

# RETURN TO CAMPUS FAQ

We are excited to reconvene safely as a community in person for the fall 2020 semester. Over the last 6 months, our AMDA Safety Task force has been tracking COVID-19 updates daily both domestically and globally to ensure that we take every precaution in preparing our campus to be a safe and healthy learning environment for our faculty and students.

The following should address any questions you may have.

## Health and Safety

### Is it safe to return to campus?

Yes, AMDA is committed to reopening our campus in a safe and healthy way, following all guidance and recommendations from New York state and city government agencies, as well as guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization.

AMDA has assembled an Emergency Response Team (ERT) on campus in order to create and direct responses and to ensure that safety and health are the top priorities for our community. The ERT is composed of staff members from every department to reflect the needs of our entire campus. The ERT's responsibility is to create processes and responses that are effective in reducing the risk of contracting COVID-19.

### How will COVID-19 testing and quarantine work for students arriving for fall semester? Are there different rules depending on where students are coming from?

Given all of the information we have at this moment, it is clear that the best way to start our Fall semester in a safe environment while giving us the best possible chance to start our semester COVID-free as a community, is to require that all AMDA community members submit a negative COVID-19 test prior to returning to campus.

The main focus of this testing is to identify individuals who may be incubating infection and to make sure that they do not come to campus until they are COVID-free, thereby reducing risk to the wider AMDA community.

More detailed information about our return to campus testing policy can be found [here](#).

To ensure the safety of the entire AMDA community, our efforts will additionally be put towards:

- Communicating and encouraging community members to engage in safe practices (social distancing, PPE use, etc.) leading up to arrival at AMDA.
- All community members will be required to:
  - Complete a COVID-19 Health, Safety, & Hygiene training.
  - Submit completed health paperwork including a COVID-19 screening questionnaire.
  - Perform a daily self-screen/wellness check via mobile app beginning 1 week prior to arrival.

### **For students traveling from places on New York's advisor list, how will quarantine work?**

All students who have arrived on campus from outside of the continental United States or from a state on the New York Travel Restriction List, will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days prior to beginning classes or moving about campus. Details and step-by-step instructions are provided in the linked document and will be communicated to all community members before their arrival on campus.

### **For students traveling from places on New York's travel restriction list, how will quarantine work?**

All students who have arrived on campus from outside of the continental United States or from one of New York's restricted states will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days before beginning classes or moving about campus. Details and step-by-step instructions are provided in the linked document and will be communicated to all community members before their arrival on campus.

All AMDA community members must follow the steps outlined in [AMDA COVID-19: What to Do If You Require Quarantine or Isolation](#) and notify AMDA's Emergency Response Team if they have tested positive for COVID-19, are awaiting test results or are experiencing any signs or symptoms related to COVID-19. Details and step-by-step instructions are provided in the linked document and will be communicated to all community members before their arrival on campus.

### **What changes are being made to spaces on campus?**

- All areas on campus have been updated for the health and safety of our community.
- When possible, AMDA has staggered student and faculty schedules to allow for social distancing.
- We've created entry and exit paths to help reduce crowding.
- Where possible, social distancing points will be displayed, showing six-foot distancing on campus gathering places.
- Room occupancy maximums have been decreased to allow for social distancing.
- Plexiglass or other partitions have been installed at points of service (reception areas, food service, security desks, etc.) to help block airborne particles.
- Lobbies and lounges have been rearranged to promote social distancing.
- In common areas where social distancing is not possible, barriers will be set up.

### **Do I have to wear a face covering?**

Students, faculty and staff will be required to wear masks inside all campus buildings, unless specifically instructed (for voice lessons, singing in a musical theatre class, etc.). When students, faculty and staff do take off masks, other protective actions will be taken. For example, AMDA will provide a plexiglass divider for use in classrooms when a student is required to remove their mask for performance purposes or a faculty member is required to remove their mask to provide instruction.

If a student has a disability or medical condition that prevents them from wearing a mask, the student will be asked to contact AMDA's Office of Accessibility Services. The Office of Accessibility Services will evaluate student documentation and work with the student to find a long-term solution. While this evaluation is in progress, the student must wear an alternate face covering, such as a clear face shield. Face shields will be available at all reception locations.

### **Will the community be notified if there are positive COVID-19 cases on campus?**

Yes, we will notify the AMDA community of a positive COVID-19 case through our contact tracing program.

### **What will happen if there is another widespread outbreak in the area?**

AMDA has defined plans for both internal and external closings.

