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Introduction and Guiding Principles

This Guide for Returning to the Interfaith Center at Adelphi University has been developed in accordance with the University’s Master Restart Plan in Response to COVID-19, which can be found on the University's Restart Website.

This document serves to guide our community’s Spring 2021 safe return to the Interfaith Center in room 306 in the Ruth S. Harley University Center following the disruptions caused by COVID-19.

Guiding Principles for Restarting

As stated in the University’s Master Restart Plan, Adelphi’s policies and protocols for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and restarting in-person instruction, research and residence life are rooted in two critical concepts:

- Protecting our community’s health, safety and well-being
- Preserving our mission to deliver academic excellence, with modifications required for health and safety

Our restart plans apply to all employees, including our leadership and those identified as essential; all our students, including local, domestic and international; and every member of the community who utilizes services provided by the University. These plans are focused on our community’s safety and health and are fully guided by our mission to provide a world-class academic experience that is dedicated to student success. They are also flexible in acknowledgment of:

- An evolving public health situation and related expert guidance
- New state and public health mandates, as they become available
- Individual needs of community members, especially those who are vulnerable or cannot travel

Reopening Timeline

Adelphi University will abide by New York state’s reopening plan, New York Forward. Informed by this, the University is reopening our Interfaith Center according to Reopening New York – Guidelines for Religious and Funeral Services, published on February 2, 2021.
Adelphi University Guide for Returning to the Interfaith Center

In accordance with the University’s Master Plan, students, faculty and staff are expected to follow policies and guidance for:

- Daily health and symptom screening
- Hygiene and handwashing
- Social distancing
- Restrictions on gathering in large groups
- Required masks, face coverings and essential PPE; bandanas, buffs and gaiters are not acceptable face coverings, and masks with exhalation valves or vents do not offer adequate protection and should not be used while on campus.
- Staying home when sick
- Respecting the health, well-being and personal experiences of other community members

As the knowledge and understanding of the COVID-19 virus continues to evolve, the University remains prepared to adjust our policies and plans as needed as more information becomes available. In the event that New York state or local health authorities amend statewide or regional orders and guidance, the University will update the guidance and protocols in this plan in accordance with said updated regulations.
According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), current evidence suggests that the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) that causes COVID-19 may remain viable for hours or days on surfaces made from a variety of materials. To address this risk, Adelphi University will put in place measures to limit the sharing of objects, such as hymnals, prayer books, the Quran or Bible, as well as the touching of shared surfaces such as religious instruments, doors and railings.

Employees and students will be asked to perform hand hygiene before and after contact with shared surfaces. Thorough cleaning and disinfecting protocols in shared and public spaces will be followed, as outlined in detail under the Cleaning and Disinfecting section of this plan.

Adelphi will limit the use of small spaces including elevators, supply rooms and personal offices to one individual at a time, unless all individuals in such space at the same time are wearing acceptable face coverings. Even when face coverings are in use, occupancy will be restricted to no more than 50 percent of the maximum capacity in spaces designed for more than one person. Signage will be installed to make these occupancy and PPE requirements immediately clear to our community members and visitors. Nonessential amenities and communal areas which promote gathering or are high touch, such as vending machines and communal coffee machines, will be closed or disabled.
Social Distancing

Keeping space between you and others is one of the best tools we have to avoid being exposed to the COVID-19 virus and slowing its spread. Since people can spread the virus before they know they are sick, it is important to keep a safe distance away from others when possible, even if you have no symptoms. Social distancing is important for everyone, especially to help protect people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

- Stay at least six feet (about two arms’ lengths) from other people at all times.
- Do not gather in groups of 10 or more.
- Stay out of crowded places and avoid large gatherings.
- Comply with distancing markers where displayed.
- Avoid personal contact, including shaking hands.
- Do not share food or beverages.
- Do not share work or worship spaces that do not accommodate social distancing.
- Avoid unnecessary movement between work areas, building floors and buildings.
Interfaith Center Adjustments

Capacity and Social Distancing

- Under New York state guidelines, each room must accommodate no more than 50 percent of the maximum occupancy limit to ensure social distancing is maintained. The COVID occupancy limit for the chapel is 20.
- All clergy who will be officiating in the religious services and have the potential of coming in direct contact (e.g., six feet or less) with parishioners must complete a COVID test with a negative result before the date of the religious service.
- Chairs and/or prayer mats must be spaced six-plus feet apart with a maximum occupancy of 20.
- Floor markers at six-foot intervals should be used for parishioners who are standing.

