

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

What do we know now?

This week [President Bollinger](#) shared how Columbia plans to move forward in the 2020-21 academic year. [Dean Valentini](#) also provided College-specific updates to our students.

Current projections and assessments based on NYC and NY State guidelines

indicate it might be possible to bring up to 60% of our Columbia College and Columbia Engineering undergraduate residential population back to campus. This number may change, but it represents our current aspiration. As outlined in President Bollinger's message, we plan to bring back first- and second-year students to campus this Fall, in addition to accommodating a small population of students with special circumstances. We then plan to invite third- and fourth-year students to return to campus in the Spring term. While this is all contingent on evolving health guidelines, we hope that all students will have the opportunity to be back on campus for at least one semester during this upcoming academic year.

Columbia College students have been asked to complete a questionnaire and a housing form to inform us of their plans for this year. A [student resources site](#) and [FAQs](#) have been developed to answer questions and provide more details about the year ahead. These resources will be updated as more information becomes available. We invite all College staff to review them, especially staff in student-facing roles to whom students will reach out to discuss their individual plans.

What does this mean for the College Staff?

The announcements this week provide us with concrete details that inform the College's operations this fall. We recognize that the reality of reopening the campus is stressful and that staff are understandably concerned about what will be required of them and how they will balance their personal and professional responsibilities. At the same time, we recognize that having students and faculty on campus this fall will require some staff presence in order to fulfill the College's core mission.

First and foremost, please know that we will prioritize your well-being as we continue to develop our staffing plans. Senior leadership is committed to doing what is best for our staff. These principles will guide our planning:

- Health, safety and well-being for every staff member
- Commitment to excellence in our programs and services
- Innovation in how we deliver our work
- Connection with each other in new ways
- Recognition of individual and unique circumstances
- Timely information-sharing as plans evolve

When will we know more?

President Bollinger's message mentioned additional guidance for staff will be forthcoming. We know that the College's path forward will include determining a phased, limited return of staff that aligns with safe space occupancy protocols and functional necessity. We are working with campus partners in Facilities and Human Resources to determine our next steps and will share more details in the next two weeks. For now, our current remote work practices will continue through at least August 14. Be assured that advance notice will be provided to any staff member

whose responsibilities require their return to campus.

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

All staff, faculty and students will be asked to agree to the [Columbia Community Health Compact](#) before returning to campus. This will require each of us to comply with established health and safety protocols. In doing so, we commit to a shared responsibility to limit the spread of the virus and to protect one another's well-being, in order to safely restore the Columbia community experience we all value.

As a reminder, if you return to campus even for a brief trip to pick up necessary supplies for remote work, you must take the University's (one-time) [COVID-19 training](#), complete daily symptoms [check-in](#) and follow the [enhanced health and safety policy](#). The University is required to file reports of daily compliance with these measures to NYS. Given the College's remote operations status and the need to maintain low density on campus, the number of College staff on campus is very minimal. Any need for you to come to campus should be approved in advance by your manager.

What's Happening

*Get program updates from teams and departments
and news about on-campus developments*

The New Student Orientation Program ([NSOP](#)) will be conducted virtually this year. Leading up to NSOP, incoming students will participate in seven weeks of newly-designed virtual programming, organized around four themes that will help students make the most of their Columbia experience: 1) Academics at Columbia; 2) Life as a Columbia Student; 3) The Columbia Community; and 4) Life Beyond the Gates. Each of the four themes will start with an online kick-off session that we strongly encourage new students to attend. That will be followed by a series of elective sessions to provide a deeper dive into each theme. You can find information on the new [Countdown to Columbia](#) website.

Stay Connected

Learn new skills and exchange creative ideas

Participate in the [Global Columbia Collaboratory](#): Join the upcoming seminar featuring some of the world's leading thinkers to hear their insights into the emotional impact and societal changes brought about by the pandemic. [Global Collaboratory Seminar: The Pandemic — Self, Other, and the World Beyond](#)

[Us](#)

Wednesday, July 15, 10-11:30am

Identity & Inclusion Series: The Columbia College staff-only sessions led by Multicultural Affairs are now filled to capacity. We encourage you to check their [webpage](#) in mid-August for new workshop dates for the Columbia community.

Reading a book that you can't put down this summer? [Email](#) us about the books you can't stop talking about; we'll share the list of suggestions in a future Friday Five!

Friday Trivia



Where did the term “trivia” come from, and how was Columbia College involved?

You can find the answer on the [staff resources site](#).

Email sent by **Columbia College**
1130 Amsterdam Avenue, Hamilton Hall New
York, NY, 10027, USA

This weekly email was sent to
ah2733@columbia.edu because you are on staff
at Columbia College. [Update Profile](#)

Columbia College 2020 © All rights reserved.