## **External Closing Plan**

AMDA will follow state guidance regarding scaling back activities and, if necessary, closure. If the New York City seven-day rolling average of daily infections reaches 7 percent, AMDA will convene an internal task force to:

- Begin planning for possible shifts to more online learning.
- Work with all residential students to prepare plans for moving out, if necessary.
- Identify students who may not be able to vacate housing, for example, international students.
- Identify vulnerable populations and explore ways for them to work, teach or learn remotely.
- Communicate to AMDA's community as necessary.

If the New York City seven-day rolling average of daily infections reaches or exceeds 9 percent, AMDA will close all in-person classes, as required by the state.

- All staff will revert to remote working locations.
- All students will vacate residential housing unless unable to do so, for example, international students or students with other extraordinary considerations.
- We will communicate to AMDA's community as necessary.
- All classes will move online.

## **Internal Closing Plan**

If one cohort of 10 to 12 students moves to an online-only course of study due to a positive test of one of the cohort's members, AMDA will consider this an early warning sign and will convene an internal task force to:

- Begin planning for possible shifts to more online learning.
- Work with all residential students to prepare plans for moving out, if necessary.
- Identify students who may not be able to vacate housing, for example, international students.
- Identify vulnerable populations and explore ways for them to work, teach or learn remotely.

If two separate cohorts experience a positive COVID-19 test, AMDA will begin partial or full suspension or shutdown of in-person classes.

- All staff will revert to remote working locations.
- All students will vacate residential housing unless unable to do so, for example, international students or students with other extraordinary considerations.
- We will communicate to AMDA's community as necessary.
- All classes will move online.

## **What is the SAFER Self Screening Application?**

Students, faculty and staff will be required to conduct self-check temperature and general wellness screenings via the application SAFER before coming to campus each day. In addition, AMDA reserves the right to conduct temperature checks or health screenings in person before entering any building. It is our belief that the self-check system will be most effective in minimizing the risk to our community.

- SAFER is a secure, HIPAA-compliant, web-based COVID-19 assessment tool for the AMDA community to report the existence of any current COVID-19-related symptoms as well as record a daily temperature. SAFER runs in conjunction with the campus electronic medical record system to ensure continuity of care for all community members.
- SAFER is used to manage large groups and reduce the risk of further exposure to COVID-19. SAFER informs public health and university officials about emerging symptom hot spots before they spread. It also helps university health officials prioritize participants who might need COVID-19 testing. This required assessment tool will help us all return to campus safely and help our community slow the spread of COVID-19.

## **How does SAFER work?**

Before entering campus each day, you'll receive a text prompting you to complete a brief screen and temperature check. If your check shows no symptoms, you'll be sent a link indicating clearance, which you present to the security guard upon entry.

If fever or other high-risk symptoms are reported, you'll be directed to follow an action plan, including follow-up with an AMDA staff member and/or health care provider for possible testing or directions to self-quarantine.

## **Education**

### **What are hybrid classes?**

Hybrid classes are courses that combine face-to-face, in-person instruction with online learning. The purpose of a hybrid class is to take advantage of the best features of both online and more traditional forms of learning. AMDA's fall 2020 semester will be a hybrid model. Students should expect to engage both in person and online for most classwork.

### **How much of my course instruction should I expect to be online?**

As of now, the plan is to have at least 50 percent of your instruction delivered in person. Courses that may combine groups of students or student cohorts will be offered exclusively online. These courses include sight singing, studio electives and general education courses. Additionally, for the fall 2020 semester, individual voice lessons will be online.

### **What platforms will we be using?**

AMDA will be using a learning management system called Canvas. Canvas does integrate with Zoom and students should be prepared to attend group and individual sessions with faculty members and classmates.

### **When are our holiday breaks?**

To minimize risk to the community, we're asking students not to travel for Thanksgiving. AMDA will be hosting a Thanksgiving event on campus and classes will be in session starting on Friday, November 27.

AMDA will be observing a winter break from December 21, 2020, to January 1, 2021. Due to the class schedule, we recommend that students book travel beginning on Sunday, December 20. Students from states or countries that New York requires to quarantine must be back to campus on Saturday, December 26, 2020, to ensure enough time to quarantine before the start of in-person classes on Monday, January 11, 2021. Classes will be held online only the week of January 4.

### **When will I receive my schedule and how can I view it?**

While every attempt will be made to get your schedule to you as soon as possible, we can assure you that your class schedule will be available no later than the weekend before the semester begins. Your schedule will be viewable in your student portal. Instructions will be delivered to students when the schedule becomes available.