Protocols

- All in-person events will be held in compliance with New York state COVID-19 emergency regulations, local regulations, and policies stated in the Adelphi University restart plan.
- All parishioners must preregister online for religious services to control maximum occupancy levels.
- All attendees must complete the daily AU2GO health screening before coming to campus. Parishioners who do not have access to the AU2GO app must complete and present a printed health screening form.
- All parishioners must be screened via the temperature tablet as they enter the building.
- COVID safety protocols will be communicated to all parishioners before the start of each religious service.
- Face masks must be worn by all participants at all times. Disposable face masks are available for use in the chapel during the event.
- An attendance roster must be used to document everyone who attended events in the Interfaith Center for the purpose of contact tracing, if needed. A copy of this roster must be maintained on file by the Center for Student Involvement/Interfaith Center and shared with Health Services in case of a confirmed COVID case that requires contact tracing.
Shared Objects

- For Adhan prayer, a napkin is to be spread in front of the rug to allow the worshiper to place their forehead in the prostration position during prayer.
- Limit sharing of objects such as prayer books, hymnals, the Quran or Bible. Worshippers are encouraged to use their own personal religious materials, online apps or websites on their personal devices to follow along.
- No food or beverages may be offered or served during the religious services with the exception of food provided as a part of a religious service (e.g. communion).

Singing

- Refrain from activities involving singing (e.g., choir, soloist, cantor, musical ensemble) unless a minimum of 12 feet of separation can be provided between individuals or physical barriers are in place to reduce the risk of respiratory droplet transmission.

Hand Hygiene

In an effort to reduce the transmission of COVID-19, staff and students must frequently wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after being in a public place, coughing, sneezing, blowing their nose or touching their face. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol. In addition:

- Hand washing and/or the use of hand sanitizer must be completed at the beginning and conclusion of each religious service. Additional hand disinfection during the service is necessary if a shared object has been touched or the hands become otherwise contaminated.
- Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes are available for use in the chapel.

Other

- COVID safety signage has been posted with protocols asking everyone to limit physical touching, such as hugging or shaking hands.
- Anyone who is feeling ill should be discouraged from attending any meeting or event.
Maximum occupancy of the ablution room will be limited based on the number of washing stations to ensure appropriate social distancing.

Posted signage will instruct individuals to wash their hands thoroughly after using the ablution room to reduce the potential transmission of the virus, and to use paper towels, which will be available, to turn off faucets and open the door to exit the room.
Cleaning and Disinfecting

Daily Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols

Adelphi University maintains a rigorous regimen of regular cleaning throughout our campus and has always used hospital-grade products and procedures to ensure a clean campus. In light of the current public health crisis, the University will adhere to best practices of thorough cleaning and disinfection in accordance with CDC best practices for prevention of COVID-19 and the New York State Department of Health guidelines. The staff will also follow the guidelines provided in Interim Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection of Public and Private Facilities for COVID-19 for cleaning common touch surfaces in accordance with CDC best practices for prevention of COVID-19.

Definitions

- **Cleaning**
  The removal of foreign material (e.g., soil, and organic material) from objects

- **Sanitizing**
  Reducing contaminants or bacteria to a safe level, lowering the number of germs on a surface

- **Disinfection**
  The thermal or chemical destruction of pathogenic and other types of organisms

- **Decontamination**
  A more extensive disinfection of a room or area following known exposure to hazardous or infectious material

- **Sterilization**
  A process that destroys or eliminates all forms of microbial life and is carried out in healthcare facilities by physical or chemical methods

Cleaning and disinfection of all occupied spaces will be rigorous and ongoing and will occur daily or more frequently as needed. Priorities have been adjusted to provide for increased cleaning and disinfecting of high-traffic, high-touch surfaces.

