American Association of People with Disabilities

2022 AAPD Summer Internship Program's COVID-19 Protocols

Last Updated: June 9, 2022

The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) looks forward to implementing our first-ever hybrid Summer Internship Program as safely as possible. All in-person participating AAPD interns signed an agreement upon their acceptance to comply with the requirements set forth in this document with the understanding that they are subject to change. Changes will be communicated as far in advance as possible.

As recommendations and guidelines are updated as we monitor COVID-19, interns are expected to adhere to the most protective guidelines, whether that's by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), District of Columbia, other state, and local public health agencies, or AAPD.

AAPD staff participating in-person will also adhere to the following COVID-19 protocols.

Masks

Interns are expected to wear a N95 or equivalent mask during their internship and all AAPD-sponsored events. AAPD will provide one N95 mask per week per intern for the summer. It is encouraged to rotate between the masks. Interns may request reasonable accommodations from mandatory mask requirements. *See Reasonable Accommodations, below.*

At this time, all interns are expected to wear a N95 or equivalent mask during their internship and AAPD-sponsored events regardless of CDC, District of Columbia, state or local, or placement site guidelines to the contrary.

Vaccination and Testing Requirements

AAPD and George Washington University will require all in-person interns to be fully vaccinated with a booster no later than April 2022. AAPD reserves the right to add additional requirements at a later date, such as future boosters. Interns will be required to submit adequate proof of vaccination (and any other requested documentation) to George Washington University Summer Housing. Interns may request reasonable accommodations from mandatory vaccination requirements. *See Reasonable Accommodations, below.*

All interns and personal care attendants will undergo a weekly rapid COVID-19 testing on Fridays. **All interns must take the rapid test by 10:00am ET, along with a decision if they plan to join in-person or remotely from their suite. In order to submit your proof of a negative test, please text a picture to Christine Liao via GroupMe or by email.**

The only exception is the first week of rapid testing must be completed on Wednesday, June 1 by 11:00am ET due to interns traveling to DC.

No intern or staff will be permitted entrance to Friday's Certificate Program class without proof of a negative test.

Housing

AAPD will provide interns with housing at George Washington University. Interns will be living in suites, meaning each intern has their own bedroom and shared common areas such as the living room and kitchen. Due to COVID-19 and quarantine protocols, each intern will be designated their own private bathroom.

Prior to finalizing housing arrangements, AAPD interns identified whether they preferred a studio suite or if they are comfortable having suitemates.

Internship Placements

While AAPD cannot control a placement site's COVID-19 protocols, AAPD will collect information in advance to help determine whether the placement site's protocols align with the intern's comfort level; this may limit some placement site options for interns.

At this time, all interns are expected to wear a N95 or equivalent mask during their internship and AAPD-sponsored events regardless of CDC, District of Columbia, state or local, or placement site guidelines to the contrary. All AAPD in-person or hybrid placement sites have agreed to host an intern remotely in case the intern's comfort level changes throughout the summer.

Disability Advocacy Certificate Program

Every Friday, AAPD will host our Disability Advocacy Certificate Program. All in-person participants, including staff, guest speakers, etc., must be vaccinated and boosted, and wear a mask. For indoor activities, we will follow District of Columbia's guidelines regarding COVID-19 health and safety protocols. Interns in DC can choose to join the Certificate Program classes remotely at any time.

AAPD will have a medical-grade HEPA filter air purifier, hand sanitizer, Lysol or Clorox wipes, and extra masks on site.

Travel (to Washington, DC and during the summer)

All interns are expected to adhere to CDC's travel protocols when traveling to Washington, DC and comply with the state or local guidelines (i.e., District of Columbia, Maryland, or Virginia) applicable to their internship.

If at any point an intern no longer feels comfortable residing in Washington, DC, AAPD will support and cover travel arrangements back to their home state.

Positive COVID-19 Test Result

Intern

Interns must notify George Washington University immediately upon a positive COVID test result. From there, interns are expected to adhere to George Washington University's Summer Housing COVID-19 protocols, which includes quarantine protocols. To support interns, AAPD will provide rapid tests as often as needed and has purchased a thermometer and pulse oximeter to support interns tracking their symptoms.

Per quarantine protocols, George Washington University Summer Housing will provide support to interns who test positive. This includes supporting delivery services related to food and/or essential items.

Suitemate

If an intern tests positive for COVID-19 but the suitemate did not: AAPD will ask the intern to test daily up to 1-week. AAPD will provide the test kits.

Pivoting to a Fully Virtual Format

AAPD strives to host all of the Friday Certificate Program classes and AAPD-sponsored events in a hybrid format. However, AAPD reserves the right to proceed with the Friday Certificate Program class in a fully virtual format if the following occurs:

- Five (5) interns and/or one AAPD Summer Internship Program staff member tests positive
- When less than five (5) in-person interns attend in-person

AAPD will notify interns around 10:00am ET on Fridays if we pivot to a virtual format.

Reasonable Accommodations

AAPD will provide reasonable accommodations from AAPD policies and practices, including COVID-19 protocols, for individuals with disabilities or sincerely held religious beliefs who request an accommodation, to the extent doing so does not create an undue hardship for AAPD. Examples of reasonable accommodations include, but are not limited to, exceptions to a vaccination requirement and/or required testing, masking, social distancing, or remote internships. If you have questions or concerns or would like to request an accommodation, please reach out to AAPD as soon as possible.