being able to physically engage with campus life is contingent on adhering to these commitments, and that failure to adhere will likely result in a fellow member of the Wheaton College community addressing me, being asked to leave a campus location and/or participating in a process to determine if I will be required to engage remotely with coursework/work. I agree to allow Wheaton College to discuss the terms of this agreement or health-related information with my designated guardian or emergency contact if needed.

Signature _____

Date _____

PLEASE NOTE: The COVID-Safe, Thunder Strong Commitment appears at the end of [the Schoology tutorial \(link routes to preview version\)](#) students must complete before checking in. This specific document is for reference only.