

# SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL

L O S      A N G E L E S

## COVID-19 FAQs for Fall Semester 2022 (and corresponding SCALE Periods)

*Prepared and originally posted August 2, 2022*

These FAQs will be posted on Southwestern's [COVID Information and Updates page](#) and [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 2022–2023 academic year 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 will be 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 fully remote attendance option available?***

Yes, but only under very limited circumstances, as explained in Southwestern’s [COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster Policy](#) Section B. As noted in that section, not all Southwestern courses will be open to students approved for remote attendance (e.g., some experiential courses). Also, students who are approved for remote attendance may be required to take a specific section of a course (whether required or elective) or be required to defer a course.

### ***If I am approved for fully remote attendance, how will I participate in classes?***

Remote attendance may be approved on a very limited basis, following an individualized, interactive process. This interactive process will include case-by-case determination of the most appropriate course enrollment and class participation modality. However, most remote attendance will be via Zoom.

### ***Will a COVID-19-related temporary remote option be available?***

No. The only exception is for traditional first-year students during Week One (August 10–16, 2022) for the LAWS I and research classes, due to the unique nature of Week One. See the LAWS I syllabi and the Entering Students Canvas page for details.

### ***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](mailto: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—starting with SCALE Period 2 and the Fall 2022 semester—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 on-campus 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?***

Southwestern requires proof of full and up-to-date vaccination against COVID-19 (including the first booster). Please see Southwestern's [COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster Policy](#) Section C.

***Will Southwestern accept the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine?***

Yes, as of July 2022, Southwestern will accept the Novavax vaccine.

***I have not previously sought an exemption from the vaccination requirement but wish to do so now. May I still request an exemption?***

Southwestern may allow vaccine and booster exemptions when an individual has a documented medical condition that contraindicates a COVID-19 vaccination or booster or when an individual holds a sincere religious belief, practice, or observance that is contrary to receiving a COVID-19 vaccination. Southwestern may also allow a deferral if an individual is pregnant. Please see Southwestern's [COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster Policy](#) Section F. The deadlines for requesting the exemptions for the 2022–2023 academic year have passed; however, if your circumstances have changed (e.g., newly pregnant), please see the [COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster Policy](#).

## **TESTING**

***Has Southwestern imposed a COVID-19 testing requirement for the Orientation program scheduled for August 8–9, 2022?***

Unvaccinated individuals and individuals who have not yet submitted proof of having received a COVID-19 booster must test with [Nobility Health](#) on August 5 **and** 9. Others are not required to test.

For questions related to testing and COVID-19 compliance, **including how to proceed if you cannot test on August 5 or have tested positive for COVID-19 in the previous 90 days**, immediately contact COVID-19 Compliance Manager, at [Covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:Covidmanager@swlaw.edu).

***Does Southwestern have a COVID-19 testing requirement?***

Yes. Those who are not fully vaccinated, including the first booster, will be required to test twice per week through Nobility Health. These are individuals who have an approval from the COVID-19 Compliance Manager to test while completing their vaccinations or have a Southwestern-approved exemption or deferral.

***What is Southwestern's relationship with Nobility?***

Southwestern has contracted with Nobility to provide testing to the Southwestern community that's free-of-charge to Southwestern and anyone in the Southwestern community who tests with Nobility. Southwestern does not receive any payment or remuneration from Nobility, nor does it pay Nobility. Instead, Nobility bills insurance or the federal government for the tests. By working with Nobility, Southwestern is able to provide regular testing and timely test results to our community at no direct charge to the school, students, or employees.

***How will Southwestern monitor whether individuals who are required to test are complying with the testing requirement?***

Nobility Health provides a real-time, continuously updated data dashboard to Southwestern. An assigned employee monitors the testing frequency and test results of every individual who tests through Nobility.

***What are the consequences of failing to test when required to do so?***

After a first missed test, the COVID-19 Compliance Manager will notify you about the missed test, alerting you that missing a second test during the semester could result in you being withdrawn for the semester (or Period) absent extraordinary circumstances.

***Will I be charged for testing through Nobility?***

No. You will not be charged for COVID-19 testing through Nobility. Nobility will charge your health insurance company for this test. After receiving a test, you may receive an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) from your health insurance company. Please note that this EOB is simply an explanation of your benefits and is **not** a bill.

***How will I receive my test results?***

Nobility Health will send a secure link of your test results to you via text and email.

