

Furman Fall Reopening Virtual Town Hall for New Students, Aug. 3

Transcript of live Q&A chat

Question: How many masks will each student be given and are they three-layer?

Answer: Students will be provided two cloth face coverings. Students can also provide their own and they should include at least two layers of fabric that fully cover the nose and mouth, and fit snugly and comfortably against the side of the face.

Question: Will kids be able to leave campus for a doctor's appointment once they arrive?

Answer: (live answered) Yes, students will be able to leave campus for an appointment.

Question: Will freshman spend the night of their move-in in their dorm room or do they move in and then arrive to sleep in their room at a later date?

Answer: The new students will sleep in their room on the night of move-in day.

Question: Why not delay opening for safety and to give some time to see what happens at other schools?

Answer: (live answered)

Question: What does check-in for incoming freshman look like on 8/12? Is there any kind of program for the students or parents, or is it simply drop off? Thx

Answer: This question will get answered tonight by Ron and Jessica.

Question: Are online courses taught in real time like in-class courses or pre-recorded lessons?

Answer: For the most part, they will be taught in real time (synchronously).

Question: Are students allowed to go virtual for their class outside of their dorm room? i.e., library, outside.

Answer: (live answered)

Question: My son moves in between 10 a.m.-noon. Will there be a place on campus that I can get lunch with him before I drive home? Also, we've never stepped foot on the campus (we live 12 hours away). Will we be able to walk around on the campus either Tuesday afternoon or before/after move-in?

Answer: Sure, we'd love for you to take some time to have lunch with him. While the Dining Hall won't be available for visitors, there are plenty of dining options very close to campus. He will be unscheduled through the afternoon, so we encourage you to spend time together. We will have a lunch option available for parents on campus on August 12 and 13.

Question: How will CLPs work?

Answer: The faculty will be making a decision about CLPs at their first faculty meeting in a couple of weeks. We will notify the campus once a decision about CLPs has been made.

Question: Will remote learners have a limited set of classes that they can take, or will they be able to take any of the classes offered (keeping in mind their eligibility in terms of their year in school, etc.)?

Answer: (live answered) Remote learners are eligible to take any of the classes offered.

Question: For students that have elected to live on campus, will they be subject to mandatory COVID testing? If so, how frequently and will there be a cost to the student?

Answer: Dr. Wheeler is answering this question now.

Question: My incoming freshman daughter chose the remote option, to stay in Maryland. Will she be able to take/switch her classes to the online and will she be treated differently than the in person students?

Answer: She is able to make changes to her schedule. She will meet with her advisor on August 13th and will receive more information on that soon. She will not be treated differently.

Question: How can I tell if mine will be taught synchronously?

Answer: It should be synchronous unless a particular class session needs to be asynchronous for some reason. You can always reach out to your professor directly to ask more about your course.

Question: I move in on the 12th, but my meal plan says it does not come into effect until the 18th. What is the plan for those 6 days?

Answer: The meal plans will be loaded this week so your plan will begin at lunch on August 12.

Question: How is access to the campus being controlled to prevent non-Furman students from visiting against policy?

Answer: See campus visitors policy – <https://www.furman.edu/furman-focused/campus-visitors/>.

Question: What happens to my student's dorm assignment if her roommate decides not to come? Are there going to be shuffles mid-semester or new students coming in to occupy that space?

Answer: While we will adjust some housing assignments to maximize our quarantine capacity, this will not apply to the areas where first-year students live. The openings will be available for standard room changes, as they are in any other year. We always recommend that if an opening develops in someone's room, they let us know if there is someone in particular they want moved in, or if there is another space to which they want to move. We want students to live where they want and with whom they want, whenever possible. I just learned that we will have boxed lunches available for parents/family on August 12 and 13 – just got approval for it.

Question: So we need to eat off campus? Are all dining options on campus closed?

