



Dear Hollins Community,

As my time as your interim president comes to a close, I want to provide an update on our progress as Hollins prepares to resume in person instruction just two months from now. Although the nature of the pandemic means that these plans may have to change, we are preparing carefully and working to ensure our plans align with our institutional mission and the [Culture of Care](#) philosophy that helps to guide us.

Yesterday, we submitted our [official reopening plan](#) to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, as required of all state colleges and universities. The plan and any subsequent updates are available at hollins.edu/onward. In addition to the fall calendar changes and other information shared earlier this month, our plans also provide details about the following:

Student move-in and orientation.

- The university will implement a phased move-in schedule for residential students and extend the number of days during which students may return in order to adhere to the physical distancing requirements and maximize community safety. New students will arrive between August 22 and 25; returning students will arrive between August 26 and 29, with some returning student leaders and athletes arriving earlier.
- A phased and hybrid orientation model will be offered that includes in person and on-line activities. In person activities will begin on August 22 and continue throughout the week.

Plans to ensure the well-being of community members.

- To support the health of the campus community, we will provide COVID-19 prevention education and training for students, faculty, and staff. As part of helping everyone understand the Culture of Care, marketing is also producing branded posters, flyers, and other educational materials to be located strategically on campus.
- Students and employees will be provided one washable face mask, a thermometer, and hand sanitizer. Students and employees will be expected to monitor their own health daily via a checklist of symptoms, including a temperature check.
- Effective immediately, students and employees are required to wear face coverings (facial shields or masks) in campus interior spaces, including classrooms. Employees working alone in their offices and students in their residence hall rooms will not be expected to wear face coverings. When outside, community members are required to wear a face covering whenever it is difficult to maintain six feet of physical distance.
- Informed by guidance from the CDC and Virginia Department of Health (VDH), students will be tested for COVID-19 at the Student Health and Counseling Center if they are symptomatic or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive. After being tested, residential students will be quarantined in the Williamson Road

Apartments until test results are known. Symptomatic employees will be required to stay at home and expected to contact their health providers for further guidance. If Hollins is notified of a positive COVID-19 test, the VDH will work with Hollins on contact tracing and testing.

- Symptomatic students who have tested positive for COVID-19 will be in isolation. In accordance with CDC guidelines, they will be allowed to be with others again after they “have no fever, symptoms have improved, and [they have] receive[d] two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.” Asymptomatic students who are asked to isolate and who, through self-monitoring, continue to have no symptoms, will be able to return to class after 10 days have passed since the test. During the isolation period they will be able to continue classes online.
- The university is working on an individual basis to provide accommodations to students and employees who are at higher risk for COVID-19 due to immunodeficiency health conditions or age. Students needing accommodations should complete the survey that was recently distributed. Employees should consult their supervisors or Human Resources.
- Virginia Governor Northam has announced that the commonwealth will transition into a Phase Three reopening. However, he has also encouraged people who can to work safely from home. During July, employees whose responsibilities can be fulfilled by telecommuting should continue to do so. University vice presidents will be sharing plans for a phased-in return beginning in August with their respective divisions.

Teaching modalities and changes to our classrooms.

- Classes will be taught during the fall term using a variety of teaching modalities including in person (while allowing for permitted students to learn remotely); hybrid, meaning partially in person and partially online; and completely online. By mid-July, the schedule of classes will be updated to reflect the teaching modality for each course. Offering a variety of delivery methods helps to reduce overcrowding in classroom spaces for health and safety purposes and to accommodate individual needs. Regardless of the teaching modality, we are committed to offering the interactive and close-knit Hollins community experience.
- The layout of classrooms will be adjusted to ensure six feet of physical distancing between students in classroom spaces and between the students and the instructor.
- We will minimize the use of shared objects in classrooms and lab spaces and establish protocols for computer labs, laboratory equipment, fine arts equipment and supplies, and musical instruments.
- In addition to routine daily cleaning and disinfecting in all campus buildings, selected locations including academic buildings, residence halls, and student-support buildings will receive additional cleanings throughout the day.

Adjustments to residence life and dining services.

- Limits will be placed on the number of students allowed in residential hall lounges and kitchens at any given time.

- Dining services will be open for residential students **only**. Physical distancing protocols will be implemented, reducing seating capacity in the dining room by more than half. In order to provide additional seating, Ballator and the Rathskellar in Moody will also be used for dining. Faculty and staff will not have access to dining services during the fall term.
- The exercise room/weight room and pool in the gymnasium will be available to students only; pre-registration will be required.
- The commuter lounge will remain available to commuter students while respecting requirements around physical distancing and face coverings.
- The Horizon lounge in Eastnor will remain available for Horizon students while respecting requirements around physical distancing and face coverings.

Policy changes related to campus visitors and events.

- Only current Hollins students, faculty, and staff are permitted within any building. No outside visitors or guests, including family members, may enter campus buildings other than prearranged essential institutional partners and vendors, and guests of the admission office.
- Events and public spaces such as the museum and library are closed to outside visitors, including alumnae/i and emeritus faculty and staff. Performances held on campus will be exclusively for the Hollins community following physical distancing guidelines.
- The general public will not be allowed to access the main part of campus or any campus buildings, but they are permitted to walk the loop road following proper physical distancing and face covering protocols.
- Although some campus events such as Opening Convocation and First Step will be held this fall in a modified format, other events such as Family Weekend, Tinker Day, and Ring Night will be postponed until spring.

Throughout the summer, our COVID-coordinating campus team will continue to work diligently to address additional details and complexities. As plans are finalized, they will be shared with the Hollins community. We have also posted [an FAQ page](#) that we will update throughout the summer. I am deeply grateful to President-elect Hinton and members of the Cabinet, faculty, and staff who are working so hard on the completion and implementation of these plans.

The last few months have been an exceptionally challenging time as the pandemic changed our world in unimaginable ways. During this time, I have been especially grateful for your resilience, flexibility, and partnership. It has been my honor and privilege to lead and serve alongside you this past year. I depart with high hopes and great optimism knowing that Mary Dana Hinton is the president this community needs in the months and years to come. I look forward to cheering on all of you.

With best wishes,

Nancy Oliver Gray
Interim President

Key links and resources:

[Carefully Onward](#): Hollins Fall Reopening Microsite

- [Hollins' Report to the VA Governor's Office](#) (PDF)
- [Fall Reopening FAQ](#) (we will be updating this regularly throughout the summer)
- [Culture of Care](#)

[Virginia Phase 3 information](#) (PDF)

[CDC COVID-19 website](#)