***Who receives the results of my test?***

Southwestern's COVID-19 Compliance Manager will receive the results. They will share individual results with the appropriate county health officials, if needed. They may also share individual results with a small group of senior campus administrators (e.g., Dean, Vice Deans, and Dean of Students) on a need-to-know basis. If a student who is required to test fails to test and does not immediately contact the COVID-19 Compliance Manager, the COVID-19 Compliance Manager will share that information with campus administrators who have a need to know (e.g., Dean, Vice Deans, Dean of Students, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, and the head of campus security).

***I am required to test, but I've recently had COVID-19. Do I need to continue to test after I've tested positive for COVID-19?***

If you have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 90 days and are not in a current isolation period, you have developed antibodies to the virus and your next PCR test results could continue to appear as positive, even though you are no longer symptomatic or contagious.

If you:

- have received a positive test result **from Nobility Health** within the last 90 days, **and**
- are not in a current isolation or quarantine period, **and**

- are asymptomatic,

you do not need to participate in required testing within this 90-day time period. Any testing requirement will resume on the 91<sup>st</sup> day after your positive test from Nobility Health. Although you are responsible for determining when your testing requirement resumes, Southwestern will make every effort to alert you about one week before your testing requirement resumes.

If you received a positive result from Nobility Health, your result is on record with Southwestern and you do not need to supply it. You do not need to provide us with further notification that you will not be testing for the next 90 days. If your positive test was not through Nobility, please write [Covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:Covidmanager@swlaw.edu).

Positive test results from any source other than Nobility Health typically will **not** be accepted as proof that you can discontinue testing during the 90-day period.

Please contact the COVID-19 Compliance Manager if you have additional questions on this topic.

***Does Southwestern have a COVID-19 testing requirement for fully vaccinated individuals?***

If you are fully vaccinated (see Section C of the [COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster Policy](#)), you do not need to test.

However, Southwestern reserves the right to implement a general testing requirement in the future if deemed necessary to keep the community safe.

***Does Southwestern offer on-campus COVID-19 testing?***

Yes. [Nobility Health](#) provides on-campus COVID-19 testing for Southwestern employees, students, contractors, coaches, and volunteers. All COVID-19 surveillance testing must be administered by Nobility Health. In addition to providing surveillance testing for unvaccinated individuals, Nobility also provides testing for vaccinated members of our community who request testing. Nobility administers PCR and rapid tests.

***When is on-campus testing offered?***

Starting on August 9, testing is offered Tuesdays and Fridays from 12:30 to 7:00 p.m. When a school holiday falls on a Tuesday or Friday, the COVID-19 Compliance Manager will announce how those who are required to test should proceed on those days.

***Where on campus will testing take place?***

Nobility Health conducts testing on the lower level of the Bullocks Wilshire parking lot.

***Are appointments required for on-campus testing?***

Appointments are not needed (and will not be taken).

***Are there any steps I need to complete before I test?***

Yes. It is strongly recommended that you register and complete the onboarding process before arriving for your first testing. The testing instructions and consent forms are located on Southwestern's [Institutional Policies](#) page.

***Is off-campus testing available through Nobility Health?***

Yes. In addition to on-campus Tuesday/Friday testing at the Southwestern campus, Nobility provides testing at its locations in [Glendale, South Los Angeles, Commerce, and Panorama City](#). If unvaccinated individuals from Southwestern participate in surveillance testing at one of Nobility's locations, the surveillance testing must occur on Tuesdays and Fridays (to follow the same testing schedule as on-campus testing). When testing at a Nobility location, during check in, note that you are with Southwestern.

The addresses and hours of Nobility's locations are (but we recommend you check the website for hours before you travel to one of the locations):

**Nobility Health Glendale**

435 Arden Ave (P3 parking level)  
Glendale, CA 91203

Hours: Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Nobility Health Los Angeles**

1709 W Manchester Ave  
Los Angeles CA 90047

Hours: Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Nobility Health East Los Angeles**

1517 Garfield Ave  
Commerce, CA 90022

Hours: Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Nobility Health Panorama City**

8223 Woodman Ave  
Panorama City, CA 91402

Hours: Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

***I am subject to a testing requirement. What if I forget to test on campus one day and cannot get to a Nobility's offsite location that day?***

Immediately email [Covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:Covidmanager@swlaw.edu), describe the situation, and await an answer. You likely will need to stay off campus until the next testing day. Do not return to campus until you have heard from the COVID-19 Compliance Manager or a dean, or until you receive another negative test result from Nobility Health.