Answer: The meal plans will start on August 12 at lunch. The Dining Hall, Pden food court and a few other dining locations will be available for students only. Parents will be provided a to-go lunch from the Hartness Pavilion on August 12 and 13.

Question: Our student has not been able to find the link to sign the Paladin promise. Can you confirm where to find this and how we can sign?

Answer: Your new student should have received an email on Friday with instructions for completing their training and signing the Paladin Promise. If not, please email orientation@furman.edu.

Question: Did I just hear correctly that they will only be testing if they have symptoms? I heard him say “not just testing for the sake of testing.”

Answer: Correct – symptomatic testing (vs. asymptomatic screens) is the recommended approach by federal, state, local and campus agencies, as testing in advance has not been demonstrated to reduce transmission. I encourage those with interest to look at the Health and Safety FAQs, which provides greater detail on why pre-entry screening may be of very limited value, and even provide a false sense of security.

Question: To clarify “isolation” – will that be for the two-week period only, provided no symptoms develop?

Answer: Quarantine refers to students who have been in close contact with a student who has tested positive, and this period is 14 days (at home or private bedroom and bath) assuming no symptoms develop. If a student with symptoms tests positive, they must remain in isolation (private bedroom and bath) for a minimum of 10 days, with a return to in-person learning when symptoms have improved and no fever for 3 days in the absence of fever-reducing medication.

Question: Where is the quarantine space if it won't at all be in the freshman dorms?

Answer: We have set aside some apartments and some suites in the residence halls. The key is students having access to their own bathroom (not sharing).

Question: Will the contact tracing be electronic, for example, through an app?

Answer: No, we have a team of contact tracers that will work with our Student Health Center (for students) and Human Resources (for employees).

Question: Are cloth bandanas acceptable?

Answer: It needs to be double layered and fit snugly on the face.

Question: What does CLP stand for?

Answer: It stands for Furman's Cultural Life Program and is one of the graduation requirements for all students.

Question: When will text books be available for purchase? And are there used textbooks for purchase?

Answer: Textbooks are available for purchase now through the campus bookstore. Used, new, rentals and digital books are all available. This information may be found on the Furman Focused website.

Question: On move-in day, I realize we only have 2 hours but can both parents help move in? Wearing masks of course.

Answer: Yes, we'd love to have both parents here and helping!

Question: What happens to the roommate of a student required to isolate/quarantine? Will they also have to stay in isolation (same question applies to suitemates)?

Answer: When a student is ordered to go into quarantine or isolation, their roommate and significant other will also be directed to quarantine. Typically roommates are considered close contacts because of shared bath facilities and proximity. They are isolated as quickly as the roommate reports symptoms, and remain isolated until test results are received. If the roommate is negative, the student is released from quarantine; if positive, they are quarantined for 14 days total.

Question: As a new student parent, it would be helpful to know what area each of the presenters are representing – or their title. I have looked for a staff directory online but do not see the presenters listed. Thank you!

Answer: Ken Peterson – Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Connie Carson – Vice President for Student Life.

Question: Based on Dr. Cassidy's response, it sounds as if club activities/sports may be available in the fall if organizations register and abide by the promise. Is that correct?

Answer: More information about campus life and activities available at <https://www.furman.edu/furman-focused/campus-life-activities/>.

Question: Are there pictures and dimensions available for the dorms? Is there a list of suggestions for what he should bring to his dorm room? Should he wait until first day of class to hear from professors about what school supplies he will need or is there a list of basic school supplies we should go ahead and buy? Will you provide cleaning materials for the dorms or are students responsible for that? Thank you!

Answer: There are some pictures and general dimensions available online, as well as a list of suggestions of what to bring – and what to not bring. Students are not responsible for cleaning the bathrooms on the floors, unless they live in a suite.

Question: Will there be remote versions of cocurricular activities?

Answer: Yes, our offices have been working to develop remote engagement opportunities for students.

Question: Will the PAC be open?

