

Together Safely: Spring 2021 FAQ



Albion's Approach

What are the main components of Albion's Together Safely plan to return to on-campus instruction?

We have taken a three-pronged approach to our COVID-19 response, focusing on three main areas: Education, Environmental Adaptation, and Population Health Monitoring and Risk Reduction. Our plan was created with the guidance of an external advisory panel of medical experts together with our internal health professionals.

- **Education** includes a wide variety of public health education efforts to make sure all members of the Albion community understand the public health principles underlying our actions. Before returning to campus, all students, faculty and staff engaged in public health training modules to prepare them for this unique year. We are also working with our Student Accountability Committee to provide accountability training to student leaders on campus to promote a holistic approach to public health compliance.
- **Environmental Adaptation** includes all of the physical adjustments we have made to campus, including more than 100 new technology-enhanced classrooms, automatic doors, traffic-flow indicators for entry and exit doors, and a wide variety of signage and other adaptations to limit close contact.
- **Population Health Monitoring and Risk Reduction** includes regular testing to detect, isolate and eliminate infection before it becomes community-spread. We are also conducting waste water testing to monitor shedding of the virus in residence halls.

COVID-19 Testing

Will Albion College be administering COVID-19 testing?

Yes. To ensure that our community stays healthy this spring, we will be using Abbott BinaxNOW tests to administer regular rapid testing of students, faculty and staff.

How will testing results be communicated to individuals?

Abbott's COVID-19 app, NAVICA, pairs with the company's rapid antigen test to deliver results quickly and safely to individuals. All students, faculty and staff are required to download NAVICA at no charge to receive their COVID-19 testing results.

Test results will also be shared with the Calhoun County Public Health Department (CCPHD) and our COVID-19 team. If your test is positive, a member of COVID-19 team will reach out to you with instructions



for accessing care and moving into isolation. NAVICA has security protocols in place to ensure that all personal data is protected. Information collected via NAVICA is encrypted before transmission to ensure that it will remain secure and confidential. For more information on how NAVICA collects and stores data, see their [Privacy Policy](#). For more information on using NAVICA, visit Abbott's [NAVICA FAQ](#).

How will Albion's testing data be communicated to the public?

As in the fall, Albion will share broad testing data publicly on our [Together Safely Community Dashboard](#).

What happens if a student tests positive?

If a student tests positive, they are moved to isolation on campus and cared for by our Director of Campus Health and Wellness and our COVID-19 team, can return home or, if necessary, will be transferred to a healthcare clinic.

Freedom of Movement and Risk Reduction

Are students able to leave campus?

Yes, students are able to leave campus. We have not defined a perimeter around campus. As a college town, "campus" includes locations in Albion like local businesses and parks, and extends beyond College property.

Students can request permission to leave the area we have defined as campus (inclusive of most of the City of Albion) for a wide variety of reasons. Requesting permission involves a brief conversation with a College administrator to understand and evaluate the risk of exposure. This case-by-case approach, focused on education and risk assessment, is exactly what we do best as a small liberal arts college. If a student has a recurring reason (weekly, monthly, etc.) to leave campus, or if the student has a family emergency, they do not need to request permission each time.

Are students permitted to have visitors on campus?

Families and guests are welcomed on Albion's campus as long as they register with us, remain outside of our enclosed facilities, and agree to observe our health guidelines of staying physically distant and wearing masks.

Will students be suspended if they leave campus or violate other COVID-related rules?

Our first approach to student conduct violations will always be educational. Should students fail to follow basic COVID-related rules and public health and safety protocols, our goal will be to facilitate educational conversations that corrects the concerning behavior in partnership with our students. Students who continually violate COVID-related rules and public health and safety protocols could be temporarily suspended pending an outcome from our conduct process. Students will be afforded due process and student rights are protected in our conduct process.

What precautions are faculty and staff taking as they go to and from campus?

All faculty and staff will be following our health and safety protocols, which limit exposure to people outside of their immediate family off-campus. Policy and protocols for faculty and staff emphasize the reduction of risk in ways more appropriate to their circumstance as non-campus residents. Public health practice is built on the principle that we should focus on reducing risk where possible and that is exactly our approach.



An Active Campus

Will students be able to enjoy the normal activities of a residential campus education?

Yes. Along with in-person classes, Albion is actively seeking ways to allow for safe, on-campus gatherings, including continuing to make campus modifications to better accommodate outdoor gatherings.

A Flexible Plan

Are there exceptions to in-person instruction for students who need them?

Yes. While the majority of our students (81% of survey respondents) are strongly in favor of returning for in-person learning, students can and have requested virtual learning options for specific exceptions, including health conditions and situations where areas of study require it. Additionally, about 15% of our courses will be online to accommodate faculty who have similar exceptional circumstances.

Will Albion College reassess its planning as the situation continues to develop?

Yes. There is no perfect solution, and every higher education institution is navigating this in real time. Our goal is to do what's best for Albion students, faculty and staff. We will be monitoring the results closely and following medical guidance, shifting our approach on an ongoing basis as needed and communicating with our entire community as quickly as possible.

Vaccinations

Will flu shots be required at Albion College this year?

Yes. To support the health and well-being of students, faculty and staff and our communities, in consultation with public health leadership and the CDC, Albion College is requiring all members of our campus community to receive an influenza immunization unless a medical or religious waiver is approved. This is a temporary policy in effect related to COVID-19. This is an important proactive measure to help protect members of the Albion College community — and the public at large — and to ameliorate the severe burden on health care systems anticipated during the winter from influenza and COVID-19.

Who is required to get the flu shot?

All students who are engaging in on-campus classes, activities or accessing facilities are required to get the immunization, as well as all faculty and staff. In the case of medical or religious concerns, waivers may be requested by students, faculty and staff.

How is Albion supporting the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccine?

The College is working closely with the Calhoun County Public Health Department (CCPHD) to prepare for the phased roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination. CCPHD is following the state vaccination plan and is sharing information about timing and eligibility for the vaccine on their website. As the COVID-19 vaccination becomes more widely available, the College strongly encourages all eligible employees and students to become vaccinated.

It is important to recognize that the vaccine might not be widely available until later this year. To that end, all members of the campus community will be expected to take steps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including wearing a mask and physical distancing.