

# COVID-19 Updates - Classes Remote through 1/14/22

January 10, 2022

Dear Meredith community,

Last Monday, we successfully opened administrative offices for the new year. Indicators at that time suggested our fall COVID-19 protocols, combined with the vaccine requirement going into effect, would allow us to start the Spring 2022 semester as planned.

However, several late-breaking items have occurred externally and within our community that necessitates a change in plans. The most concerning development is the number of reports of COVID-19 positive cases the student health center began receiving over the weekend.

In addition, the CDC recently made changes to the definition of what it means to be fully vaccinated, which has implications for quarantine protocols. We have just been notified by the Wake County Health Department that we should follow this new definition, while we await additional guidance from the CDC that is specific to colleges and universities.

Given these factors, we are making the following changes to the beginning of the spring semester to ensure the ongoing health and safety of our community.

## **Classes**

Classes, which start on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, will be held remotely through Friday, January 14, 2022. In observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, there are no classes scheduled for Monday, January 17. This change to the mode for the first week of class will give us more time to monitor cases and new guidance before requiring more people to return to campus for in-person classes.

## **Residence Halls**

Residence halls opened on Sunday, January 9, and will remain open for new and returning students.

## **Dining Hall and BeeHive**

Belk dining hall is open and will remain open as scheduled, with appropriate COVID-19 protocols in place. The BeeHive will also remain open.

## **Administrative Offices**

Administrative offices remain open, except for the MLK day holiday. Staff members should continue to work with their supervisors on any COVID-19 related issues or concerns.

## **Boosters**

With the CDC now considering boosters as part of being fully vaccinated, we strongly encourage anyone who is eligible to get a booster shot if you have not already done so. If you have received your booster and would like to upload that information into the portal, you may do so via the following link: <https://cvdsubmit.meredith.edu/>

We expect the number of cases in our community to stabilize, as we get further from New Year's Eve, allowing us to resume in-person classes next week. Please continue to check your email and the [Staying Strong site](#) for updates.

Thank you for your ongoing flexibility and adaptability. After twenty-three months of COVID affecting our lives, we are all more than ready for it to be a thing of the past. With more vaccinations, boosters, testing, and the potential for treatment, along with wearing masks, washing hands, and socially distancing, we believe getting beyond this pandemic is entirely possible and in our hands. Thanks for doing your part!

-The Executive Leadership Team