

Meredith students:

In order to help keep our campus community as safe as possible during the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, Meredith College is requiring unvaccinated students to participate in PCR entrance testing, weekly surveillance testing, and other community standards.

PCR Entrance Testing

Meredith College is requiring all unvaccinated students who have not been on campus regularly this summer to **submit a negative PCR test 1-3 days in advance of coming to campus for the first time this fall.** PCR test results should be submitted through <https://cvdsubmit.meredith.edu/>. **PCR testing must not be older than five (5) days from submission.** Faculty and staff are also subject to this requirement, which is in place to help ensure the healthiest possible start to the new academic year.

Required Weekly Surveillance Testing

Students who have not submitted proof of COVID-19 vaccination by August 23, 2021, will be required to participate in routine testing throughout the 2021-22 academic year.

Here is how that requirement will work

- All Meredith students who are unvaccinated and either registered for an in-person course or living on campus will be required to attend testing once a week. ***(If a student has tested positive in the past 90 days, they will need to contact Student Health for a personalized testing schedule.)***
- Please note that any unvaccinated Meredith undergraduate or graduate student enrolled online-only who needs to come to campus should be tested each week she or he comes to campus for any reason.
- Testing will be held on campus at various times during the week in the lobby of Jones Auditorium. Unvaccinated students will be emailed weekly with the following week's testing dates, times, location, and a booking link. The College will try to keep the same days, times, and location, but they may vary depending on the academic schedule and events. Below are our testing dates for the week of August 24:
 - Tuesdays 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
 - Tuesdays 3 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
 - Wednesdays 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
 - Thursdays 3 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Under Meredith's Honor Code, students must adhere to campus policies and Community Standards, including the required COVID-19 testing. Students who miss their weekly testing will be referred to the Community Standards Task Force.

Students who receive a vaccine during the Fall semester will no longer need to test weekly once they are [fully vaccinated](#) (two weeks after their last dose in a series). If you have already received a COVID-19 vaccination, please enter your vaccination status in our private, secure portal here: <https://cvdsubmit.meredith.edu/>.

Testing Fees

Students who are required to participate in routine testing will pay a \$1,125 fee (15 weeks of testing at \$75 per test) to cover the costs of this service for the fall semester.

If help is needed for the cost of the COVID Testing fees, a student can complete an Application for Emergency Grant for COVID Medical Expenses funded by the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). The application will be available on the Office of Financial Assistance website.

Reminder of Community Standards

All Meredith College students, employees, and visitors are required to comply with the College's Community Standards, regardless of vaccination status. **These standards include the use of face coverings for all students, faculty, staff, visitors, and vendors/contractors when in indoor common or public areas even when one is the only individual in that area.** Face coverings will also be required in some large outdoor gatherings. Review the current [Community Standards](#) for more details on this and other COVID-19 safety protocols.

Thank you for your attention to these COVID-19 protocols. For additional information, visit meredith.edu/staying-strong.

Frequently Asked Questions about Testing at Meredith

Will an unvaccinated student be out of pocket the cost of COVID testing on campus at Meredith this fall?

No. The student will need to [fill out a form](#) for financial assistance and then Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) will cover the cost of testing. This is

available to all types of students: US citizens, Undocumented, Permanent Residents and foreign students.

We will continue to work with state and local advocates to explain the importance of these funds in helping students stay healthy and able to stay in college, as well as helping to contain community spread on campus and in the many communities students travel during the course of a semester.

What if I applied for government funds earlier---am I still eligible for these funds?

Yes, as long as you file with the Office of Financial Assistance. If you have a specific question about your case, please consult with the Office of Financial Assistance.

Why must COVID testing be done at Meredith and not at an off-campus site?

The testing results will be sent concurrently by Mako (the testing company) to students and the college, ensuring that any discovery of a positive result can be addressed quickly to reduce the possibility of the spread of COVID. This quick response is crucial to Meredith's ability to provide a safe learning and living environment for our students. If test results were to come in from multiple doctors, county testing sites, pharmacies, and all the other places one might be tested, there would be great lag time, which would reduce our chance of containing campus spread.

Because Mako is working with Meredith to provide tests at reduced costs, they are not able to process individual insurance claims. Many insurance policies do not cover the cost of serial surveillance testing. Because the tests are done on Meredith's campus, the student can have costs covered by HEERF.

In addition, by providing the testing at multiple times on campus, Meredith is making testing convenient for students—and not forcing them to take time to get to remote sites and wait in long lines there, not having to do additional work to get results filed with the College, and not worry that their results might have gone astray between provider and College.

Why are vaccinated students not being tested routinely?

Vaccinated students will be doing daily screenings like all students through Campus Clear and will be tested if symptomatic. This procedure follows current local, state, and federal guidance. They too will be charged for those diagnostic/symptomatic tests and will follow the same procedures to file with Financial Assistance, so the costs of testing will be covered by HEERF funds.

If a student gets vaccinated now or later, would that student have to continue routine testing?

Once a student is two weeks past the last dose in the vaccine series (after the single shot required for the J&J vaccine; after the second shot for Pfizer or Moderna), then the student has reached full immunity. Students would first need to upload vaccination status after completing the full series of a vaccine to the Meredith portal. After uploading, the documentation will go through the approval process (generally within 24 business hours). After approval, students will be instructed on when they can stop the weekly surveillance testing program. The testing fee will be prorated based on the number of weeks a student is required to participate in weekly surveillance testing.

What if an unvaccinated student is an athlete?

Meredith Athletics and Student Health Services are working to ensure that in most and perhaps all cases, the routine testing done each week would also serve for testing needed to participate in athletic practice and competition.

Are there medical or religious exemptions to testing?

Medical and religious exemptions apply to required vaccinations; they do not apply to testing.

What if a student has additional questions for campus sources?

If the question is academic, consult with [Academic Advising](#), Wings advising, a faculty advisor, or an academic dean.

If the question is financial, talk with [Financial Assistance](#) or [Accounting](#).

If the question is medical, contact [Student Health Services](#) and/or [Disability Services](#).

If the question is related to anxiety or similar concerns, consult the [Counseling Center](#).

If the question is faith-based, consult with the [Office of the Chaplain](#).

If the question is general in nature, start with the [Office of the Dean of Students](#), who will either answer the question or direct the student to the appropriate campus resource.

As a reminder, all issues related to Covid-19 continue to change rapidly; Meredith College will continue to provide updates as needed to these questions and other Covid issues through the [Staying Strong website](#).