



## PANDEMIC SAFETY INITIATIVE

Carnegie Mellon University's Pandemic Safety Initiative comprises two distinct roles, the Pandemic Safety Officer (PSO) and the Community Pandemic Safety Ambassador (CPSA). Both roles serve as resources to the CMU community, assisting in the COVID-19 risk mitigation strategy and Return-to-Campus efforts.

As the university implemented a piloted and phased return to campus with the return of on-site research activities in June, the Pandemic Safety Officer role was developed to ensure that community members were aware of the Minimum Requirements to Return to Campus, and that they received the training, information and supplies needed (e.g., facial coverings, cleaning supplies, etc.). With the start of the fall semester, a new and expanded role has been created - Community Pandemic Safety Ambassador.

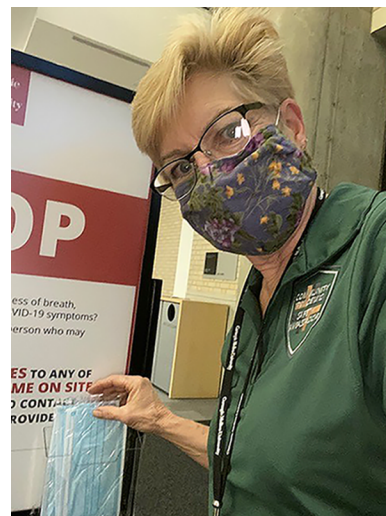
The role of the Community Pandemic Safety Ambassador is to support the campus community in common areas and classrooms by performing health and cleaning spot checks, assisting with physical distancing and reporting instances that do not follow the guidelines of the university's COVID-19 risk mitigation strategy. A Community Pandemic Safety Ambassador can be any faculty or staff member who has been approved to be on campus as part of their job activities.

Community Pandemic Safety Ambassadors are provided with a shirt and a lanyard or a clip to display the Community Pandemic Safety Ambassador logo, which will help community members recognize them. Community Pandemic Safety Ambassadors will also receive a package of individually wrapped disposable facial coverings and hand sanitizers to provide to community members in need.

Check out the Pandemic Safety Initiative webpage, which contains lists of the Community Safety Ambassadors and Pandemic Safety Officers in your work area in addition to other helpful pandemic safety resources: <https://www.cmu.edu/ehs/Workplace-Construction/pandemic-safety-initiative.html>. ◆



J. Andrew Gamble - CPSA  
Roberts Hall displaying  
the CPSA logo, facial  
coverings and hand  
sanitizer



Patty Stragar- CPSA  
in action refilling a facial  
covering station in the  
Cohon University Center

## RETURN TO CAMPUS MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS (AS OF 8/27/2020\*)

With the fall semester in full swing, it is important to reinforce the Return to Campus Minimum Requirements, which are posted on the university's COVID-19 Updates website:

<https://www.cmu.edu/coronavirus/return/min-requirements.html>.

- **Facial coverings:** Everyone must wear a [facial covering](#) (sufficient to cover the nose and mouth) at all times — both inside and outside of buildings.

**Exceptions include:**

- While eating or drinking, If working outdoors during hot and humid conditions, or
- When alone in a private space, such as an office, assigned residence hall room or enclosed vehicle.
- When outdoors, facial coverings are expected to be worn whenever physical distancing of 6 feet or more cannot be maintained, such as on sidewalks and in other similarly crowded or rapidly changing circumstances.

If you cannot wear a facial covering due to a medical condition, please contact either the [Office of Disability Resources](#) (students) or [HR Disability Services](#) (employees) to request an exemption as an accommodation. Individuals who are granted a medical exemption from wearing facial coverings are expected to access university programs, activities and courses remotely or through other contactless methods (e.g. pick-up/delivery) whenever reasonably possible.

If you are in need of a facial covering, contact [fixit@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:fixit@andrew.cmu.edu) for assistance.

- **Daily Symptom Self-Assessment:** All faculty, staff and visitors must participate in the applicable CMU daily symptom self-assessment survey, which includes temperature monitoring, for any day they are planning to be on campus or at any CMU facility. It is strongly recommended to participate even if not planning to be on campus. Students must complete the applicable symptom self-assessment survey daily if they are in Southwestern Pennsylvania.
- **Anyone who is sick must stay home:** All employees, students, contractors and anyone else planning to be on campus who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms must stay home.

Employees and students who have received a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, or have had close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual within the last 14 days, must inform Community Health and Well-Being at [CHWB@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:CHWB@andrew.cmu.edu). They must stay home and not return to campus until they are cleared by a health care practitioner. Students residing in on-campus housing must stay in their residence hall room and cannot return to class or other campus activities until cleared by a health care practitioner at University Health Services. Employees should provide documentation of their clearance to the Office of Human Resources.