High-Touch Surfaces

These include but are not limited to:

- Stair railings
- Exterior and interior door hardware and surfaces
- Light switches
- Restroom fixtures, partitions, faucets, dispensers (toilet paper, paper towels)
- Elevator control panels and call buttons
- Common area countertops and appliances
- ADA-compliant handicap door push plates
- Water bottle filling stations

**High-Traffic Areas**

These include but are not limited to:

- Restrooms
- Building entrances
- Classrooms, lounges and meeting spaces
- Hallways

Disinfecting high-touch surfaces in high-traffic areas is already and will continue to be performed once daily, at a minimum. Additionally, the following measures will be taken:

- Frequency of cleaning high-touch surfaces will increase more than once daily as schedules allow.
- All high-touch surfaces, including door knobs and elevator buttons, will be disinfected using products that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19.
- All manufacturer’s instructions for cleaning and disinfection products for concentration, application method and contact time will be observed.
- To reduce high-touch surfaces, Adelphi University will install touch-free amenities such as water fountains, trash cans and hand dryers, wherever feasible.
- The campus community is encouraged to practice preventative cleaning in personal offices, residential spaces or work spaces, which are not normally accessible to the custodial staff.
- All individuals are expected to abide by the strict clean-desk policy, so that nonessential items are stored in enclosed cabinets or drawers, rather than on desks.
- Supplemental cleaning of teaching spaces and offices not regularly accessible to the custodial staff should be performed as needed by room occupants/faculty with supplies provided by their department.
- Adelphi University will ensure that equipment and tools are regularly cleaned and disinfected using products registered in New York state and identified by the Environmental Protection Agency effective against COVID-19, at least as often as users change workstations.
- If recommended cleaning protocols or disinfection products cause safety hazards or degrade material or machinery, Adelphi University will put in place hand-hygiene stations for use between users and/or supply disposable gloves and/or enact limitations on the number of persons using such machinery.
- The Department of Facilities Management, responsible for housekeeping, will maintain cleaning logs for all on-campus spaces.
Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols in the Event of a Positive COVID-19 Case

Adelphi University will provide for the cleaning and disinfection of all University spaces, with such cleaning and disinfection to include, at a minimum, all heavy-transit areas and high-touch surfaces such as touch screens, printers, keypads, telephones, handrails and door handles. In the event that a positive COVID-19 case surfaces within Health Services areas or Residential Life and Housing areas, disinfection will occur by a vendor partner. All other areas will abide by the following cleaning and disinfecting protocols and procedures:

- Custodial team will wait 24 hours after the person has left the area before entering to clean and disinfect. Custodial team will wear proper face masks, disposable gloves, gowns and goggles for all tasks in the cleaning process, including handling trash.
- Cleaning and disinfection will be performed in accordance with guidelines from the New York State Department of Health and CDC. This includes the use of EPA-approved disinfectants, following the manufacturer’s instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products for concentration, application method and contact time, etc.
- Disinfecting these areas includes safely providing a full saturation of disinfectant to all surfaces including walls, fixtures, floors and counter/desktops.
- If it has been more than seven days since the person with suspected/confirmed COVID-19 was present, neither additional cleaning nor disinfection is necessary (per CDC guidelines). In these cases, the custodial staff will follow normal procedures for regular cleaning including disinfection of high-traffic, high-touch areas. Safety data sheets for cleaning products will be made available for review upon request.

Restrooms

Maximum occupancy of restrooms will be limited based on the number of sinks to ensure appropriate social distancing.

Posted signage will instruct individuals to wash their hands thoroughly after using the restroom to reduce the potential transmission of the virus, and to use paper towels, which will be available, to turn off faucets and open the door to exit the restroom.
Adelphi University is committed to providing access to safe spaces for spiritual and religious activities. The Interfaith Center will be open during posted hours, consistent with the guidelines in this document and posted in the area.

Operation of the Adelphi University Interfaith Center will continue to be guided by New York state’s Reopening New York – Guidelines for Religious and Funeral Services.

In the event that New York state or local health authorities amend statewide or regional orders and guidance, the University will update the guidance and protocols in this plan in accordance with said updated regulations.