



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR LAW STUDENTS

Winter 2022

*( Last Updated: December 29, 2021)*

This document endeavors to answer questions we believe students are likely to have about the Law School's plans for Winter 2022. We understand that students will make plans based on the guidance and expectations the University communicates [here](#) and that we communicate in this FAQ document. Still, it is important to emphasize that the information we provide here is subject to change as the circumstances we confront change as well. We will update this document regularly as new guidance is put in place. Please consult the University's Campus Maize and Blueprint website for the most up to date information from the University:

<https://campusblueprint.umich.edu/>.

## Returning to Campus

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### **Q: Will Law School classes be in person? Remote? Hybrid?**

A: As University President Mark Schlissel announced on December 28, 2021, the University is planning to resume in-person instruction as scheduled for the winter semester beginning in January 2022. Law School classes will be in-person (except in limited cases of necessity where remote delivery is the only option for offering the course; a very limited number of classes are partly or entirely remote.) unless and until public health circumstances require remote learning.

## Building Information

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### **Q: Are there protocols for entering and navigating Law School buildings?**

A: Entering the Buildings

- All members of our campus community who enter campus buildings and facilities are required to use [ResponsiBLUE](#) daily to check themselves for COVID-19 symptoms by answering a brief set of questions. The tool offers advice on where to seek care if you are not well and provides visibility and insights into the state of public health at U-M. Students must complete the University's [ResponsiBLUE](#) health screening before entering our buildings each day. University officials may verify the vaccination status of students for purposes of enforcing or ensuring compliance with the U-M Face Covering Policy, including by asking students to display the COVID-19 vaccine section on the [ResponsiBLUE](#) app.

- **Study Spaces**
  - Student study spaces are available throughout the Law School for student use.
  - Reading Room study spaces will be set aside for students who need a private space for virtual meetings/interviews. These spaces will be available 8am-5pm for an hour at a time and must be reserved through LibCal. After 5pm study spaces may be reserved for longer periods of time. Note that masking policies must be adhered to when using these spaces.
- **Eating/Food**
  - Masks must be worn at all times indoors except while eating, drinking, or taking oral medications for brief periods. Prolonged periods of mask removal are not permitted.
  - Kirkland & Ellis Café is open Monday-Thursday, from 8am-4pm. The Café is closed on Fridays.
  - Eating and drinking is prohibited in classrooms. Eating is also prohibited in the Reading Room and underground Library. Students may eat in other locations within the Law School's buildings, adhering to distancing requirements according to their vaccination status.
  - The student kitchen space in the Lower Commons is available.

## Health and Safety

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### **Q: Where can I find University and Law School COVID-19 information?**

A: The University maintains and regularly updates the 2020-21 Campus Maize & Blueprint website <https://campusblueprint.umich.edu>. The Law School maintains and regularly updates information relating to COVID-19 at: <https://www.law.umich.edu/continuity/Pages/default.aspx>.

### **Q: What should I do if I think I've been exposed to or have contracted COVID-19?**

A: If you are sick with COVID-19 or suspect you are infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, contact University Health Services. The University Health Services website is: <https://www.uhs.umich.edu>. Alert the [U-M Dean of Students Office](#) and the Law School's COVID response team ([lawcovid19@umich.edu](mailto:lawcovid19@umich.edu)) for support.

### **Q: Are there arrival and departure protocols for students?**

A: The University has developed arrival and departure guidelines for all students and specific protocols for students living in University Housing. Up-to-date information can be found on the Campus Maize and Blue website: <https://campusblueprint.umich.edu>.

**Q: Are students required to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms?**

A: Students, as well as faculty and staff, are expected to check themselves for COVID-19 symptoms each day by answering a small set of questions using the University's daily symptom checker, [ResponsiBLUE](#), which offers advice on where to seek care if you are not well.

**Q: I've been vaccinated; do I still need to quarantine after a COVID-19 exposure?**

U-M has adopted the guidance released by the Washtenaw County Health Department in accordance with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding quarantine post COVID-19 vaccination. The University provides its most up-to-date information about COVID-19 exposure, quarantine, and isolation on the Campus Maize & Blueprint website in the [Prevention, Testing, and Care](#) section.