Visitors, contractors and other persons who are planning to be on campus and received a positive diagnosis or close contact exposure in the last 14 days must inform their local supervisor or CMU host. They must stay home and not return to campus unless cleared by a health care practitioner. The supervisor or CMU host will inform Community Health and Well-Being at [CHWB@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:CHWB@andrew.cmu.edu) to initiate communication protocols.

## RETURN TO CAMPUS MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS (CONT.)

- **Physical Distancing:** All employees, students, contractors and anyone else on campus must maintain 6 feet (2 meters) distance between themselves and others and minimize any close contact to no more than 15 minutes.
- **Hand-washing:** Personnel will wash their hands after coming into contact with high touch surfaces. For anyone who performs in-person customer service or retail operations, hand-washing breaks must be taken at least every hour. Personnel are required to use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- **In-person Meetings:** In-person gatherings or meetings are strongly discouraged. All meetings should be held virtually via Zoom or other conferencing technologies whenever possible. However, in-person gatherings or meetings of up to 25 persons are permitted in spaces that will allow proper social distancing.
- **Enhanced Sanitation and Disinfection:** Every 24 hours Facilities Management and Campus Services (FMCS) will conduct enhanced sanitation and disinfection in high-traffic and common areas that are in use. FMCS is following [CDC Guidelines](#) for cleaning and is available for consultation regarding additional or enhanced cleaning of offices, laboratories and other spaces needed for unit operational plans. Email [FMCS](#) to arrange a discussion about specific spaces.

**\*Note:** The Minimum Requirements listed here are effective as of the date shown and are subject to change in the future. ♦



## A TARTAN'S RESPONSIBILITY

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This is also a good time to reiterate *A Tartan's Responsibility*. It outlines the expectations for all CMU students living, learning, working and interacting within our campus community, whether living on or off campus. By coming to Pittsburgh for in-person instruction, research and campus engagement, you have agreed to adhere to the following rules both on and off campus, for as long as they are in effect.

- **Minimize the introduction of COVID-19** into and around our community by self-quarantining in your residence hall or in the Pittsburgh area for at least 14 days prior to coming on campus (if you are arriving from outside Southwestern Pennsylvania), monitoring your health for COVID-19 symptoms throughout that period and completing pre-arrival safety and prevention training.
- **Prevent the spread of COVID-19** in and around our community, including when off campus, by maintaining required physical distance, wearing facial coverings, limiting the size of gatherings, practicing good hygiene, limiting non-essential travel and following the university's directions regarding travel outside the region, and adhering to other governmental and university requirements. These requirements are subject to change as conditions of the virus evolve.
- **Contribute to the identification of COVID-19** in and around our community by complying with required testing protocols, completing the daily self-assessment survey, responding to contact tracing and other related requests as necessary, and receiving a seasonal flu vaccine.
- **Support the containment of COVID-19** in and around our community by timely reporting to University Health Services and following their guidance when experiencing symptoms or when you believe that you may have been exposed to the virus.

CMU is a community of faculty, staff and students who care about the well-being of one another and share in the responsibility of contributing to a safe and healthy campus environment for all. The community has a shared responsibility as we navigate this changing situation, and it is important for each person to use caution while on campus to protect oneself and others as we all play a part in slowing the spread of COVID-19. For more information, refer to the coronavirus website:

<https://www.cmu.edu/coronavirus/students/index.html>. ♦





## DAILY SELF-ASSESSMENT

One of the key tools in mitigating the risk of COVID-19 spread on campus and to help support the health and well-being of the CMU community and its surrounding neighborhoods is the CMU Daily Self-Assessment.

All students living in the Pittsburgh area **must** complete the Daily Self-Assessment every day before beginning their daily schedule, including participating in classes or engaging in any on-campus activity.

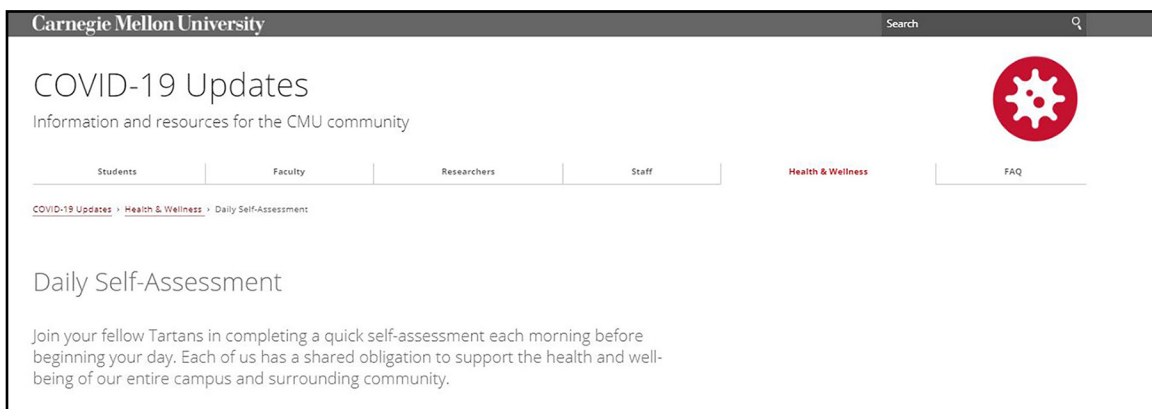
Faculty and staff **must** complete the Daily Self-Assessment before coming to campus. Faculty and staff working remotely are strongly encouraged to do so, as well.

