

SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL

L O S A N G E L E S

Revised COVID-19 FAQs for Spring Semester 2023 (including corresponding SCALE Periods, and January Intersession)

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These FAQs will be posted on Southwestern's [Institutional Policies page](#)

Notice of revisions will be emailed to Southwestern email addresses.

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2022–2023 Instruction and Modality of Attendance

Will instruction during Spring 2023 continue to be in person and on campus?

Yes. Except for a limited number of fully remote courses that are announced in advance, and designated courses in the evening hybrid program, instruction for the entire 2022–2023 academic year is in person and on-campus.

We may pivot to online instruction in the following circumstances:

- If the L.A. County Department of Public Health strongly suggests that institutions of higher education shift online.
- If we experience an on-campus surge (in which case we could move certain courses or sections online while continuing in-person instruction for other courses and sections).
- If a large number of Southwestern faculty or staff contract COVID-19 and we are unable for some period to offer in-person instruction.
- Another circumstance impacts our ability to offer in-person instruction (e.g., natural disaster impacting the physical campus).

Is a COVID-19-related temporary remote option available?

No. If you miss class, please watch the class recording, seek notes from classmates, and visit your professor's remote office hours.

If I miss class due to COVID-19, will the absence be excused?

No. Southwestern does not have "excused" absences. It is critical, though, that members of the community who are COVID-19 positive or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or any other contagious disease not access campus. If you are absent due to COVID-19 or another contagious disease, email deanofstudents@swlaw.edu about your situation and also keep records about your COVID-19 or contagious disease-related absences in case you exceed the 14% absence limit and are subject to Southwestern's Administrative Withdrawal Policy, which has an appeal provision.

Will classes be recorded? If so, where will the recordings be posted?

Except for a small number of classes (or portions of a class) where recording is not feasible due to confidentiality or other compelling reasons (e.g., the nature of exercises in an experiential course), we have requested faculty to audio-record class sessions and post recordings on the Canvas course page. A student is not deemed to have attended a class simply by reviewing the recording. Southwestern's plan to record classes is not a guarantee of a successful or an entirely audible recording. Recordings may be limited by available technology, equipment or technology failure, or human error. Students who miss a class are encouraged to seek notes from classmates and visit the professor during office hours if they have questions about concepts they missed.

Students who attend class in real time may later access the recording; accessing the recording in this situation will not impact your attendance for the class.

Examinations and Assessments

How will midterm and final exams be administered?

All midterm and final examinations will be in person and on-campus, even if the course is being taught remotely. We will be prepared to pivot to remote administration of exams in case of a surge or other circumstance that renders on-campus exam administration unsafe or unfeasible. We will also work with students approved for remote attendance to provide appropriate testing space.

Will exams be open-book or closed-book?

With a small number of exceptions that professors will note in the course syllabus, midterm and final exams will be closed book.

COVID-19 Campus Health and Safety Protocols

VACCINATION POLICY

What is Southwestern's COVID-19 vaccination policy?

As of March 13, 2023, Southwestern has sunset its vaccination and booster policy.

TESTING

Does Southwestern have a COVID-19 testing requirement?

As of January 1, 2023, Southwestern will not require COVID-19 surveillance testing and will not be offering testing on campus. Southwestern will retain a relationship with [Nobility Health, Inc.](#), which will allow students and employees to continue testing on a voluntary basis at [Nobility's locations](#), at no charge to the individual or school. Nobility offers PCR and rapid testing.

INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19, ARE CLOSE CONTACTS, OR HAVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

What protocols should I follow if I test positive for COVID-19?

If you test positive for COVID-19 or your doctor thinks that you have COVID-19, do not come to campus. Immediately email Covidmanager@swlaw.edu and follow the protocols described in these FAQs and the Health & Safety Manager's instructions. If you believe instructions provided by the Health & Safety Manager are contrary to the instructions in these FAQs, follow the Health & Safety Manager's instructions, as L.A. County and Southwestern regularly review and update

their COVID-19 protocols, and the Health & Safety Manager will have information about your particular circumstances.

Generally, you must remain off campus and in isolation through at least Day 5 after testing positive, and you may be required to remain off campus through Day 10. Under [L.A. County rules](#), the day an individual tests positive is considered Day 0. If you test negative on Day 5, you may return to campus on Day 6 if you also have been fever-free for 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medicines and have no symptoms of COVID-19 or existing symptoms are improving. If you test positive on Day 5, you must remain in isolation through Day 10 or until the day after you test negative, whichever comes sooner—if you also have been fever-free for 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medicines and have no symptoms or existing symptoms are improving. For example, a person who tests negative on Day 7 may return to campus on Day 8 (assuming the other conditions are met).

Testing can be via a self-administered rapid test or via Nobility Health.

If you return to campus before Day 11, you must wear an N95, KN95, or KF94 mask indoors while with others through Day 10.

You should alert the Health & Safety Manager the day before you intend to return to campus.

Do I need to report to Southwestern if I have been exposed to COVID-19, suspect exposure, or start experiencing symptoms of COVID-19?

Yes, if you have been on campus within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms or a positive test result, email Covidmanager@swlaw.edu. Also, please do not come to campus if you have tested positive or have COVID-19 symptoms (see the answer immediately above). In addition, if you have symptoms of COVID-19, we highly recommend that you talk to a healthcare provider and get a test for COVID-19.

