

The Livingstone College Task Force
Spring Semester COVID-19 Updated Protocols
January 2022



To: Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins Sr., President

By: Dr. Anthony J. Davis, Chair



**The Livingstone College
COVID-19 Spring Semester Protocol
Updated January 2022**

Greetings all. The CDC has stated that the omicron variant spreads faster, and the virus is most likely to spread in the early stages of the infection. Therefore, the agency has updated its protocol for the vaccinated population. Livingstone College is a CDC compliant campus that seeks to promote a safe, healthy, living, learning, and working environment for our entire campus community. Our updated protocols are as follows:

Mask Mandate: Masks are required indoors. This includes all academic and administrative buildings to include residence halls, and the dining facility. Masks may be removed while eating and drinking in the dining facility. However, strict social distancing rules must be adhered to. Due to the highly transmissible COVID -19 omicron variant, we are requiring that all faculty, staff and students wear a mask outdoors when in groups of two or more. This will mitigate our risk related to viral transmission.

Regardless of their vaccination status, all visitors, vendors, and contractors are required to wear a mask or appropriate face covering while on campus when indoors. Masks are also required outdoors when the vendor, visitor or contractor comes in contact with a member of the Livingstone College faculty, staff or student population. Please note: Contractors working outside in an isolated group away from the faculty, staff and student population may remove their masks at their own discretion. Remember, these protocols are being deployed to protect our entire campus community from this highly infectious and deadly virus.

Testing: Livingstone College is committed to mitigating our risk, and reducing the spread of The COVID-19 virus. Currently, the omicron variant is highly transmissible and requires early intervention in order to break the chain of transmission. On the campus of Livingstone College beginning the week of February 1, 2022, all faculty, staff and students will be required to test for the COVID-19 virus. Due to the significant number of pass through transmission related to the virus, all students, faculty and staff will be required to test weekly regardless of their vaccination status. The aforementioned aggressive testing strategy will enable the college to manage and monitor the spread of the COVID-19 virus on our campus. Weekly testing is mandatory for all faculty, staff and students. Members of the campus community who violate this protocol may face disciplinary action to include suspension and/or termination.

Quarantine & Isolation: Anyone, regardless of vaccination status, who tests positive for the COVID-19 virus, should isolate for five days. The first day is considered day zero. On day five, and if the individual does not have a fever or other symptoms (asymptomatic), the individual may leave isolation. However, the individual must wear a well-fitted mask (preferably a KN95 or 2 surgical masks) in an attempt to stop the spread of this highly contagious disease. Members of the faculty, staff and administration who are required to isolate due to contracting the COVID-19 virus will be granted a 5-day pandemic recovery leave.

Exposure: An exposure is defined as coming in contact with an individual who has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus, where you were within 6-feet of an infected person, for more than 15-minutes indoors or outdoors. If you are fully vaccinated and you do not present any symptoms quarantine is not required. Please monitor your health daily for symptoms (headache, Fever 100.4 degrees or higher, cough, vomiting, diarrhea, upset stomach, runny nose, sore or scratchy throat). Individuals who present any of the aforementioned symptoms should test immediately. However, out of an abundance of caution, Livingstone College will test all individuals on day 3 of an exposure in an attempt to mitigate our risk and reduce the transmissibility of the virus on our campus. The 1st day is considered day zero.

Vaccine Mandate: In addition to the faculty, staff, and administration, all students who attend Livingstone College for in-person instruction and who reside in campus housing, must be fully vaccinated. Once again, individuals will not be allowed to attend in-person or reside in campus housing if they are not fully vaccinated. Individuals who wish to attend in person who do not wish to be vaccinated at this time must do one of the following.

1. Individuals who do not wish to adhere to the Livingstone College vaccine mandate may attend Livingstone College utilizing our remote and online platforms. (Please contact Dr. Kelli V. Randall, Vice President for Academic Affairs to attend this semester online.)
2. Individuals may request a Medical Exemption. (Please read the requirements for a medical exemption which follows).

The Livingstone College COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate Request for Medical Exemption

Livingstone College understands that there may be unique circumstances where a physician or healthcare provider may advise an individual to avoid taking the COVID-19 vaccine because it may pose a significant health risk. An individual seeking a medical exemption must do the following:

- The individual requesting a medical exemption should contact his/her medical provider who must submit a notarized letter, signed, dated, and with their provider license number stating that they have advised the named individual against taking the COVID-19 vaccine because it poses a significant health risk

Individuals may also request a religious exemption (Please read the requirements for a religious exemption).

The Livingstone College COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate Request for Religious Exemption

Livingstone College is a private HBCU founded by The A.M.E. Zion Church and we execute our mission while promoting Christian values on our campus. However, all are welcome and we respect the religious values and freedoms practiced by all of our students and their families. This includes those entities who have a documented doctrinal opposition to vaccines. This doctrinal opposition is not limited to the COVID-19 vaccine, but all vaccines. An individual who is requesting a religious exemption must meet the following criteria:

1. The individual must show that their religious entity has documented doctrinal opposition to vaccines.
2. The individual should provide the college with a notarized letter, signed, dated from their religious leader (Pastor, Imam, Rabbi etc. etc.) that the named individual is a member related to that same religious entity that has a documented doctrinal opposition to vaccines.

Final Instructions:

Once the individual Individuals who is seeking a medical or religious exemption should scan the aforementioned documents and send them to LCCovidCompliance@livingstone.edu