The Daily Self-Assessment is designed to identify COVID-19-related health risks by asking a few yes/no questions addressing COVID-19 exposure and symptoms. The process of completing the assessment is quick, easy and takes less than a minute. Immediately after submitting responses, participants will receive a message that will either confirm permission to come to campus, or provide additional guidance.

The university tracks log-ins to the Daily Self-Assessment for the purpose of determining if individuals have completed the assessment on a daily basis. The university does not link individual responses with personally identifiable information.

Anyone who answers “yes” to any of the symptom questions, **MUST STAY HOME**. All community members who are feeling ill, whether related to coronavirus or not, should stay home for their well-being and the well-being of the CMU community. It is better to err on the side of caution given the status of the global pandemic. Students who answer “yes” to any of the questions are responsible for contacting University Health Services to seek medical guidance.

Submitting a daily self-assessment is a new process for everyone. Working together, we can keep our community healthier and stronger. Each morning, please use the Daily Self-Assessment to ensure you are permitted to come to campus. The more diligent and careful we all are now, the sooner we’ll be able to resume more in-person activities and welcome back more of our campus community.



For more information regarding the Daily Self-Assessment, refer to the COVID-19 website:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/coronavirus/health-and-wellness/assessment.html>. ◆

## NEW EMERGENCY “BLUE LIGHT” DEVICES

Over the next two years, Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) will be strategically upgrading and replacing the university’s emergency “blue light” devices across campus. This effort is the result of a year-long project in which ERM convened a cross-functional project team of campus stakeholders to conduct an assessment and RFP for a new service provider. The new provider, Code Blue, was selected due to its resiliency, ease of use and future potential long-term integration capabilities with other technology services. The Code Blue devices are being installed on blue poles with blue lights, attached to exterior walls and in interior spaces across campus.

The primary functionality of the Code Blue devices is to provide a safe, quick and convenient way to contact University Police with one touch of a button. The devices can also broadcast audio messages out to the community as a part of CMU’s emergency communications capabilities. While the replacement project is underway, the legacy devices will continue to function and be maintained until they are replaced.

The first phase of the replacement project began with the installation of 31 devices at the following locations:

Doherty Hall by Clock	Tepper - Neville	Purnell Center - Quad
Doherty Hall - Loading Dock	5031 Forbes Avenue	Purnell Center - Loading Dock
Baker-Porter Hall	Dithridge Street Garage	Purnell Center Walkway
Children’sSchool (MMCH) Entrance	4802 Fifth Avenue - WQED	College of Fine Arts
Children’sSchool (MMCH) - by	Devonshire St/Playground	East Campus Garage - Walkway
Tennis Court	Upper Quad	West
Hamburg Hall - Rear	Forbes at Crosswalk to GHC	East Campus Garage - Walkway
Hamburg Hall - Forbes	Newell-Simon Hall, 1st Floor	East
Tepper Garage - Forbes	Newell-Simon, 3rd Floor	East Campus Garage - Roof West
Tepper Garage - Elevator	Hunt Library	East Campus Garage - Roof East
Tepper Garage - Stairwell		Margret Morrison Apartments
Tepper Garage - Rear		4700 Fifth Avenue Alley

The locations of these and all the emergency communication devices on campus can be found here: <https://map.concept3d.com/?id=1122#!ct/0,31501,26124>. The new devices look like this:



## LABORATORY INSPECTIONS



The office of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) – Laboratory & Research Safety has conducted 168 Return to Research Consultations, as well as Return to Instructional Laboratory Consultations. As part of this review, laboratories, shops, studios and maker spaces have implemented new Pandemic Safety Protocols. This includes:

- Scheduled work hours;
- Check-in and check-out procedures for tracking entry and use;
- Routine disinfecting practices;
- Physical distancing of 6 feet (and close contact limited to less than 15 minutes); and
- Personnel are expected to have at least 2 facial coverings (primary and backup).

