

Rush University

COVID-19 Update

Rush University FAQs

How to prepare and self-monitor for coronavirus

What should I do as a student?

Everyone should monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 – fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath – which are similar to other illnesses, including the flu. Further, practice social-distancing. Avoid gathering in large groups or visiting crowded venues.

What should I do if I develop symptoms?

If you are experiencing any flu-like symptoms such as a fever, it is important that you do not come to campus or go out in public to prevent further infection.

Students, faculty and staff can take advantage of free virtual screenings for coronavirus using the [MyRush app](#).

1. Log in to the MyRush app.
2. Select **Virtual Care**.
3. Select **On-Demand Video Visits** and confirm your location.
4. When asked, **“What brings you here today?”** scroll to the bottom of the list of options to choose **Concern for Novel Coronavirus** as the reason for your visit.

How can I avoid getting sick?

The best defense against this coronavirus is HANDWASHING. Wash your hands with soap and water or using hand sanitizer when soap is not available. Additionally:

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or face.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with the inside of your elbow when coughing or sneezing.
- Clean and disinfect household surfaces frequently.
- Frequently clean your cell phone and other devices you use with your hands or that touches your face.

Do I need to wear a facemask?

While wearing a facemask is effective in preventing the spread of infection after you are sick, it will not reduce your risk of getting sick. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) does not recommend that people who are well wear facemasks.

What type of cleaning supplies should I use at home?

Most regular household cleaning products can kill the virus. Bleach is known to be effective. It is very important that you are regularly wiping down surfaces in your home that are touched frequently.

What should I buy to prepare for an outbreak of the coronavirus?

Products you should look to stock up on include medications, food, water and toiletries. If you take certain medications, you should make sure you have a supply that lasts for a couple weeks. Buying fever reducers such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen ahead of time could also come in handy for the future.

When buying food, you should purchase nonperishable items, dry goods, or frozen foods that can last for a while. You may also want to consider stocking your home with foods you or your family members might need when sick including: chicken or vegetable broth, crackers and drinks such as Gatorade or Pedialyte.

Event and Travel Restrictions

Can I still attend my local conference or program-related event?

Out of an abundance of caution for the health and safety of our community, Rush has suspended all University participation in business travel, conferences or gatherings. In accordance with the CDC guidelines, Rush is also suspending gatherings of 50 or more people.

I was planning to attend a conference where there is no CDC travel advisory, so why I should cancel my plans?

In Chicago and elsewhere, the first or only cases of COVID have been linked to returning travelers. Everyone at Rush is being asked to avoid both domestic and international travel if at all possible. That's why business and university travel is suspended and other travel is discouraged.

What about personal travel?

Rush students, faculty and staff are encouraged to evaluate their travel plans to determine if they are essential and take precautions to remain safe and healthy. In advance of planned travel, regularly refer to the CDC for travel advisories and frequently asked questions about the spread of coronavirus. At this point, the CDC is not restricting domestic travel, but that could change.

What should I do if I recently traveled out of state or out of the country?

Take [this travel survey](#) before returning to campus if you travel outside of Illinois. This survey is giving us insight we need to keep our community members safe.

Employee health will contact you if a health screening is required.

Why does Rush need to know if I've traveled out of state?

The questionnaire was adopted so Rush's Employee Health Services (EHS) is aware of any out-of-state travel and any symptoms that may indicate COVID-19.

I traveled to an area not affected by the Coronavirus at this time and have one of the symptoms.

What should I do?

If you have a fever (a temperature of 100 or above) you should not come to school or work and should complete a free coronavirus screening via On-Demand Video Visits on the MyRush app.

How to stay informed

Can I still do my clinical rotations and volunteer work?

Clinical rotations will continue as scheduled as they are considered essential.

Volunteer work is generally considered nonessential. Consult your program director to decide the best plan for you.

Stay tuned to University_News@rush.edu for updates on classes.

How can I keep up with what's going on?

Read emails from University News and Rush News for the latest updates. Key information also will be posted to the Rush [University portal](#), [Rush website](#), and Twitter [@RushUniversity](#).

A comprehensive source of information about COVID-19 can be found on [Inside Rush](#).

Contact your course director for specific questions about your academic program, classes, clinical rotations or labs.

Where can I find answers related to clinical work and patient care?

- **Questions?** Submit a question [here](#). This link can also be found on the Inside Rush homepage under "COVID-19 Info."
- **7-SAFE:** Contact the Hospital Incident Command Center at 7-SAFE with questions about patient care and issues specifically related to COVID-19.
- **Infection Control pager (7424):** Page Infection Control if you have a patient under investigation (PUI) or have a specific case you suspect is high risk for COVID-19.
- **Rush Call Center (2-5555):** Please direct patients and visitors with general questions about Rush's plans, prevention and more, to the Rush Call Center at ext. 2-5555 or (888) 352-7874. The call center is available 24-hours a day, seven-days a week.

How are decisions being made?

University leaders formed a University Command Center (UCC) to respond quickly and specifically to the needs and concerns of students, faculty and staff. The goals of UCC include prioritizing your safety and well-being and providing you with frequent, factual communication about COVID-19.

Similarly, Rush University Medical Center formed a Hospital Incident Command Center held daily. Together, the two command centers address the breadth of issues, share ideas and formulate decisions as they relate to all aspects of the system.

As policies and procedures develop, Rush University leaders are ensuring the needs of our students, faculty and staff are considered and addressed.

We remain committed to giving our students the best experience while keeping them safe.