

COVID-19 Code of Conduct

Purpose of the COVID-19 Code

South Texas College of Law Houston (“the law school”) strives to teach students the knowledge, skills, values, and respect for community needed to practice law and prepare them for their responsibilities as future members of the legal profession. This COVID-19 Code (“the Code”)ⁱ reflects the commitment students must make to assist the law school in maintaining a safe environment conducive to learning and critical to achieving high standards of education. This Code presupposes that the law school’s students aspire to join a profession distinguished by honor and integrity and responsibility to community and that their character and conduct should thus reflect these values. This Code is an addendum to the Student Conduct Code.

Definitions

“**Common areas**” shall mean all areas of the law school. Individual offices or library private study rooms are not common areas unless occupied by more than one person.

“**Facial Covering**” shall mean masks that completely cover an individual’s mouth and nose, except for bandanas and neck gaiters which have been demonstrated to be unsuccessful at stopping the spread of aerosols.

“**Potential Exposure**” shall mean either (1) having been in close proximity without a mask with someone with COVID-19 for fifteen minutes or more with the last 14 days, or (2) having been in a place or event where safe distancing practices and mask wearing was not maintained within the last 14 days, and/or (3) sharing a living space with a person under quarantine for coronavirus.

“**Quarantine**” shall mean an individual exposed to the coronavirus staying away from the law school campus for 14 days after exposure or until the individual is free of symptoms relating to COVID-19 for three days, whichever is longer.

“**Safe Distancing Practices**” shall mean maintaining at least six feet of distance between two individuals, not exceeding the number of individuals permitted in any space (for instance, an elevator, office, study room, conference room, or bathroom), sitting in authorized seats in classrooms, following directional signs in hallways and stairwells, not congregating in groups, and wearing facial coverings.

Every student entering the law school’s facilities for classes or other approved purposes during the COVID-19 crisis must:

1. Provide accurate responses to the health-certification questions on the ReturnSafe app (or during manual check-in) each time the student enters the law school.
2. Wear a facial covering in all common areas of the law school.
3. Engage in safe distancing practices in all common areas of the law school.
4. Adhere strictly to all law-school health and safety protocols posted at www.stcl.edu/health.
5. Follow all health and safety orders and instructions of the administrative authorities and full-time and part-time faculty, including orders to discontinue violations of this Code.
6. Report potential or actual exposure to the coronavirus on the ReturnSafe app and quarantine until satisfying the law school’s policies about safe return in the FAQs at www.stcl.edu/health.
7. Report all violations of this Code to either Associate Dean Mark Steiner or Assistant Dean Mandi Gibson.

Violations of the COVID-19 Code

Any student who violates this COVID-19 Code of Conduct violates the South Texas College of Law Houston Student Conduct Code. Each violator is thus subject to the Disciplinary Procedures (Section V) of the Student Conduct Code, including a report of the violation(s) to the Texas Board of Law Examiners.

ⁱ The basis for this Code is Section III of the law school's Student Conduct Code ("Non-Academic Misconduct"), which reads as follows:

Students shall comply with all requirements and instructions of the administrative authorities and full-time and part-time faculty for maintenance of order and decorum on the law school premises, including but not limited to in classrooms, courtrooms, clinics, the library, study rooms, hallways, and all other facilities and property of the law school. **Students shall not engage in behavior that jeopardizes the health or safety of the law school community or anyone in the law school community or community-at-large** or disrupts the educational activities and supporting services of the law school.

SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE OF LAW HOUSTON STUDENT HANDBOOK 2019-2020, at 28 (updated Feb. 14, 2020) (emphasis added), available at <http://stcl.edu/stanley/pdf/StudentHandbook.pdf>.