Answer: Yes, more information about the PAC here – <https://www.furman.edu/furman-focused/housing-dining/>.

Question: Once students are on campus, if Furman were to make a decision to go 100% online – or if all of a student's classes were to go online – will reimbursements of room and board be provided? I am concerned about my student being on campus and being forced (or encouraged) to stay in her dorm room.

Answer: Refunds of tuition, room and board are available up until the day before the first day of class, and following that, refunds follow a set schedule. Notwithstanding such schedule, if Furman decides

that a switch to remote learning is in the best interest of the campus community, then Furman intends to offer pro-rated refunds for lost use of room and board.

Question: Will club sports be allowed?

Answer: More information about club sports is available at <https://www.furman.edu/furman-focused/campus-life-activities/>.

Question: Will students be notified when parking permit applications are available?

Answer: Yes, it should be very soon (this week I believe).

Question: Again, the only testing will be for symptoms, “not just testing for the sake of testing”? Not sure I heard that correctly.

Answer: That is correct. Required for those who are symptomatic. Strongly encouraged for those in quarantine because of an exposure. My apologies for the poor choice of words. The intent is to convey that – consistent with the guidelines described – we do not advocate testing that does not enhance the safety of the campus (e.g., pre-entry screening of asymptomatic students 10 days prior to return to campus), see FAQs.

Question: What will orientation look like next week for incoming Freshmen and parents?

Answer: This question is getting answered now.

Question: I am an essential worker. My question is, can a freshman be provided an alternative move-in date, due to plans changing daily and distance in travel?

Answer: All requests for different arrivals are being handled through a committee. Please send your request, with as many specific details as possible, to furman.focused@furman.edu.

Question: The air quality and ability to mitigate varies by dorm. Will Furman publish the air quality of each specific dorm so parents will know the relative safety of each dorm, especially in light of the waivers students are being asked to sign?

Answer: In consultation with our faculty in the sciences who have been advising our planning, the leadership of Facilities Services has confidence in our HVAC systems. I'd recommend that you contact Jeff Redderson, Associate Vice President for Facilities and Grounds at jeff.redderson@furman.edu to discuss the air quality of specific buildings.

Question: When will students receive a schedule of activities for the time between move in and first day of classes?

Answer: (live answered) The fall orientation schedule will be available on the new students website by the end of this week.

Question: How soon will the PAC be open for students and what will the restrictions be, if any? Will the bookstore be open during the move-in times for parents to visit? What does the schedule look like for parents on move-in day and the days after?

Answer: The bookstore will be open during move-in days for parents to visit.

Question: Will there be info about new student family activities on Aug. 12 and 13? We would like to plan for overnight accommodations.

Answer: Being answered now.

Question: If a student was to get sick or symptomatic, would they be able to have an extension for completing class assignments if needed?

Answer: Flexibility and accommodation are extended when students are experiencing health issues that impact their ability to engage with coursework. Our health notices protocols are being updated to include COVID-19 symptoms. Students should maintain open lines of communication with their professors whenever possible.

Question: If we need to bring three people in addition to the student will that be permitted?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Machaka Young (You): Are there pictures available for the dorms? Is there a list of suggestions for what he should bring for his dorm room? Should he wait until first day of class to hear from professors about what school supplies he will need or is there a list of basic school supplies we should go ahead and buy? Will you provide cleaning materials for the dorms or are students responsible for that? Thank you!

Answer: Mr. Thompson would need to respond about the pictures and cleaning of the residence halls. There is no basic list of school supplies that are recommended. It is up to each student to determine what they need. Each professor will provide students with class syllabus, which will contain a list of any books he will need to purchase. He will receive that on the first day of class.

Question: Is the lunch during orientation on the 12th or 13th or both?

Answer: Both.

Question: Understanding that housing in close quarters significantly impacts the likelihood of COVID transmission, how does Furman justify putting students into four-person suites (i.e., Townes Hall)?

