

FXUA'S COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN

The COVID-19 pandemic that has spread across the country has affected many within our community and across the globe. The university administration is actively monitoring the circumstances surrounding the pandemic and is committed to ensuring continued care for our university community and the entire community that our members touch. As such, the following plan outlines the university's overall strategy for maintaining the continuity of our education experience, but also adhering to local, state, and federal guidelines for ensuring the safety of our community. Our first concern is to ensure that our entire community remains safe, healthy, and engaged.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS

FXUA moved to online, synchronous instruction on March 30, 2020. Instructional continuity continues in most cases unless otherwise noted on the university's website and in communications.

CAMPUS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN

FXUA's [Campus Emergency Preparedness Plan](#) outlines key factors and procedures for campus-wide emergencies. The Campus Emergency Plan includes a PANDEMIC section, which outlines the policies and procedures for the university in cases of pandemic that cause disruption to our local community. This supplement to the Campus Emergency Preparedness Plan does not intend to directly repeat the content in the plan, but references will be made here that are intended to explain or supplement the plan with specific areas related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

From March to June 30 of 2020, FXUA determined that the emergency level of the university was Level 3, indicating that an emergency was declared that involved the entire campus and surrounding community. Following the move of the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia to move to begin Phase Three of the Virginia Reopening as of July 1, 2020, the university continued operating under a Level 2 emergency, indicating that a major emergency was ongoing that affected portions of campus, and could impact mission-critical functions or life safety.

In the event of a pandemic, Emergency Management Committee will follow recommendations made by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and disseminate information through and e-mail and the emergency alert system if necessary. The university leadership will monitor any developments and make appropriate changes to the operating status for the safety and health of the entire learning community. For the full plan's measures around the pandemic, please refer to the Campus Emergency Preparedness Plan.

PANDEMIC COORDINATOR

The Pandemic Coordinator is Kevin Martin, Director of Institutional Effectiveness, who oversees the current pandemic response. He can be contacted at kie@fxua.edu.

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Students, staff, faculty, or campus visitors who feel ill should contact the local department of health. Given the location of the university in Fairfax, Virginia, the Fairfax County Health Department is provided:

Fairfax County Health Department – Administration & Environmental Services
10777 Main Street
Fairfax Virginia 22030

Phone: 703-246-2411
Fax: 703-653-9463
Email: health@fairfaxcounty.gov

The Virginia Department of Health also hosts valuable resources related to health and well-being of those in Virginia.

Virginia Department of Health
Website: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/>
Health Department Locator: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/health-department-locator/>

The Virginia Department of Health has issues specific information on the current pandemic as outlined below.

- Virginia-specific COVID-19 Information: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>
- What to do if you are sick: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus/what-to-do-if-you-have-confirmed-or-suspected-coronavirus-disease-covid-19/>

RETURN TO CAMPUS SCREENING

All campus community members are expected to self-screen and isolate themselves if they experience any of the symptoms defined by the CDC and the Virginia department of Health. These are regularly updated and everyone should refer to the guidelines here:

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus/what-to-do-if-you-have-confirmed-or-suspected-coronavirus-disease-covid-19/>

In addition to self-screening following questionnaire items will be asked of all students prior to coming to campus, and upon coming to campus for the first time:

1. Have you been in contact with anyone who may have, or has been diagnosed with COVID-19?
2. Are you experiencing any of the following symptoms? Loss of smell? Fever? Chills? Cough?
3. Have you traveled out of the state in the past 14 days?

Periodically throughout the semester, individuals may be asked to report on the screening questions above. This will be done via a random sample.

All individuals required to come to campus will also be asked to self-screen using the questions above prior to the start of a meeting or class. The questions will also be posted around the building as a reminder to everyone.

Additionally, anyone who comes in contact with or contracts the virus (or symptoms like those described related to COVID-19) should self isolate for a period of no less than 14 days. Everyone should also report to the university (via ois@fxua.edu), if they are comfortable doing so, in order to protect the wider community. While every attempt will be made to maintain privacy, for contact tracing purposes, the name of individuals may be shared with local authorities or those that may have come in contact with the individual. The goal is not to scapegoat or harm any individual, but to maintain the safety and health of our entire learning community.

Other individuals may be at an increased risk for exposure, especially those who travel regularly or who have travelled recently. This is especially true for international students who may have recently travelled to/from abroad, or who may have family members who have done so as well.

Additional resources will be regularly provided via email and/or flyers around campus including tips on avoiding the virus and information on what to do if the virus is contracted. New student orientations or other similar gatherings will also include information until the pandemic is deemed to be of a lesser risk.

FXUA's CURRENT STATUS:

The university is operating under extreme caution at this time. The current Emergency Level 2 (following our Emergency Preparedness Plan), indicating that a major emergency is ongoing that affects portions of campus, and could impact mission-critical functions or life safety. The university is, wherever possible, requiring minimal risk or lower risk activities at this time. No large gatherings or officially sanctioned university events can occur at this time where more than the allowable number of individuals by the Commonwealth of Virginia are to take place. This status is updated regularly as conditions change. For the current operating status of the campus, students, staff, faculty, and our entire surrounding community can visit our [University Updates on the Coronavirus/COVID-19 Pandemic](#) page.

