

Iona School for Ministry

**COVID Protocols**

**Fall 2023**

**Overview**

There has been an increase in the number of reported covid cases and hospitalizations. To keep you and your classmates safe and healthy, we are recommending (not requiring) that you take a covid self-test at least one day before arriving at Camp Allen. Anyone who has knowingly been exposed to covid within 5 days of attending and Iona weekend should at a minimum take a self-test and wear a mask during the weekend.

If you have covid symptoms and test positive, before arriving, notify one of the Deans and stay home.

**Here is a recent update from the CDC.**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tf-vG\_eTN1k**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tf-vG_eTN1k)

In the event of another large scale outbreak, every attempt will be made to determine whether programs will be offered in-person or solely in remote fashion one week prior to the first day of the weekend.

The normative instructional model of the Iona School for Ministry is in-person; but circumstances may require us to shift to online instruction (via Zoom). We will typically not adopt a hybrid model; students who are positive for COVID will miss classes and make other arrangements to make up the material (in consultation with the deans).

Any “Stay-at-home” orders issued by the State of Texas and/or the Federal Government will be deemed cause to suspend in-person gatherings;

If warranted, in the judgment of the Deans and the Executive for Ministry, single room accommodations *may* be provided at Camp Allen for every student at Diocesan expense.

All masking and physical distancing policies issued by Camp Allen will be followed. *Individual masking is always an option, even when not required.*

When gathering in-person cannot be done outdoors, attention will be paid to increasing ventilation, limiting the length of gatherings indoors, and increasing physical distancing to 6-foot, the wearing of masks or more, in accordance with CDC guidelines;

At this point self-testing prior to an Iona weekend is highly recommended at least one day prior to the weekend and is expected for those with symptoms associated with covid.

**Self-screening questions and symptoms include:**

Do you currently have a temperature at or above 100.0 F. or any of the following symptoms that are not normal for you?

* Loss of taste or smell
* Sore throat
* Fatigue
* Chills or shaking with chills
* Congestion or runny nose (please note, it is entirely possible to have seasonal allergies arise while staying at Camp Allen. If you are prone to seasonal allergies, consider taking preventative allergy medication prior to or during the weekend to help assess self-screening);
* Significant muscle pain or body aches
* Have a new uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing or for individuals with a chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in your cough from baseline.
* Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
* New onset of severe headache
* Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19 in the previous 10 days\*

Participants and instructors are expected to disclose immediately any positive or suspected case of COVID infection that occurs within 10 days of their in-person participation in a diocesan program, informing the Dean(s) of Iona School. All who have been in close proximity with a confirmed or suspected case during the weekend will be notified upon our receipt of such news. The notification will not include identifying the information unless released in writing by the person making the disclosure.

**Instructors**

Though all instructors who are able are expected to come to Camp Allen for in-person sessions, provisions will be made for instructors who need to remain remote to participate safely.

* Zoom access will be provided for instructors who need to teach remotely due to a positive COVID result.
* Administrative support regarding handouts, Zoom practice sessions, and scheduling questions will be provided to instructors and staff when requested in a timely manner (generally, requests must be received 72 hours prior to gathering);

**Students/Participants**

The normative instructional model of the Iona School for Ministry is in-person; but circumstances may require us to shift to online instruction (via Zoom). We will typically not adopt a hybrid model; students who are positive for COVID will miss classes and make other arrangements to make up the material (in consultation with the deans).

If an entire Iona session has been made virtual, due to high COVID risk:

* The student Officiant of a worship service will lead the service remotely; the worship service will be held entirely virtual on Zoom;
* Administrative support regarding logistics, class details and available handouts will be provided to students when requested in a timely manner (where possible, requests must be received 72 hours prior to the weekend.);
* Iona students without access to a computer with a camera, a laptop with audio and video capacity, or a tablet with audio and video capacity are asked to contact the Iona Administrator, Laura McAlister. All students are asked to bring their own devices along with a headset or earbuds with them to Camp Allen, if able.

**Worship**

Worship will follow guidelines laid out by the Bishops of the Diocese of Texas. A set of Camp Allen/Iona/PSF guidelines will be provide, as needed. *The Deans of Iona are responsible for the onsite attention to safe worship practices.*

\*Per CDC guidelines: Watch for symptoms until **10 days** after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19. It is best to avoid travel until a full 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19. Isolate immediately and get tested. Continue to stay home until you know the results. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html#:~:text=Watch%20for%20symptoms%20until%2010,with%20someone%20with%20COVID%2D19.&text=It%20is%20best%20to%20avoid,with%20someone%20with%20COVID%2D19.&text=Isolate%20immediately%20and%20get%20tested,until%20you%20know%20the%20results>.