***Must I wait until the next on-campus testing day to retake the test if I suspect a false positive?***

If you suspect a false positive, contact the COVID-19 Compliance Manager ([Covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:Covidmanager@swlaw.edu)) and discuss the situation. It may be possible for you to re-test at one of [Nobility's off-site locations](#). But, you may have to wait for the next on-campus testing day.

***To satisfy Southwestern's COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols, may I test off campus at a pharmacy, hospital, or testing service other than Nobility Health?***

Generally, no. To satisfy Southwestern's testing requirement, you must test through Nobility, either on the Southwestern campus or at one of Nobility's four offsite locations. However, if you believe you have a special circumstance (e.g., you will be traveling on a testing day or you already test at your work site), contact [Covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:Covidmanager@swlaw.edu) to discuss your situation.

***If I have been approved for remote attendance and would like to come to campus to pick up items from the Bookstore or Print shop, must I test before coming to campus?***

No. If you are coming to campus only for curbside pick-up, you need not test. However, you should remain in your car and wear a mask before rolling down a window or opening a vehicle door.

***I am concerned about people seeing me test on campus and then making assumptions about my vaccine or medical status. How can I proceed?***

Because vaccinated individuals may choose to test, no one should make assumptions about the vaccination status of an individual who is testing on campus. However, you do have the option to test at [Nobility's off-site locations](#).

***I have additional questions about Southwestern's COVID-19 surveillance testing policy or program. To whom should I direct such questions?***

Please direct such questions to Southwestern's COVID-19 Compliance Manager, at [Covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:Covidmanager@swlaw.edu).

**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](mailto:Covidmanager@swlaw.edu) and follow the protocols described in these FAQs and the COVID-19 Compliance Manager's instructions. If you believe instructions provided by the COVID-19 Compliance Manager are contrary to the instructions in these FAQs, following the COVID-19 Compliance Manager's instructions, as L.A. County and Southwestern regularly review and update their COVID-19 protocols, and the COVID-19 Compliance 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).

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 COVID-19 Compliance 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](mailto: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.

***I have COVID-19 symptoms or have been exposed to COVID-19 and wish to test on campus. May I do that?***

Yes, but please wear a mask when entering the testing area, stay in your car (if driving), and leave campus immediately after the test. We also highly encourage you to communicate with your medical provider.

***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 COVID-19 Compliance Manager will notify the campus notified via Southwestern email. Southwestern will not identify the person who tested positive in that email.

***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](mailto:Covidmanager@swlaw.edu), or the Dean of Students Office at [deanofstudents@swlaw.edu](mailto: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 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 COVID-19 Compliance Manager ([Covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:Covidmanager@swlaw.edu)) as soon as possible to discuss your situation and follow the COVID-19 Compliance 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.

***Will individuals accessing campus be required to undergo temperature screening or other health checks?***

Southwestern has adopted a self-screening protocol. Under this protocol, members of the Southwestern community are required to screen themselves for COVID-19 symptoms and must not access the Southwestern campus if they have such symptoms. By coming to campus, you are representing that you are not COVID-19 positive and do not have any COVID-19 symptoms.

***Can I check my temperature while I'm on campus?***

Yes. Campus Security has a touchless thermometer at the Bullocks Wilshire desk that you may use to take your own temperature.

**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 [Southwestern's Indoor Masking Policy](#).

***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](mailto: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 COVID-19 Compliance 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

***Will the Tea Room (café) be open?***

Yes. The Tea Room will be open and individuals may unmask while actively eating or drinking. Outside covered eating areas are set up on the upper deck of the parking garage (Bullocks Wilshire). Outside eating areas are also available in the Student Commons and the Promenade (Westmoreland).

***Will the Fitness Center be open?***

Yes. The Fitness Center will be open to those who are fully vaccinated, sign a waiver, and register for ID access. We will limit the number of individuals in the area at any given time via a reservation system.

## 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. For details, see the General Visitor Access Policy During COVID policy and the Alumni, Trustee, and Board Member COVID-Related Campus Access Policy; both policies are posted on the [Institutional Policies](#) page.

### ***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](mailto:agharakhanian@swlaw.edu); [jwaterstone@swlaw.edu](mailto:jwaterstone@swlaw.edu)
- **Nydia Duenez, Dean of Students and Diversity Affairs**—ADA accommodations and class absences due to COVID-19. Email: [nduenez@swlaw.edu](mailto:nduenez@swlaw.edu)
- **COVID-19 Compliance Manager**—questions related to vaccination policy, exemptions, pregnancy deferrals, testing, and remote attendance requests based on caregiver categories described in Southwestern's [COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster Policy](#). Email: [Covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:Covidmanager@swlaw.edu)