Answer: All of our plans have been developed by the local, state, and federal guidance. The size of the rooms allow for students to share a bedroom. Also, students are expected to clean and wipe down the bathroom after use. We will provide some instructions/training to them when they arrive to coach them through that.

Question: Where does my student find the Paladin Promise, Assumption of Risk and Release form and the housing agreement form on her portal? They are showing up incomplete on her housing portal.

Answer: (live answered)

Question: If I understand correctly, there will be parent orientation sessions on 8/13 for freshmen parents. If a parent is not available to participate on 8/13, are they recorded or how else may parents be informed of the content of those sessions?

Answer: The orientation schedule will be posted soon. The biggest event on Thursday is the Family Advising Meeting where you have the opportunity to meet your student's advisor. They will receive information about that on August 11th.

Question: What plans have been made for freshman orientation? When will we be getting orientation information?

Answer: The Fall Orientation schedule will be available on the new students website at the end of this week.

Question: Will Furman be able to use rapid COVID testing?

Answer: We are using PCR tests, which still serve as the most reliable tests available, with a typical turnaround of 24-48 hours. We will continue to monitor the progress made on antigen testing, antibody testing, etc., and evaluate alternatives accordingly

Question: Will the meal plan for incoming freshman be available as of August 12 or 13?

Answer: The meal plan for incoming students will start at lunch on August 12.

Question: Will the students be required to make a daily list, or some sort, to make sure they are keeping track of all their contacts?

Answer: We will encourage students to keep a daily contact log. It makes contact tracing much easier.

Question: My student is very concerned about not being allowed to leave campus. We know she will be able to leave, however, she feels she will not be.

Answer: Yes, Furman will not be "locking" students inside the campus gates. They need to practice the Paladin Promise off campus as well, but students can go off campus as needed.

Question: When will I figure out who my academic advisor is?

Answer: All new students will receive an email from me at the Furman email address with this information on Tuesday, August 11th.

Question: So just to clarify, most classes will be offered both ways – in person and also for online students at the same time?

Answer: If they do not say online (meaning they are only meeting online and not in person), then yes; they are being offered both ways for students at the same time.

Question: What are the restrictions for students in the Dining Hall?

Answer: The Dining Hall will be serving all freshly made food in containers. Students will be provided an insulated grocery bag at move-in, which we encourage the student to bring to all dining locations. Face masks are required when entering the Dining Hall.

Question: Where will testing for COVID take place, and whose responsibility are the costs for the testing?

Answer: When Furman requires the testing, Prisma Health will place the testing order. There are several sites local to campus. Furman's student sickness benefits plan for students will cover the difference in testing costs that the personal health insurance does not cover.

Question: My daughter has decided to live at home and commute since we live in Greenville. Who does she need to contact to talk through this decision?

Answer: Please have her email me, Ron Thompson, Director of Housing and Residence Life, at ron.thompson@furman.edu. I'm happy to help her!

Question: Will there be additional spaces other than the dorm rooms for students to complete their online classes? For example, if a student didn't want to bother their roommate if they have an online 8 a.m. class.

Answer: Yes, there are some lounges in our residence halls that can be used for this purpose. Additionally, there is space in the Trone Student Center and the Duke Library.

Question: Are students that are doing virtual learning from home able to visit the campus during the fall?

Answer: (live answered)

Question: What will the Dining Hall situation look like? Will students have to sit alone or will there just be less seating at tables?

Answer: The Dining Hall is following the SC Restaurant Association and DHEC guidelines in opening. We have reduced seating capacity from over 1,000 seats to 423 seats. Students may choose to sit alone or at a table with friends. The state guidelines are no more than 8 people at a table, however we are not permitting more than 6 at a table. We have added tables outside of the Dining Hall for students to sit outside.

Question: Will a student be allowed back in their room after his/her official time slot has ended on the 12th? Or will the student need to wait until the roommate has complete his/her move in time slot?