PREVENTATIVE PERSONAL MEASURES FOR PERSONAL HEALTH

Good hygiene and common-sense practices will help us to keep our entire community safe. The following are some suggestions for all of us to help keep safe and healthy:

- Wash your hands frequently (<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/13/2020/03/Hand-Washing-VDH.pdf>).
- If you are not able to wash your hands, use a hand sanitizer.
- Clean common spaces regularly.
- Maintain space between others (even in class!). Maintain at least six (6) feet or three (3) meters between you and others.
- FXUA encourages the use of masks when in physical proximity to others, and requires them where legally required to do so. Any instance where individuals may occupy the same room requires the wearing of masks. This requirement applies to those on campus who are in the

same space as others and/or cannot feasibly social distance. Individuals in their offices, with limited or not contact with others in their office are encouraged to wear a mask, but must do so when leaving their office, even for short periods of time.

- If you are sick, please stay home. Be sure to communicate with your teachers /supervisor as soon as you feel sick. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/steps-when-sick.html>)
- Consider alternate forms of greetings (instead of a handshake or kiss on the cheek). Although many of our cultures have customs like shaking hands or kissing each other on the cheek, please do not engage in these practices for now. We respect everyone's customs and practices as we are a multi-cultural learning community, so please understand that this is not to discriminate against anyone. This is just precautionary.
- Do not attend events that have large crowds.

Keeping our community safe starts with each of us! Remember that everyone has their own health considerations, and as such, there should be no stigma for anyone wearing a mask, and no stigma for anyone reporting an illness. Signs will be placed around the building about proper mask wearing, and regular communications will go out about effective/proper use of masks. The goal is to ensure that our entire campus community remains safe and healthy.

Good hygiene and common-sense practices will help us to keep our entire community safe.

Information like the above is posted throughout the building.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK YOU ARE SICK?

If you or someone around you thinks that they may be sick, complete the screening questions below:

1. Have you been in contact with anyone who may have, or has been diagnosed with COVID-19?
2. Are you experiencing any of the following symptoms? Loss of smell? Fever? Chills? Cough?
3. Have you traveled out of the state in the past 14 days?

If you still think that you may be sick, please refer to the Virginia Department of Health's "What to do if you are sick" page here: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus/what-to-do-if-you-have-confirmed-or-suspected-coronavirus-disease-covid-19/>

If you have a confirmed case of COVID-19, you are encouraged to communicate with the Pandemic Coordinator (ois@fxua.edu) upon diagnosis. The OIE will follow up with individuals via phone or email to check in on them periodically.

When you are well, not having had any symptoms and testing negative for active infection for a 14 day period, students, staff, and faculty should work with their immediate supervisor/faculty member on when and how to return to campus.

MONITORING AND TRACKING CASES

The university will do everything that it can to contact trace and inform individuals if they may have come in contact with someone who was sick. While the university cannot compel individuals to tell who they were around, everyone is encouraged to consider the greater good and assist in facilitating contact tracing.

Additionally, the university continually monitors the Virginia Department of Health data on COVID-19 in the Commonwealth: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>. While the campus does monitor health statistics, the university does not have a health clinic or hospital, and thus is not able to track the patient health records of individuals. All of the campus community are strongly encouraged to self-report for the greater good of our community.

If individuals are found to have contracted the virus, the Pandemic Coordinator will work with the Virginia Department of Health on contact tracing. The goal is to establish partnership with the VDH to assist in expanding the campus resources, and to keep the VDH abreast of cases in our area. More information on contact tracing can be found here: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/peninsula/contact-tracing/>

RETURN TO CAMPUS SCREENING

All campus community members are expected to self-screen and isolate themselves if they experience any of the symptoms defined by the CDC and the Virginia department of Health. These are regularly updated and everyone should refer to the guidelines here:

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus/what-to-do-if-you-have-confirmed-or-suspected-coronavirus-disease-covid-19/>

In addition to self-screening following questionnaire items will be asked of all students prior to coming to campus, and upon coming to campus for the first time:

- COVID-19 TESTING SITES: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus/what-to-do-if-you-have-confirmed-or-suspected-coronavirus-disease-covid-19/>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Some useful information:

- The U.S. Center for Disease Control provides information on the virus here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- The Virginia Department of Health has information about the virus in our area, and steps that the Commonwealth is doing to keep everyone safe: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/surveillance-and-investigation/novel-coronavirus/>
- The World Health Organization also includes information on the virus: <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>
- Sometimes, people take advantage of others when they are vulnerable or afraid. There are some scams (people trying to steal from you or take your information), so please be careful about anyone trying to sell you something or take your information:

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/02/1058381>. Unless they are a federal official, law enforcement officer, or health professional, be careful.

This plan has been reviewed by the State Council of Higher Education and has been found to be compliant in containing the required components of the “Higher Education Reopening Guidance,” which was developed in consultation with the Virginia Department of Health.