



THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

*Theological College
The University Seminary
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Protocols in Preparation for Fall 2020 School Year for Theological College

Theological College anticipates the opening for the Fall semester for all seminarians and student priests. Our concern is for the safety and comfort level of our entire TC community. To ensure that our community remains healthy, we will observe the following protocols until further notice. We will follow a phasing system in the upcoming year in four stages, following the guidelines of CUA and the CDC during this time of Pandemic. TC may also initiate measures as needed which go above these recommendations. You will be informed at the time of transitioning into a new phase with the new guidelines. Upon returning to TC in August, we will be in Phase 1.

The following protocols do not envision every scenario therefore all are asked to be patient as we make assessments on a regular basis.

1. Frequent temperature checks will become the norm until this crisis has passed.
2. Masks must be worn by everyone in common areas of the building including: **main foyer, hallways, lounges and the chapel.**
3. The seminary dining room, chapel and other public spaces remain restricted for use only by resident priests, seminarians, and designated staff. To reiterate- masks must be worn by everyone entering the main foyer area.
4. To ensure the safety of the community, we ask that all seminarians restrict your activities **for two weeks prior to arriving to TC.** This will be July 27- August 7 for orientation team and new seminarians arriving between August 14- 18. And August 3- 14 for all returning seminarians and student priests who should be in house for the Cookout on Friday, August 21st at 5pm Please avoid any events or large gatherings two weeks prior to coming on campus
5. During the two week timeframe prior to coming on campus, seminarians should be wearing masks in social settings, conference sessions, summer gatherings with other seminarians, seminarian vocation convocations, etc. All seminarians should be observing social distancing and wearing masks during that timeframe. Please try to avoid any social or large gatherings.

6. Prior to arrival all seminarians, student priests, staff and faculty must have a Covid-19 test. The test results should be reported to the Rector as soon as they are available. Orientation team members and NEW STUDENTS arriving to seminary should prepare to have their tests taken by July 31 in order to anticipate any delays in turnaround time. All returning students, resident student priests, faculty and staff should have a Covid test scheduled and done by August 7th.
7. It is preferred that seminarians not congregate or assemble with groups during that timeframe before arriving back to TC but if this is unavoidable, masks and social distancing are to be observed.
8. During the Fall 2020 semester, we're restricting air travel as much as possible. But any student, faculty or staff who must travel by plane is required to have permission from the Rector as a quarantine will have to be in place upon return to campus.
9. Every seminarian and resident priest is to supply their own face mask. We should each have at least two masks (one to wear and one to be cleaned.)
10. All seminarians and student priests will have their temperature checked on arrival, and for the first two weeks of arrival at TC.
11. Only two people allowed in the elevator at any give time.
12. The wearing of masks in the chapel, during classes at TC, in the dining room, hallway corridors, and in all public spaces will be required until further notice. Exceptions include: exercising.
13. Social distancing will be practiced including no more than 4 people at table in the dining room and distancing in public settings until further notice. Seminarians are asked to gather to socialize in the large common rooms. No gatherings in the hallways or in individual rooms!
14. Masks can be removed in the dining room while eating; however, masks should remain during all other movements in the dining room.
15. Until further notice, food will be served at all meals from designated staff and seminarians thereby avoiding the handling of serving utensils.
16. The dining room, small parlor, Vieban Hall, and chapel are restricted to seminarians, student priests and resident priests only; staff and faculty will have limited use of these spaces.
17. Masses and guest rooms will be closed to all guests until further notice.
18. Pastoral ministry will continue to be offered however with restrictions. Further information in this area will be explained in the first few weeks of the semester.

19. Seminarians are asked to not leave campus the first couple of weeks (until August 31) except for necessary reasons including prescriptions, necessary shopping, appointments, formational commitments, meetings, etc. During the semester, and as city and government regulations allow, seminarians will be allowed to leave campus. However, they must use extreme caution, wear masks, and maintain social distancing. Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia require the wearing of masks in stores and public places.
20. Seminarians and residents may depart campus for purposes of exercising, running, biking, taking walks, drive- thru restaurants, etc. observing city protocols.
21. Food deliveries (i.e. Door Dash, Uber Eats) are permitted however all packages should be handled appropriately with no physical contact with delivery drivers. Simplicity of Life should take priority in determining the reasons for leaving campus and reasons for food deliveries considering that meals are provided at the seminary.
22. We will continue existing practices for the chapel and during the celebration of liturgy which includes keeping the holy water fonts empty, no hand shaking at Mass, no distribution of the Precious Blood, and the celebrant sanitizing hands before distribution of Communion, etc.
23. Sanitizing products are supplied on all floors and in public spaces. The Sodexo staff will keep these products fully supplied. Bathrooms will be cleaned three times a day.
24. If anyone becomes ill once they have arrived, procedures have been put in place to isolate and care for them. If possible, seminarians should not be recalled to their dioceses so that we can maintain an intact community.
25. The primary goal is to deliver quality priestly formation to our seminarians. We do not anticipate shutting down the seminary if these protocols are strictly followed. If there is an outbreak of the virus in the seminary, residents will be quarantined using the 5th floor guest rooms. It is our objective that seminarians *not* be recalled to their dioceses in order that they can receive an on-campus priestly formation experience. This objective can be achieved if everyone maintains fidelity to these protocols.
26. All staff are developing plans to conduct operations and their duties off campus in case we have to lockdown or quarantine the community. Again, the goal is for the seminary to deliver priestly formation without disrupting operations.
27. Seminarians and resident priests may be asked to have sample or representative testing for the virus if any particular concerns arise about community health.
28. A further review of the protocols will take place on a regular basis in order to assure the community remains healthy and safe.

29. Further liturgical instructions with Covid-19 will be discussed in the first days of returning to TC.
30. We will follow the CUA academic calendar and depart TC for Thanksgiving Break and not return to TC/ campus until the first week of January for retreats.
31. Monday, November 23 will be the Closing Mass and Banquet for the semester for the Feast of the Presentation of Mary (Sulpician Christmas!)



Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom -pray for us!
Blessed Sulpician Martyrs – pray for us!
Blessed Agnes of Jesus – pray for us!