



Spring 2022

**COVID-19**

**PROTOCOLS**

---

Francis Marion University

# About Our Protocols

Francis Marion University is committed to the health and safety of the entire FMU community. The University's protocols were created in collaboration with infectious disease experts and a range of local, state, and federal authorities. They are based on recommendations from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). These protocols also conform to the stipulations contained in the South Carolina General Assembly provisos 117.163 and 117.190.

## **Masks on Campus**

Masks or face coverings must be worn by everyone – vaccinated and unvaccinated – in indoor, public areas. This applies to all campus facilities and includes classrooms, hallways, laboratories, the library, and other communal spaces. Masks are not required in private offices or work spaces, individual residence rooms, or while eating or drinking in the various dining venues across campus.

## **Vaccinations & Boosters**

FMU will be working with our local health providers to establish vaccination and booster clinics on campus throughout the semester, as well as provide access to other vaccination sites for all faculty, staff, and students.

## **Social Distancing**

Safe social distancing is encouraged throughout campus to the maximum extent possible.

## **Classroom Seating**

Seating in classrooms, lecture halls, and auditoriums will conform to CDC and SCDHEC recommendations. All classrooms and campus facilities will provide for social distancing.

## **Residential Life**

All residence halls will have reduced occupancy, and the large common areas will be cleaned systematically. Residents will be permitted to host visitors between the hours of 6:00am-11:00pm. Overnight guests are prohibited for the spring semester. Masking is not required in residents' rooms or suites, but is required in other communal areas.

## **Campus Cleaning, Sanitization and PPE**

Cleaning will occur throughout campus at regular intervals throughout the day, with more extensive cleaning and sanitizing at night and on weekends. Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom and in many other locations across campus. Standard PPE materials will also be available in public areas throughout campus.

## **Protective Barriers**

Plexiglass barriers will remain in place in many administrative and service areas to protect students, faculty, and staff.

## **Dining**

Regular dining services will be available at the Ervin Dining Hall, the Grille, and the Cauthen Café. Modified self-service will be in effect in the Ervin Dining Hall. Takeout options will be available in all dining hall locations. Dining will not be available in The Cottage until COVID conditions improve.

## **Medical & Counseling Services**

A nurse practitioner will be on duty in the Student Health Office on the second floor of the Smith University Center. In addition, HopeHealth will operate a medical clinic on campus with a physician and additional nurse practitioners on campus adjacent to the Griffin Athletic Complex. Regular counselors will be available for students, faculty, and staff at the University's Office of Counseling and Testing.

## **COVID Testing**

Testing will be available to all faculty, students, and staff – free of charge – at either the student health office or HopeHealth. A person does not need to be symptomatic to request a COVID-19 test. Any person who tests positive at an off campus site should notify the University COVID-19 Response Office at 843.661.4665.

The Provost's Office will continue their work with students who test positive for COVID-19 to ensure they can continue their instructional work without interruption during any isolation/quarantine period. The Vice President for Student Life will facilitate their return to the classroom after the appropriate isolation/quarantine period as provided by the revised CDC guidelines (see Additional Information section).

## **Contact Tracing**

FMU's COVID-19 Response Office will coordinate with SCDHEC to ensure that timely contact tracing is performed for any students, faculty, or staff with a confirmed infection. The COVID-19 Response Office will engage campus-based teams who can begin contact tracing as cases become known.

## **Athletics**

FMU's student athletes will follow the protocols established by the NCAA and Conference Carolinas. These protocols will be distributed to all student athletes by the Athletic Director upon their arrival on campus.

## **Tours, Public & Special Events**

FMU will continue to offer campus tours and hold Open House events for prospective students. The University is a public entity and is committed to its role as a center for community activities. Public and special events held this spring will be in accordance with the recommended CDC and DHEC guidelines.

## International Programs

International and exchange programs will resume in Fall 2022.

## Center for the Child

The Richardson Center for the Child will maintain normal hours and operate in accordance with SCDHEC, CDC, and the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) guidelines for child development centers.

## Constant Monitoring & Elevated Protocols

The University will maintain an active COVID-19 dashboard on its website ([www.fmarion.edu/covid19](http://www.fmarion.edu/covid19)). This includes monitoring case numbers and positive testing percentages in the local community. Any significant increase in reported COVID-19 cases may result in the University adopting additional protocols in an effort to assure the safety of the FMU community.

## COVID Relief Fund

The university will maintain a relief fund to provide assistance to students, faculty and staff who have been adversely effected by this latest resurgence of the virus. Relief fund guidelines and application information can be obtained by contacting the COVID Relief Fund at 843.661.1115.

# Additional Information

For more information on Francis Marion University's COVID-19 protocols [click here.](#)

Updates and information from SC DHEC [click here.](#)

Isolation and quarantine guidance from the CDC [click here.](#)

# Safe Campus Checklist

## Spring 2022

- ✓ Masks or face coverings required in all public indoor areas for those vaccinated and unvaccinated
- ✓ Vaccinations and boosters strongly recommended
- ✓ Testing strongly recommended for those with COVID-19 symptoms
- ✓ Access to COVID-19 vaccines through local medical providers
- ✓ COVID Relief Fund for students, faculty and staff
- ✓ CDC/SCDHEC Distancing Standards
- ✓ CDC/SCDHEC Cleaning and Sanitization Protocols
- ✓ CDC/SCDHEC Protective Barriers
- ✓ COVID-19 testing available at no cost
- ✓ COVID-19 Response Office
- ✓ Campus medical and counseling services and expanded HopeHealth clinic
- ✓ Continuous monitoring of community case thresholds
- ✓ Contact tracing support

## Spring 2022 Academic Calendar

Jan. 7	Housing opens
Jan. 11	Classes begin
Jan. 17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, University closed
Feb. 25	Midterm
March 14 - 18	Spring Break
March 21	Classes resume
April 25	Spring classes end
April 27 - May 3	Final Exams
May 6 - 7	Commencement

# COVID-19 Response Office

For more information on FMU's procedures and plans during the COVID-19 pandemic, contact the University's **COVID-19 Response Office** at **843.661.4665** or **covidresponse@fmarion.edu**. The office is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. to assist students, faculty, and staff in finding the best resources and information on FMU's response to the pandemic. Please call campus police at **843.661.1109** for assistance on COVID related issues after hours, on weekends or holidays.

Due to the cooperation of all faculty, staff, and students, Francis Marion University has maintained the lowest number of active COVID cases of any South Carolina public university since the start of the pandemic. This has been achieved through the efforts of the entire campus community to keep everyone safe.



PO Box 100547  
Florence, SC 29502

843.661.1362 | [fmarion.edu](http://fmarion.edu)