Answer: Yes, they can come home to their room.

Question: If Furman requires a COVID test, and the student does not have a vehicle to get to the testing site, how will the student get the test?

Answer: Furman's Earle Student Health Center will arrange for transportation through Prisma Health.

Question: If COVID testing is only done for symptomatic testing, how will that method stop the spread since COVID is often asymptomatic?

Answer: I want to answer your question, but running short on time ... please email.

Question: So classes that say in person will be completely in person or will they all be in person/online?

Answer: All classes that are in person will feature both in person and remote learning simultaneously. Only those that are listed as “online” are not meeting in person on campus.

Question: Will there be a Homecoming, parents weekend, and other events like that?

Answer: See major events page – <https://www.furman.edu/furman-focused/major-campus-events/>.

Question: Just to clarify the one visitor per student means “outside visitors,” correct? Or are students limited to one other Furman student in their room?

Answer: (live answered)

Question: If my student has had COVID-19 will they still be required to quarantine and or how will that work if they have a contact?

Answer: Yes, students who have had a prior positive COVID test (or antibody test) but identified as a close contact will still be required to quarantine. See more details about this one at <https://www.furman.edu/furman-focused/health-resources/health-safety-faq/>.

Question: The Furman cafeteria is amazing! What changes have been made because of the new precautions?

Answer: (live answered) Thank you! We will still provide the same freshly made food but in containers. Reduced seating, increased cleaning.

Question: To clarify, Furman can envision that all courses go entirely online but the students won't be sent home, and therefore no refunds for room and board in that scenario? Someone mentioned going online but not sending students home earlier.

Answer: Correct. If Furman “shelters in place” and students live in campus housing and take their courses online, there would not be a refund for housing/dining. If students are sent home for the semester, the lost housing and dining would be refunded.

Question: If my student is a commuter, will she be able to participate in on-campus activities?

Answer: Yes, as long as they have not selected the remote-learner only option.

Question: How far away is the Prisma Health facility? If a student has an after-hours emergency is transportation provided?

Answer: Greenville Memorial Hospital is about 7 miles away. The Student Health Center is on campus. We will help get students transported as necessary.

Question: Will students be able to visit with students who live in a single from different residence halls?

Answer: Yes, one visitor per occupant of the room. They will be allowed to have one guest in their room.

Question: Thank you all for all the hard work and careful thought you've put into all of this. Wishing you the very best. Go Dins!

Answer: Thanks.

Question: Are students able to leave campus to visit other places and family?

Answer: Yes, please feel free to make that a memorable family day!

Question: Can students bring their own dishes to prevent waste in the Dining Hall? And will y'all be using single-serve dishware for the pre-packaged items that can be recycled/composted?

Answer: The Department of Health will not permit students to bring their own containers as we do not know if they have been properly cleaned. We are currently using single-serve containers.

Question: Can the early move-in student be in the room during the day, excluding the later students move-in time?

Answer: Yes, they may.

Question: Thank you so much for your time, this was very informative.

Answer: Thanks.

Question: can you tell us about commuter option.

Answer: Students who live in Greenville County may request a commuter exemption and live from home to participate in courses online. They may make that request via email to HousingandResidenceLife@furman.edu.

Question: We are still waiting on an answer about dual credit – when can we expect that?

Answer: Please contact Enrollment Services. They are responsible for evaluating any transfer or dual enrollment credit. If you do not hear back within a few days, please email me.

Question: Will parents be able to help students move in? This is not clear to me.

Answer: Yes, two per student.

Question: What does PAC stand for?

Answer: Physical Activities Center (fitness center).

Question: The academic advisor will be able to assist with add/drop should one class be online and student needs in person, correct?

Answer: That is correct. The student will meet with them once they arrive and can make changes in consultation with the advisor.

Question: I have a senior and a freshman. Can they visit each other in dorms?

Answer: While they cannot visit one another in the residence hall, they can visit in the senior's apartment.