

Spring 2022 Policies and Procedures Related to COVID-19

Key policies for the beginning of the fall semester are highlighted below and also are posted to the school's website at www.stcl.edu/health.

FALL 2021 CAMPUS AND LIBRARY HOURS:

- Monday through Thursday — 6 a.m. to midnight
- Friday — 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Saturday — 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Sunday — 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- For Library service hours and reference hours, please visit www.stcl.edu/library/

1. Definitions:

See the [COVID-19 Code of Conduct](#) for definitions of

- “Mask”
- “Confined spaces”

2. Policy on Masks:

- Masks are required for all persons (vaccinated or not vaccinated)—
 - In the elevators and the restrooms at all times, and
 - In the hallways on floors 4, 4, and five between classes, and
 - When more than five people are present in a confined space for more than fifteen minutes, including the student lounge and the deli.
- **“Confined spaces” includes classrooms; students will be expected to wear a mask during class.** The atrium, hallways, the open study areas in the library, and transient spaces generally do not count as a “confined space” – unless they are used for an event such that a significant number of people are gathering together for a period of fifteen minutes or more. Individual offices also generally do not count as “confined spaces” (unless more than five people are present for more than fifteen minutes) – although individual office holders may ask that visitors wear a mask.
- This requirement applies to all on-campus activities. Beyond this requirement, masks are optional on campus, but encouraged (see below for more details). And members of our community should be prudent about in-person meetings.

3. Updated FAQs:

- Updated [COVID-19 FAQs for Students](#).
- [General Student FAQs](#) with information on registration, grades, externship programs, and more.

4. COVID-19 Codes of Conduct:

South Texas has adopted a specific [COVID-19 Code of Conduct](#), which applies to all students. This Code of Conduct will be enforced strictly.

5. Health and Safety Protocol Violations:

Any community member who violates the law school's health and safety protocols will be provided notice of such violation. The member must immediately correct his or her violation and strictly comply with all health and safety protocols thereafter. If the community member refuses to immediately correct his or her violation, security (ext. 1743) will be notified, and the member will be escorted from the building and subject to further sanctions.

6. Faculty Response to Students Refusing to Follow Safety Protocols During In-Person Class:

An in-person classroom is a confined space. As such, all persons in a classroom must wear masks, with the exception that the professor teaching the class is not required to wear a mask while behind the classroom's plexiglass barrier. The faculty member should bring a safety violation to the student's attention and require immediate compliance. If the student refuses to comply, or habitually fails to comply, the faculty member may cancel the class, instruct the student to leave the classroom, and/or notify security at ext. 1743 (to remove the student). The faculty member may also consider marking the noncompliant student as absent for the class. Once the situation is resolved and the faculty member is able to do so, he or she should notify Associate Dean Ted Field and/or Assistant Dean Gena Singleton of the incident.

7. Mandatory Process for Reporting COVID-19 / Quarantining Away from Campus:

- Those with two or more symptoms of COVID-19, or with a positive COVID-19 test result, must email health@stcl.edu and comply with CDC recommendations for quarantining and isolation (which generally are for 10 to 14 days). See the [CDC website](#) for specifics. (Coronavirus symptoms currently include a fever, sore throat, cough, significant headache, loss of smell or taste, or body aches, among others. Please visit the [CDC website](#) for a complete list of symptoms.)
- For additional policies relating to COVID-19 scenarios, please visit the Frequently Asked Questions on <https://www.stcl.edu/heath>.

8. Attendance Policy:

- Classes will be in person and will not be simultaneously broadcast via Zoom.
- The usual attendance and absence policy of the law school will be used.
- Students who cannot attend all or most classes this semester in-person due to COVID-19-related reasons may be considered for reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”). [Click here](#) for our ADA policy, the application for accommodations, and our guidelines for documenting disabilities. If you have questions, please reach out to the Office of Student Affairs at studentacademicaffairs@stcl.edu.
- Students who cannot attend a particular class in-person because they are quarantining or isolating (see #7 above) will be permitted to make up the missed class session (and not be considered absent) by watching a video recording of the missed class session. In addition to emailing health@stcl.edu as described above, students who fall into this category should contact their professors via email within a reasonable amount of time after the student’s quarantine or isolation period begins. The professor may require students to verify that they have viewed class recordings by any reasonable method, including the use of “Easter eggs” (i.e., a word, message, or image embedded in the class recording that students viewing the recording can report), short quizzes over the class sessions, brief student summaries of the covered material, or affirmative indications on the students’ honor.

9. Policy for School-Sanctioned Travel:

There are currently no restrictions for school-sanctioned travel.

10. Policy for Personal Travel Reporting:

Currently, individuals are not required to register personal travel with the law school.

11. Events Policy and Visitors Policy:

All events are subject to all COVID-19 protocols, and all visitors must comply with all COVID-19 protocols.

As these policies change, updates will be provided at www.stcl.edu/health. If you have questions about these policies or procedures, please email health@stcl.edu.