**Q: When should students, faculty, and staff wear a mask or face covering? *(U-M policy updated as of 8/11/21)***

A: All students, staff, faculty, and visitors are required to wear a face covering that covers the mouth and nose when indoors on U-M property (including the Ann Arbor, Dearborn and Flint campuses as well as U-M controlled properties off campus) and when on U-M buses. Certain units, such as University of Michigan – Health, may issue local level policies that supersede this policy followed as applicable. As exceptions to the above, instances where an individual is not required to wear a face covering indoors are when that individual is:

1. alone in a single enclosed private office with the door closed;
2. a student in their assigned residence hall or apartment including common areas; unvaccinated students should continue to mask in common areas;
3. actively eating or drinking;
4. under the age of 2 years old;
5. someone who is unable to remove a face covering without assistance;
6. required to wear assigned respiratory protection for the job tasks they are performing;
7. granted a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA);
8. swimming;
9. involved in an activity, including certain types of instruction, where wearing a face covering may be infeasible or present a safety hazard provided that a risk assessment is performed and reviewed by U-M EHS;
10. communicating with someone who is hearing impaired or otherwise disabled and where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication (in such circumstances, alternatives such as clear face coverings and other accommodations must also be explored);
11. receiving a service for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service; or
12. asked to temporarily remove a face covering for identification purposes.

Please see [U-M Face Covering Policy for COVID-19](#) for more details.

**Q: Is there a physical distancing expectation for classes?**

A: The University has designed classes at pre-pandemic capacities. We recognize classes may have a mixed population of vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. U-M policy requires face coverings in classes given students' requirement to be physically present and to reduce potential spread of COVID-19 between unvaccinated individuals. This may change based on community spread and reported vaccination rates. All Law School classes have been assigned to classrooms such that they are at no more than 80 percent capacity.

**Q: Is hand sanitizer available in the Law School for student use?**

A: Hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes are available throughout the Law School's buildings. We encourage students, faculty, and staff to clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces, including desks and chairs. We also encourage you to follow the CDC's guidance about hand washing: [Wash your hands](#) often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if your hands are visibly dirty.

**Q: Is testing available on campus?**

A: The University is using a multi-tiered testing strategy to help protect the campus community and slow the spread of the virus on campus. For more information about testing, visit: <https://campusblueprint.umich.edu/prevention-testing-care/testing>.

**Q: What if I forgot my mask? What kinds of PPE are available for students?**

A: Disposable masks are available throughout the Law School for students who need one, including at the library entrance station on sub 1, in the Office of Student Life (Hutchins Hall 316), the Center for International and Comparative Law (Hutchins Hall 212), Office of Career Planning (Jeffries Hall 1100), Administrative Assistant Suites (Hutchins Hall 308, Jeffries Hall 3178), and the Admissions Office (Jeffries Hall 2200). Sanitizer and sanitizing wipes are available throughout Law School buildings.

**Q: How is the face covering policy being enforced in the classroom?**

A: The use of face coverings is required indoors on U-M property. University officials may verify the vaccination status of students for purposes of enforcing or ensuring compliance with the U-M Face Covering Policy, including by asking students to display the COVID-19 vaccine section on the ResponsiBlue app. Additional information about COVID-19 in classes is available on the Campus Maize and Blueprint website: <https://campusblueprint.umich.edu/faqs/#graphic-an-instructor-guide-for-covid-19-in-the-classes-header>

## Academic Resources

**Q: Is there an option to take classes remotely?**

A: No. Law School classes will be in-person (except in limited cases of necessity where remote delivery is the only option for offering the course) unless and until public health circumstances require remote learning.

**Q: What if I am an international student who can't travel to Ann Arbor in time for the start of classes?**

A: Students who must miss class will have access to audio recordings pursuant to the class recording policy.

**Q: What is the class recording policy?**

A: Classes will be recorded (audio only) and recordings will be available via Canvas. Note that clinic seminars will not be recorded when all students enrolled in the clinic are present in class.

**Q: Will there be changes to the academic calendar**

A: There are no anticipated changes to the academic calendar. The calendar is available at: <https://michigan.law.umich.edu/academic-calendar>.

**Q: Under what circumstances will the Law School move from in-person learning to another form of instruction?**

A: The University will continue to carefully monitor a number of data points as it moves forward with campus plans. There is no one number that would prompt a change. Among these factors are:

- Spread of COVID-19 locally and regionally.
- Capacity of area hospitals.
- Campus isolation capacity.
- Capacity for case investigation and contact tracing.

More details on campus response metrics and mitigation is available at:

<https://campusblueprint.umich.edu/news/campus-response-metrics-and-mitigation-strategies/>.

**Q: Will faculty hold regular office hours?**

A: Yes. Faculty office hours will be posted at the following link at the beginning of the semester: <https://www.law.umich.edu/facultybio/officehours/Pages/default.aspx>.

**Q: What is the attendance policy for Winter 2022?**

A: Bar admission rules, as well as good education standards, require regular attendance in classes. Regular class attendance at designated class meeting times is expected of all students, but audio recordings of all classes will be captured for use by students who are unable to attend. If you do not feel well, please stay home. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, contact

a healthcare provider to see if you should get tested and then email your professors and the Law school's COVID response team ([lawcovid19@umich.edu](mailto:lawcovid19@umich.edu)).