If someone tests positive, will the campus community be notified?

If we learn that someone has visited campus during the period when they likely were contagious, the Health & Safety Manager will post a notice on the Southwestern portal. As of March 10, 2023, we will no longer send campus-wide emails.

If someone in my section or in my courses tests positive, will I be alerted?

If Southwestern is informed of a positive test result and the person accessed campus within 48 hours of the positive test or experiencing symptoms, we will begin a contact-tracing process. If you were reported to be in close contact with that person, you will be contacted through that process. During that process, you may learn the name of the individual who tested positive.

Someone in the Southwestern community just told me they tested positive for COVID-19, or I have interacted with someone on campus who is exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19. What should I do?

It is primarily their responsibility to inform Southwestern, so encourage the individual to do so. You should also feel free to assist someone in making such reports. You can also report concerns to Southwestern Security at 213.738.5793, Covidmanager@swlaw.edu, or the Dean of Students Office at deanofstudents@swlaw.edu.

What qualifies as close contact with a COVID-19-positive individual?

Per the [L.A. County Public Health Department](#), you are a “close contact” if you shared the same indoor airspace with someone with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period while they were infectious.

What protocols should I follow if I suspect or have been notified by Southwestern that I have been in close contact with someone suffering from COVID-19?

When asymptomatic:

- You are not required to quarantine if you are not experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19.
- You must test with Nobility or another provider, or by using a self-administered rapid test, between Days 3 and 5 after the date of last exposure. Day 0 is the day of the last contact or exposure with the infected person, and Day 1 is the first full day after the last exposure. However, if you have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, you do not need to test unless you develop symptoms.
- From Day 1 through Day 10, you must wear an N95, KN95, or KF94 mask while indoors on campus in common areas or when around others indoors.
- If you test positive for COVID-19, you must follow the protocols in the above section pertaining to COVID-19-positive individuals.

When symptomatic: If you develop symptoms, you must quarantine and not access campus. You must also contact the Health & Safety Manager (Covidmanager@swlaw.edu) as soon as possible to discuss your situation and follow the Health & Safety Manager’s instructions. If you return to campus before Day 11, you must wear an N95, KN95, or KF94 mask while indoors on campus in common areas or when around others indoors.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Does Southwestern have a masking policy?

Yes. Southwestern has adopted a phase-based system to determine when and where individuals will be required to wear masks indoors on the Southwestern campus. Please see the Indoor Masking Policy on the institutional policies page.

How is the air quality in the classrooms maintained?

Classrooms (as well as the Fitness Center) have air filters, air scrubbers, and air monitoring.

If I have been approved for remote attendance, may I come to campus for other reasons?

Individuals who have been approved for remote attendance have indicated that they must be remote to protect their own health and/or the health of a vulnerable individual for whom they are the primary caregiver; they have completed an extensive questionnaire and engaged in an interactive process with Southwestern administrators. While we want remote students to feel like they are part of the Southwestern community, they rarely should be on campus and should participate in activities remotely. And if on campus, they generally should wear a highly protective mask, per Southwestern's current mask phase. If a student approved for remote attendance has a question about whether they may come to campus for a reason not listed below, they should contact Covidmanager@swlaw.edu before coming to campus. Coming to campus for reasons not approved or listed below may result in revocation of the student's ability to attend classes remotely.

- Library: Yes, with a mask; may reserve and use a study room alone; may not be in a study room with other individuals.
- Outdoor school events on or off campus: Must contact the Health & Safety Manager in advance
- Class sessions on campus: No
- Professor office hours: Attend remote hours
- Student services (e.g., Financial Aid, CSO): Remote
- Bookstore: Use online shipping or curbside pickup
- Print shop: Use online shipping or curbside pickup
- Writing Center: Participate remotely
- Dean's Fellows appointments: Participate remotely
- TA sessions: Participate remotely
- Student organization meetings (indoor): Participate remotely
- Indoor campus events: Participate remotely or watch recording
- Indoor off-campus events: Do not attend
- Fitness Center: May not use

- School travel (e.g., Honors Programs): No

Events and Travel

May student organizations hold on-campus events?

Yes. Please coordinate all events with the Student Affairs Office.

May student organizations serve food indoors during on-campus events?

Generally, yes. Please coordinate in advance with the Student Affairs Office.

May student organizations hold off-campus events in indoor spaces?

Generally, yes. Please coordinate in advance with the Student Affairs Office.

Are visitors allowed on campus?

Yes, without any restrictions related to COVID-19.

Does Southwestern have any current COVID-19-related travel restrictions or policies?

Not at this time. Prior policies and restrictions have been lifted.

Additional Questions

If I have additional questions, to whom should I direct those questions?

- **Vice Deans Anahid Gharakhanian and Julie Waterstone**—general policies; academics. Email: agharakhanian@swlaw.edu; jwaterstone@swlaw.edu
- **Nydia Duenez, Dean of Students and Diversity Affairs**—ADA accommodations and class absences due to COVID-19. Email: nduenez@swlaw.edu
- **Health & Safety Manager**—positive cases, testing, contact-tracing, and masking. Email: Covidmanager@swlaw.edu