### **Will average class sizes be reduced for the fall 2020 semester?**

AMDA will be placing students into sections of no larger than 12 students per cohort. This will be reduced from our average cohort size of 16 to 18 students.

### **When can I move into the residence halls?**

Students will be invited to move in through a scheduled and phased process. Current students will have priority of moving in, followed by leave of absence students, term break students and incoming students. Students traveling from out of the country or a state on New York's restricted list will be required to quarantine upon arrival to the residence hall.

### **Can a family member help me move into the residence hall?**

For the safety of our students and entire community, family members will not be permitted in the residence halls. We encourage students to ship items to the Stratford Arms after October 1st and travel with minimum items. AMDA staff will be available to assist with carts in front of each residence hall.

### **Will there be events? And can clubs and organizations meet?**

AMDA will provide community engagement opportunities for our residential students. While they won't be in person, we are working toward creating engaging and fun virtual events.

### **Will students be allowed to socialize?**

AMDA will provide community engagement opportunities in a virtual capacity to keep the community safe and engaged. However, students may not visit other student rooms. When in common areas, students are required to always wear a mask and stand six feet apart. Students will only have access to their residential building and may use approved facilities only within their residential building.

### **For residential students moving in from an area on New York's restricted list, how will quarantine work?**

Students will receive information on their move-in date that includes details on the 14-day quarantine, such as purchasing the quarantine food plan through Cooking with Corey, garbage collection and more.

Please read [AMDA COVID-19: What to Do If You Require Quarantine or Isolation](#) for more information.

### **How long do I need to quarantine?**

Anyone who is required to quarantine will need to do so for 14 days.

### **Will there be extra cleaning services in the residence hall?**

The AMDA residence halls are cleaned multiple times a day. Cleaning of common spaces will be increased.

### **Are common spaces in the residence hall open?**

Common spaces will be available through a reservation system. The housing [one sheet](#) has details on maximum capacities for common spaces.

### **Where will I do my laundry?**

Students will be able to reserve a time to do their laundry. There is a maximum of two people in the laundry room at one time in both the Stratford Arms and the Amsterdam.

### **How often will the residence hall be cleaned?**

Residence halls are cleaned continually between the hours of 8 a.m. and midnight or on an as needed basis.

### **What cooking appliances am I allowed to have in my room?**

This semester we have extended our list of approved in-room appliances to:

- Slow cooker (no larger than 3 quart)
- Instant Pot (no larger than 3 quart)
- Air fryer (no larger than 3 quart)
- George Foreman Grill/panini press (no larger than two-serving basic plate grill)
- Waffle maker (classic round, single)
- Microwave

## Supplemental Meal Plan

### **Will the cooking kiosk be open on campus? If not, what are my food delivery options?**

The kiosks will not be open, but students will be able to order food through Cooking with Corey and their app (details below). Outside food delivery (FreshDirect, Amazon Fresh, etc.) will not be permitted into the building and only allowed if you can pick up outside the building.

### **How will contactless food delivery work?**

Students will be able to easily order on the Cooking with Corey app (coming soon). Orders can be submitted at any time. (Note: Orders must be placed 48 hours in advance of delivery, so it will be important to plan accordingly.)

Food delivery days will be Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Food delivery times will be 9:30–10:30 a.m. and 6–7 p.m.

### **What if I miss my food delivery?**

Cooking with Corey staff will hold the food and try again at the end of their shift. If the student misses the second delivery attempt, the Cooking with Corey staff will take the food. It's important that students are available to receive their food at the times they signed up for.

### **How many meals can I or should I order at once?**

Students should plan to order enough food to hold them until the next delivery date.

## International students

### **What are my options if I am not able to get a visa appointment on time?**

Your admissions advisor is available to help you select the best option for you. You have the choice of enrolling online for the fall 2020 semester and coming to campus for in-person instruction for spring 2021 or deferring your enrollment.

Please consider applying for an expedited visa appointment if no normal visa appointments are available. This option is limited only to students who are within 60 days of their start date. For more information, visit <https://www.ustraveldocs.com/fi/fi-niv-expeditedappointment.asp>.

### **Will my F1 status be affected if I remain in my home country and take classes online for the remainder of the semester?**

If you don't return to campus when the semester starts, you will be terminated in SEVIS. However, you don't need a valid F1 visa to study online in your home country. You will need to be in touch with the International Department for further instructions on reactivating your SEVIS account before returning to the US.

**Can I travel outside the US during my holiday break?**

Yes. Please be in touch with the International Department before you leave the US to have your I20 Form signed in order to return to the US.