

The Friday Five



Take Five Minutes for College Updates

We're continuing to bring you College news and opportunities to interact with other staff members and teams. Previous communications can be found on the [staff resources page](#).

Update about Columbia College's Administrative Operations

What do we know now?

June 22 marked the beginning of Phase 2 reopening for NYC and the ramping up of research activities on Columbia's campus. Low density on campus remains an operating principle so until further notice, Columbia College will continue to operate remotely.

For other Columbia staff returning to campus for approved activities, there are three new requirements: COVID-19 testing, return to work [training](#) and a daily [symptoms check-in](#). The latter two apply to all faculty, staff and students who come to campus for any purpose, even just to pick up necessary supplies for remote work.

Based on direction from the University, the College is considering several scenarios under which we would welcome students back for the new academic year. These scenarios incorporate planning from the Education and Campus Life working groups that President Bollinger created. Above all, the plans are guided by safety concerns and public health requirements.

When will we know more?

The University will announce the plans for 2020-21 in early July, and the College will have more information for students and staff shortly thereafter. Any plans for further campus activities will depend on NYC receiving clearance to enter Phase 4 reopening, which permits Columbia to resume educational activities. Each phase of the NY Forward plan includes new and evolving guidance provided at the state and local levels. The University must implement all requirements at each phase prior to starting any new activities on campus. Therefore, the University's reopening schedule may not align exactly with NYS or NYC but rather, must take into account how quickly it can meet all the necessary requirements. We will continue to update you as we move through the phases and know more about the University schedule.

The process for how to safely resume the University's research and education activities on campus is a difficult and nuanced one. For example, the research ramp-up is scheduled over several months; learning from each step will inform how the remainder of the ramp-up occurs. Continue to check the University's [COVID-19 website](#) as it will be frequently updated with reopening news, as well as a weekly newsletter from the University on this topic.

What can we expect the return to campus to be like?

Protocols are still in development for a broader return to campus. However, the new requirements for the research ramp-up period provide a glimpse of the future work practices for staff. There will be expectations that staff will self-monitor their health, wear face coverings, maintain physical distance, wash hands frequently, and clean and disinfect personal spaces. Given the physical distance requirements, it is likely that virtual/phone meetings will remain the norm.

How is the College preparing for its next phase of administrative operations?

The College's administrative operations shift to campus will be gradual, with as much advance notice as possible about changes. At this time, it is unlikely any

administrative staff will return to campus before August. We will move cautiously from remote operations, anticipating that not all College staff will be able to return to work on campus at the same time. Therefore, we can expect hybrid model staffing scenarios, with some staff working on campus and others working remotely, with the level and configuration of staffing evolving over time. An important component of planning in the upcoming weeks will be an assessment of each of the College's physical spaces to identify appropriate occupancy levels, consider any necessary space reconfigurations, and determine what cleaning and PPE supplies will be necessary to secure a safe return. The College will commit to careful planning that balances the well-being and concerns of our staff and the needs of our students and faculty.

Throughout the summer and into the fall we will look to establish new rhythms of engagement and continue communications about the College's reopening.

Stay Connected

*Join one of the upcoming **Zoom@Noon** sessions*

**Talk with Rev. Dr. Ian Rottenberg, Dean of Religious Life,
Director of Earl Hall, and Associate Chaplain**

July 8 at noon

Ian will provide an overview of the work of [Religious Life](#), including Columbia's many religious groups, multi-faith programming and the role of Religious Life Advisors. He will discuss how their work connects to our diverse undergraduate community and will share information about resources available to all of us during the pandemic and in response to calls for reckoning over social justice. Register [here](#).

Multicultural Affairs Identity & Inclusion Series

Two Columbia College Staff-Only Sessions

July 16 from noon-2: Anti-Racism

July 22 from noon-2: Unconscious Bias

Register at cc-seas.columbia.edu/InclusionSeries.

Registration for each session will be capped to maintain a communal environment for discussion, so please only register for workshops that you will commit to attending.

Talk with Holder Jr. Initiative Artist-in-Resident [Christopher P. Wolfe \(SOA '18\)](#)

July 28 at noon

Join Chris on a journey of written reflection, exploring the question "What does justice mean to you?" Chris teaches in the Undergraduate Creative Writing Program on campus and at Rikers Island as part of Columbia University's [Justice-In-Education Initiative](#). Register [here](#).

**Talk with Dr. Richard Eichler, Executive Director of Columbia Health's
Counseling & Psychological Services**

July 30 at noon

Richard (CC'75, GSAS'87, TC'87) will update on the team's transition to telemedicine and how students now engage with CPS. Insight into these themes and trends would be helpful for student-facing staff, in order to better support their wellbeing. Register [here](#).

Friday Fun



Many of us have spent time cooking and baking during the past few months. If you have a favorite recipe to share, please [email us](#) by Monday, July 6th. We'll compile the submissions in a Columbia College Cookbook to share with all. To get started, here is a [summer salad](#) for your Fourth of July celebration!

The Friday Five takes a break next week. See you again July 10!

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