**Q: Will final exams be administered in person?**

A: We are planning for scheduled in-person exams, though public health circumstances could necessitate changes to that approach.

**Q: COVID-19 in Classes**

A: The Campus Maize and Blueprint website includes considerable information about what happens if a student or faculty member tests positive for COVID-19. Information for faculty and students about the University's protocols and processes will continue to be updated here: <https://campusblueprint.umich.edu/faqs/#what-happens-to-a-student-who-tests-positive-2-header>.

## Student Services

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**Q: Will student support offices be open?**

A: All student services offices, including those provided by the offices of Student Life, Career Planning, Financial Aid, Records, and the Center for Comparative and International Law, will be open and fully operational. You can contact each office in person or via email.

## Student Life

### Student Organizations

**Q: Will student groups be allowed to host programming?**

A: Yes. Student organizations are encouraged to host programming. Student organizations should strive to plan events utilizing best infection control practices for minimizing the potential for spread of COVID-19. Note that generally, the U-M COVID-19 Vaccine Policy does not apply to guests, visitors, or third parties. They must, however, complete the ResponsiBlue guest form. Student Organizations should also be prepared to provide seating for those who wish to socially distance from others. Additional guidance can be found in the U-M Campus Involvement office's [Best Practices and FAQs for Student Orgs](#) COVID-19 resource.

The following should be considered when planning an event:

- Smaller gatherings are preferable to larger gatherings.
- Outdoor events are preferable over indoor events.
- Enclosed structures (tents) should not be used
- Where feasible, ResponsiBlue should be used for indoor events to indicate compliance with testing, and screening requirements, as applicable.
- Signage must be posted to remind those who are not vaccinated to continue to distance and mask, if indoors.

- Keeping a log of names and contact information for attendees is helpful to aid in case investigation and contact tracing (if feasible).
- Eating is not permitted in classrooms. Please consult with the Office of Student Life for guidance about gatherings involving food.

**Q: Will student organization and journal offices be accessible?**

A: Yes

**Mental Health****Q: What mental health supports are available through the Law School?**

A: The University of Michigan Counseling and Psychological Services ([CAPS](https://caps.umich.edu)) is available to provide [support](#) to students. To reach CAPS, you can schedule [online](#) or access CAPS Virtual Walk-in Services by emailing [caps-uofm@umich.edu](mailto:caps-uofm@umich.edu). If you have an urgent need or are experiencing a crisis after-hours, the CAPS after-hours service is available during this time; to reach the after-hours service, please call (734)764-8312, then press '0'. Students have access to a full range of health, wellness and counseling services and additional resources for COVID-19 testing, notifications, and quarantine and isolation housing, should the need arise. The University's well-being website for students is accessible at: <https://wellbeing.studentlife.umich.edu/well-being-now>. U-M Counseling and Psychological Services information is available at: <https://caps.umich.edu>. The University Health Services website is: <https://www.uhs.umich.edu>.

In addition, the portfolio of support available to law students also includes a service called Ginger. Ginger offers on-demand, confidential support and mental healthcare services via unlimited in-app text-based chats with a behavioral health coach, information and resources related to self-guided wellness activities, and up to two virtual counseling sessions with licensed therapists (with the option to add additional sessions using your health insurance or other resources). All of these services are accessible through, and provide the privacy we associate with, a smartphone or other mobile device. Coaches are available to chat 24/7, 365 days per year. Ginger is a gratis service, provided directly (the Law School is not an intermediary) and you will receive information from Ginger about how to opt-in to its service at the beginning of the academic year.

**Center for International and Comparative Law****Q: Will the Law School's Center for Comparative and International Law have regular open office hours?**

A: CICL will have regular work hours of 9 am-5 pm, Monday through Friday. Students seeking advice are recommended to schedule an appointment, but are welcome to stop by the office unannounced with quick questions.

## Travel and Transportation

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**Q: I am coming to Ann Arbor from another country and will not be able to arrive when classes begin. What should I do?**

A: Students who are unable to be in Ann Arbor for the start of the semester should contact the Office of Student Life ([lawstudentlife@umich.edu](mailto:lawstudentlife@umich.edu)) to let us know. Students in this position are expected to keep up with coursework (see class recording policy).

**Q: Can students travel internationally for University purposes?**

A: The University's policies regarding student travel are detailed on the Campus Maize and Blueprint website:

<https://campusblueprint.umich.edu/faqs#can-students-travel-internationally-for-university-related-purposes-header>