



WAYMAKER INSTITUTE FALL 2020-2021 COVID-19 MITIGATION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic has significantly disrupted American life and sectors of the American economy. Higher education is not immune to this disruption. This document lays out the rationale and mitigation plan for Waymaker Institute to resume in-person classes.

RATIONALE FOR RESUMING IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

Waymaker Institute will resume in-person instruction based on the following considerations:

- Individuals under the age of 25 who do not have underlying health conditions have very small risks of COVID-19 death or requiring critical care.¹
- Waymaker Institute's student population is small enough (>10 individuals) that in-person instruction can resume even under current CDC and VA guidelines.
- We believe that the full experience of Waymaker Institute, including in-person interaction with students and professors, is necessary to the holistic growth and development of our students both academically and spiritually.
- It is a fundamental conviction of Waymaker Institute that life is full of inevitable risks. High character and high capacity leadership demands a prudent and nuanced response to risk that both reasonably mitigates negative outcomes **and** enables mission accomplishment.

MITIGATION

While Waymaker Institute has resumed in-person instruction, the following mitigation protocols will be implemented to reduce the risk of COVID-19 and keep our staff and students safe:

- Waymaker Institute will implement strict cleaning and disinfecting protocols for all Waymaker Institute classrooms and facilities.
- Waymaker Institute students, faculty, and staff will be encouraged to remain home if they feel sick or believe they have been exposed to COVID-19, and

¹<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.05.20054361v1.full.pdf>



Waymaker Institute will provide opportunities for them to participate in classroom activities through electronic means.

- Waymaker Institute will allow but not mandate students, faculty, and staff to wear PPE such as masks and gloves. (See footnote for why mask use is not mandatory at Waymaker Institute).²
- Waymaker Institute will ask but not require students, faculty, and staff to refrain from traveling outside the Central Virginia area for the duration of each semester.
- Waymaker Institute will ask but not require students, faculty, and staff to minimize and/or refrain from contact with at-risk populations for the duration of the semester, and for two weeks after the semester ends. (See footnote for a definition of at-risk populations).³
- Waymaker Institute will make reasonable accommodation for students who are at risk to participate in student life.

ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE GUIDELINES

Members of the Waymaker Institute community who test positive for COVID-19 should self-isolate for a least 10 days since symptoms first appeared (or positive test result). Members should not return to any Waymaker Institute events, environments, or gatherings until the following conditions are met:

- No fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine **AND**
- Reduction or cessation of all COVID-19 symptoms (loss of taste and smell may persist and do not need to delay the end of isolation).

²<https://arstechnica.com/science/2020/04/should-you-wear-a-face-mask-heres-all-the-data-we-have/>

³<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>