



VCU COVID-19 UPDATE

The university and health system have risen as One VCU to meet the extraordinary challenges the COVID-19 crisis presents. You all have shown great adaptability and perseverance, continuing our mission to save lives, to educate and to learn. This weekly update, arriving each Friday through the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic, provides you with the latest decisions, resources, opportunities and good news. All updates are available at covid-19.vcu.edu. Receive VCU COVID-19 notifications by downloading [VCU Mobile](#) from your iOS or Android app store.

Academics

Recap: Academic Affairs Town Hall: Faculty preparation for fall 2020

On Friday, May 22 Provost Gail Hackett hosted a town hall to discuss preparation for fall 2020. The recording of the one-hour event, including FAQs from the nearly 750 participants, is online at provost.vcu.edu/townhalls. Additional questions and answers will be added regularly; please feel free to send any questions you have to provost@vcu.edu.

Summer sessions update: July/August summer classes move to remote instruction

As the university continues planning for on-campus instruction this fall, the decision has been made to move the summer classes that begin in July to remote (online) instruction. Remote instruction was announced for the May and June sessions on [April 3](#). Instructional modes for

summer classes on the MCV Campus vary by school; students should contact their dean's offices for additional information.

Additional details about this announcement, including FAQs, are on the [summer studies 2020 update webpage](#). If you have additional questions, please contact VCU Summer Studies at summer@vcu.edu.

Operations

Recap: Staff Senate Forum

Nearly 700 viewers attended the Staff Senate virtual forum on Thursday, May 21, to discuss topics related to COVID-19. Questions and their answers have been posted at hr.vcu.edu/covid-19/employee-questions/.

Face coverings required in public indoor spaces

Per Governor Northam's [Executive Order Sixty-Three](#), Virginians are required to wear face coverings in public indoor settings to help contain the spread of COVID-19. This is based on guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control](#) and supports health and safety measures as the commonwealth gradually eases public health restrictions. A face covering includes anything that covers your nose and mouth, such as a mask, scarf or bandanna. VCU community members should also continue to practice physical distancing and regular handwashing. The full Executive Order Sixty-Three and Order of Public Health Emergency Five is available [here](#).

GRTC safety update

Students and employees can continue to utilize GRTC for essential travel. GRTC has taken additional safety measures to help ensure the well-being of drivers and passengers during COVID-19. Some of their most recent safety efforts include: implementing enhanced daily bus cleaning procedures, installing sanitizer dispensers on all vehicles, redistributing buses from low-ridership routes to high-ridership local routes to help promote physical distancing, disinfecting high-traffic areas periodically with Steriphene aerosol disinfectant and encouraging more frequent staff testing. GRTC also requires all passengers to wear face masks or nose and mouth coverings while riding. Passengers without masks may be asked to exit the bus. You can learn more about how GRTC is responding to COVID-19 at ridegrtc.com/news-initiatives/news-updates/grtc-and-covid-19-coronavirus.

Temporary physical distancing shuttle coming in August

In addition to GRTC, starting in August 2020 for the fall semester, VCU Parking and Transportation will operate a temporary physical distancing shuttle to support VCU community members with increased safety concerns. The shuttle will travel to Cabell Library, One Capitol Square and McGuire Hall, and physical distancing measures in addition to face mask requirements will be enforced. Additional information regarding this shuttle will be released later this summer.

