

# Gaston College

## COVID-19 Safety Protocols

Effective: 8/16/21  
Revised 1/4/22

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The following COVID-19 protocols are effective January 5, 2022:

1. **Face Coverings/Masks**

Effective Wednesday, January 5, 2022, wearing a face-covering/mask **inside** all Gaston College classrooms and facilities will be **mandatory** until further notice.

2. According to the CDC (10/25/21), people who have a condition or are taking medications that weaken their immune system may not be fully protected even if they are fully vaccinated. They should continue to take all precautions recommended for non-vaccinated people, including wearing a well-fitted face-covering/mask unless their healthcare provider advises otherwise. If you are fully vaccinated, to maximize protection and prevent possibly spreading COVID-19 to others, wear a face-covering/mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission. Go to the CDC web page on face coverings/masks for additional information.

3. Proof of COVID vaccination is not required; however, students, faculty, and staff must meet any safety protocols or requirements implemented by external agencies as part of their duties or participation in a program, unless an exception is approved by the agency.

4. All campuses are open to all persons, and indoor and outdoor events are permitted.

5. Social distancing should continue to be a priority.

6. Buildings, rooms, and high-touch objects or surfaces will be cleaned with greater frequency, current physical barriers will remain installed, and hand-sanitation units available. The use of water fountains will be limited, and air-quality checks will continue.

7. If you are exposed to another person who has COVID, you should follow the **NEW** CDC's recommendations based on your vaccination status, and go to: <https://www.gaston.edu/gcsafe/> Fill out the Student (or Employee) Self-Reporting Form (yellow button). Someone from the COVID Team will contact you within 24 hours.

\*If you do not have the ability or need assistance to fill out the form send an email to: [COVID@gaston.edu](mailto:COVID@gaston.edu) to notify the COVID-19 Team of the situation

8. If you experience symptoms of COVID, or receive a positive test result, please stay at home, consult your healthcare provider, and report it to: <https://www.gaston.edu/gcsafe/> by submitting the Student (or Employee) Self-Reporting Form (yellow button). Someone from the COVID Team will contact you within 24 hours.

\*If you do not have the ability or need assistance to fill out the form send an email to: [COVID@gaston.edu](mailto:COVID@gaston.edu) to notify the COVID-19 Team of the

9. Persons certified by a healthcare provider as being at a higher risk for COVID will be assisted on a case-by-case basis.

10. Confidential counseling services are available 24/7/365 at no cost for enrolled students, employees, and their family members, by calling (800) 633-3353.