

FAQs Spring 2022 / COVID Safety

Isolation and Quarantine

Q: What if I was around someone over break and later found out they tested positive?

A: If you are fully vaccinated and have received your booster dose, you do not need to quarantine, but should monitor yourself for symptoms. If you are fully vaccinated but have not yet received your booster dose, you will need to quarantine for 7 days. In both cases, you should monitor yourself for symptoms and will need to get tested 3-5 days after the exposure. If you are unvaccinated with an approved medical or religious exemption, you will need to quarantine for 10 days.

Q: Someone I live with tested positive for COVID. What should I do?

A: If possible, you should physically separate yourself from the person who tested positive for at least 5 days while they are infectious, and monitor yourself for symptoms. You should get tested 3-5 days after your last exposure to the person who tested positive. If you're unable to separate from the person, you both should wear a mask.

Q: I tested positive with a rapid at-home test. What should I do?

A: Please email covid@massart.edu so one of our team members can reach out to support you. You should also upload your test result into CoVerified. You will need to isolate yourself from others for at least 5 days and monitor yourself for symptoms.

Q: I'm experiencing some minor symptoms. What should I do?

A: If you are feeling sick or under the weather, please stay home. Even if your symptoms are minor or you have a recent negative test result, you should still remain home and separate from others until you are no longer feeling sick.

If you are feeling sick or experiencing any symptoms, it is best to make an appointment with a clinician who can evaluate you and devise a plan for your health.

Students are able to set up a telehealth appointment with a clinician through Optum Student Health Services. Please call 617.879.5220 to schedule a same-day appointment. Optum Student Health Services is open Monday–Friday, 9am–6pm and can diagnose and treat respiratory and other conditions. For more information, click [here](#).

Employees should contact their primary care provider to set up an appointment.

If you would like further support, please contact the MassArt COVID Team at covid@massart.edu.

Testing

Q: When should I get my return test to access campus for the first time this semester?

A: You should take a PCR test 72 hours before planning to be on campus. You can submit this test result in CoVerified to clear you for campus access. If you are unable to receive a test prior to coming to campus, you will need to take a test immediately when you return to campus and will not be afforded campus access until the result is posted.

Q: What kind of testing is MassArt doing?

A: We are partnering with the Broad Institute to use polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or molecular tests, which is the gold standard and the most accurate test for detecting current COVID-19 infection.

Q. When will testing be available again for students, faculty, and staff?

A: The testing site will reopen on January 12th and 13th from 11am to 4pm, and will resume full-time hours beginning January 17th, 2022. We will return to our pre-winter break testing schedule that we has been in effect for the last year. Keep in mind that everyone is required to get a test 2-3 days prior to their first full day on campus in order to have a negative test result prior to activities.

TESTING FREQUENCY	Two Times a Week	Every week	Every 2 Weeks	No Ongoing Testing
STUDENTS				
Off-Campus/Commuter Students		X		
Resident Students (with an anticipated return to once per week after 2/14/22)	X			
Unvaccinated students with an approved medical or religious exemption	X			
Students who are 100% remote and will not access campus				X
EMPLOYEES				
Employees working on campus			X	

Unvaccinated employees with an approved medical or religious exemption are required to test once a week		X		
Employees who are 100% remote and will not access campus				X

*** As we begin the winter/spring 2022 semester employees working on campus are encouraged to test more frequently and unvaccinated employees are encouraged to test twice a week through 2/14/2022.**

Q. Is testing free?

A. These tests will be free for students, faculty, and staff included in our testing program.

Q: COVID-19 testing is difficult to find right now. Can my friend or family member test at MassArt’s site?

A: Unfortunately not. MassArt’s testing site is for its students, faculty, and staff only. Local testing sites can be found by [searching here](#). It may also be possible for them to secure testing through their primary care physician or clinician.

Q. How long does it take to get results?

A. Results can take 24 to 48 hours for the Broad Institute lab to process the tests. At the start of every semester, and if there is an increase in positivity rate, it is expected test results may take 48 hours or longer to process.

Q. Where is MassArt’s testing site?

A. Our test site is in the South Crackertorium, which you can find by taking an immediate left at the DMC main entrance.

Q. How can I make an appointment for testing?

A. Through your Co-Verified app or on the website; click on the “Testing” icon for instructions.

Q. Can walk-ins be accommodated at the test site?

A. We have a limited capacity for walk-in test appointments, and you may have to wait in a line. We encourage everyone to book an appointment through CoVerified to help with the efficiency of the testing site.

Q. How are COVID positive cases communicated to the MassArt community?

A. Individuals who test positive are called directly by a MassArt Contact Tracer and their information is kept confidential. Cumulative positive test results are reported weekly through the Campus Dashboard.

Q: Do students who are taking remote classes need to be tested?

A: Students who are taking 100% remote classes, are not living on campus, and will not be accessing campus are not required to be tested. If you plan on accessing campus during the semester, you will need to be tested according to your required frequency.

Q: Can I get tested outside of MassArt?

A: You are welcome to take a test off campus and submit it in CoVerified utilizing the “+” menu to upload your test result. For ongoing surveillance testing, we only accept PCR or NAAT test results.

Masks

Q. There’s been a lot of new information about masks. May I still wear my favorite cloth MassArt-branded mask?

A. The rapid spread of the Omicron variant has caused health experts to revisit recommendations regarding masks and cloth masks alone are not sufficient. The most important consideration is the fit of the mask – if it is loose fitting and does not cover your nose and mouth (at the same time) it does not provide sufficient protection for you or anyone you come in close contact with.

Q. What masks are recommended?

- A. Recent public health guidance indicates that cloth masks alone do not provide protection to help mitigate the spread of COVID. More effective, closer-fitting masks are recommended to help protect against the highly infectious Omicron variant. The College strongly recommends medical grade masks, which include KN95, N95, KF94, or surgical masks, be worn on campus. Your favorite cloth masks may be layered over a medical-grade mask, but cloth masks alone are not recommended. It is important that regardless of the type of mask you wear, that you follow this important requirement and ensure that the mask fits well!

Q. Are there masks available to me on campus?

A. The College has a large supply of surgical masks and has ordered KN95 masks to be available at the two campus entry points, DMC and Kennedy.

CoVerified

Q. How can I gain campus access with the CoVerified app?

A: To access campus, you will need to download CoVerified on your phone and get it set up:

CoVerified mobile apps for iOS and Android devices are available here:

<https://www.coverified.us/download>

CoVerified for laptop/desktop, using any web browser, is available here: web.coverified.us

You can log in using your usual MassArt email and password. If you are new to MassArt and/or are receiving an error message, please email covid@massart.edu to troubleshoot.

Q: Do I need to be cleared in CoVerified if I'm only coming to campus for a test?

A: No, you do not. You will need to bring your MassArt ID, and enter through the DMC main entrance.

Q: Why am I restricted on CoVerified?

A: When you see the red/restricted marker, it should say "Why am I restricted?" under it. Click on this to see the exact reason you are restricted.

First, make sure you have completed your daily symptom tracker under Report > Report Symptoms. If you are experiencing any new symptoms that are not typical for you, you will be restricted and should not come to campus or go to class.

If it says you are not following testing protocol compliance, you are overdue for a test. Please make an appointment for a test ASAP. If you have not tested within your required frequency, you will be restricted.

Q: How often do I need to report my symptoms in CoVerified?

A: We recommend checking in with yourself and reporting any symptoms through the app daily. At minimum, symptom reporting is required on days when you are accessing campus.

**Please direct any other questions you may have to the COVID Operations Team
at covid@massart.edu.**