To reinforce the new Pandemic Safety Guidelines, EHS is conducting inspections for all laboratories returning to campus work. All inspection points remain the same, such as training compliance, inventory and waste management, housekeeping, safety equipment, etc. However, a few new questions have been added to the inspection process. These new Administrative Compliance questions focus specifically on Pandemic Safety and include:

- Is signage posted promoting social distancing, direction of travel, facial coverings, disinfecting & hand-washing practices (signage is available through the [COVID-19 Awareness Signage Catalog](#));
- Are personnel aware of Pandemic Safety Practices, which also includes their shift/work schedule, disinfecting requirements, daily self-assessment, responsibility for reporting signs & symptoms and knowing their Pandemic Safety Officer.

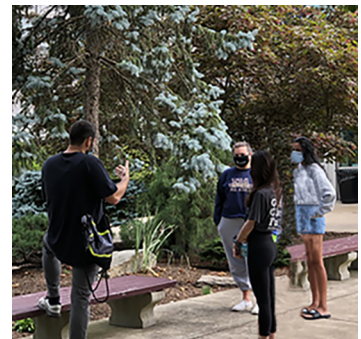
Researchers are encouraged to come “Lab Ready,” whereby they must pre-plan the activities, schedule equipment use and not bring personal items, or items not applicable to lab, into the laboratory. Write-ups, data review and abstract work is now to be done remotely. This is a definite change in how to conduct laboratory work, but is necessary to uphold Pandemic Safety Protocols while continuing our research mission. ♦

## RESIDENCE HALL FIRE DRILLS

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In an effort to demonstrate fire safety awareness and preparedness in compliance with the fire code, EHS held Fall Semester Housing fire evacuation drills on Saturday, September 12. Led by EHS Fire Safety, 650 students in 24 housing facilities participated in these scheduled fire drills. During the fire drills, the students were provided with the following essential fire safety tips:

- **Understand all evacuation routes.** Evacuating quickly is key to survival. Review and become familiar with evacuation routes so if one of the routes is blocked during an actual emergency you will know another way out.
- **Be aware of the closest fire alarm pull station.** Knowing the locations of fire alarm pull stations ensures they will be pulled quickly in the event of a fire.
- **Get out when you hear the fire alarm.** Get out and stay out. Evacuate immediately when an alarm sounds. Alert emergency responders if you know someone has not yet made it out of the building.
- **Do not tamper with smoke detectors.** Working smoke detectors save lives. Never obstruct or tamper with them making them inoperable.
- **Do not block fire exit doors.** In many of the residence halls space is limited. Students should never block entrances/exits with bikes, boxes or furniture. In an emergency, such items can make it difficult to evacuate quickly.
- **Take it easy on power strips and surge protectors.** Never connect multiple power strips together to increase the number of outlets available. In addition, never use power strips or surge protectors for high-power capacity items. Plug these items directly into a wall outlet.
- **Do not overload outlets.** Consider how to power electronic devices because overloading electrical outlets can be a fire hazard. Only plug in one heat-producing appliance into a wall outlet at a time and unplug small appliances after use,
- **Be alert when cooking.** Only cook where it is permitted. Keep the cooking area clean and free of anything that can burn. Keep an eye on what you are cooking, especially if you are cooking at high temperatures. If a fire starts in a microwave, keep the door closed and unplug the unit. ♦





## STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Jason Heider is the latest addition to the EHS group. He joined the Fire Safety Team as a Fire Safety Specialist in June. Jason came to us from Peoples Natural Gas Company where he worked as a Senior Operations Specialist in the Emergency Operations Department. Jason's background has focused on public safety and risk mitigation having previously worked as a Firefighter for the Borough of Wilkinsburg and the City of Pittsburgh and as a Community Risk Reduction Coordinator for the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments. Jason has obtained certifications as a Building and Accessibility Inspector & Plans Examiner in addition to certifications as a Fire Inspector, Fire Investigator and Fire Instructor. Please join us in welcoming Jason to the Carnegie Mellon University community. ◆

## EHS WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We encourage all members of the Carnegie Mellon University community to submit safety improvement ideas that enhance your personal safety on campus or the safety of the greater community. Your participation will help raise safety awareness in our community! Please submit your safety concerns and ideas to: [safety@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:safety@andrew.cmu.edu).

In addition, if you have any suggestions for the next newsletter, please submit your ideas to Mary Sickles at: [msickles@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:msickles@andrew.cmu.edu). ◆



## SEE SOMETHING? SAY SOMETHING!

Help ensure the safety and well-being of the CMU community by calling:

University Police: 412-268-2323

Ethics Hotline: 1-877-700-7050 ◆

