

# SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL

L O S      A N G E L E S

## Student FAQs Regarding the Spring 2022 Semester (and SCALE Periods 3, 4, 7, and 8)

*Prepared and originally posted January 12, 2022*

These FAQs are for Southwestern Law School students and may be revised from time-to-time; these FAQs will be posted on Southwestern's [COVID Information and Updates page](#) (with an email notification sent to students' Southwestern email addresses).

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## COVID-19 Vaccination

### ***Will I be required to get the booster shot against COVID-19?***

Yes. Please see [Dean Dickerson's December 16 email, with subject line "ACTION REQUIRED OVER WINTER BREAK: COVID Booster Shot Requirement."](#) As explained in the email, Southwestern is requiring that all students, staff, faculty, coaches, and volunteers who are eligible to receive a COVID-19 booster shot to do so and upload an updated vaccine card by **January 18, 2022**.

### ***Who is eligible to receive a booster shot?***

You are eligible to receive a booster if you are at least 18 years old and it has been at least 5 months since you received the second Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna injection or at least 2 months since you received the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen's injection.

### ***Is the vaccination policy announced prior to the Fall 2021 semester still in force?***

Yes. The vaccination policy remains in full force for the spring 2022 semester and corresponding SCALE periods. Please see [the October 6, 2021 Student FAQs](#) for policy details.

### ***If I have additional questions about Southwestern's vaccination policy, to whom should I direct those questions?***

Please direct questions to Southwestern's COVID Compliance Manager at [covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:covidmanager@swlaw.edu), to Vice Dean Waisman ([dwaisman@swlaw.edu](mailto:dwaisman@swlaw.edu)), or to Vice Dean Gharakhanian ([agharakhanian@swlaw.edu](mailto:agharakhanian@swlaw.edu)).

## COVID-19 Surveillance Testing and Campus Health and Safety Protocols

### **TESTING**

### ***Is there a COVID testing requirement for returning to campus on January 31?***

Yes. Every student, faculty member (full-time and adjunct), and staff member—regardless of vaccination status—must test with Nobility Health and receive a negative test result before returning to campus for the Spring 2022 semester.

All vaccinated individuals must test with Nobility Health on Tuesday, January 25, or Wednesday, January 26, so that we have sufficient time to receive and process your test results. Nobility will offer on-campus testing on both days. You may also test at one of Nobility's off-campus locations.

Unvaccinated individuals and individuals who have not yet submitted proof of having received a COVID-19 booster must test twice per week, with the initial test on January 25 and a second test on January 28.

For questions related to testing and COVID-19 compliance, **including how to proceed if you cannot test on January 25 or 26 or have tested positive for COVID in the previous 90 days**, please immediately contact COVID Compliance Manager, at [covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:covidmanager@swlaw.edu).

***Is regular testing still required for unvaccinated students?***

Yes. All unvaccinated students, faculty, and staff who come onto the Southwestern campus for any purpose are required to test twice weekly for COVID-19. Unvaccinated individuals include those who have not passed 14 days from receiving the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine or the final dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine.

***Will there be a testing requirement in Spring 2022 for vaccinated students?***

If you are fully vaccinated but have not received and submitted proof of a COVID-19 booster shot (regardless of eligibility for the booster shot) you must test twice per week through Nobility Health.

If you have been notified of being in close contact with a COVID-positive person, then you must test per instructions provided to you by the COVID Manager.

Vaccinated individuals must also test through Nobility Health on January 25 or 26 and on dates that we will announce later in the semester the week following Spring Break.

***Do I need to continue to test after I've tested positive for COVID-19?***

If you have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 90 days and are not in a current isolation period, you have developed antibodies to the virus and your next PCR test results could continue to appear as positive, even though you are no longer symptomatic or contagious.

If you:

- have received a positive test result **from Nobility Health** within the last 90 days, **and**
- are not in a current isolation or quarantine period, **and**
- are asymptomatic,

you do not need to participate in required testing within this 90-day time period. Any testing requirement will resume on the 91<sup>st</sup> day after your positive test from Nobility Health. Although you are responsible for determining when your testing requirement resumes, Southwestern will make every effort to alert you about one week before your testing requirement resumes.

If you received a positive result from Nobility Health, your result is on record with Southwestern and you do not need to supply it. You do not need to provide us with further notification that you will not be testing for the next 90 days. If your positive test was not through Nobility, please write [covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:covidmanager@swlaw.edu).

Positive test results from any source other than Nobility Health typically will **not** be accepted as proof that you can discontinue testing during the 90-day period.

Please contact the COVID Compliance Manager if you have additional questions on this topic.

***Will testing continue to be offered on the Southwestern campus?***

Yes. [Nobility Health](#) provides on-campus COVID-19 testing for Southwestern employees, students, contractors, coaches, and volunteers. All COVID-19 surveillance testing must be administered by Nobility Health. Nobility Health administers COVID-19 tests via a nasal swab. In addition to providing surveillance testing for unvaccinated individuals, Nobility also provides testing for vaccinated members of our community who request testing.

***When is on-campus testing be offered?***

On-campus testing is offered Tuesdays and Fridays from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., starting on January 25. Additional testing will be offered on January 26 from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., in preparation for returning to campus for the Spring 2022 semester.

***Where on campus will testing take place?***

Nobility Health conducts testing on the lower level of the Bullocks Wilshire parking lot.

***Are reservations required for on-campus testing?***

No. Testing is delivered on a walk-up basis. Reservations are not needed (and will not be taken).

***Are there any steps I need to complete before I arrive for the test?***

Yes. It is strongly recommended that you register and complete the onboarding process before arriving for your first testing. Registration and onboarding instructions are detailed in the [Nobility Health COVID Testing Instructions](#).

All individuals who participate in COVID-19 testing with Nobility must sign and return two forms to the testing site at the time of their first test.

- [Authorization for Disclosure and Use of Medical Information](#)
- [COVID Testing Informed Consent & Release](#)

These forms need to be signed and submitted only once for the academic year.

### ***Is off-campus testing still available through Nobility Health?***

Yes. In addition to on-campus Tuesday/Friday testing at the Southwestern campus, Nobility provides testing at its locations in Glendale, South Los Angeles, and Commerce. If unvaccinated individuals from Southwestern participate in surveillance testing at one of Nobility's locations, the surveillance testing must occur on Tuesdays and Fridays (to follow the same testing schedule as on-campus testing). When testing at a Nobility location, during check in, note that you are with Southwestern.

The addresses and hours of Nobility's locations are:

#### **Nobility Health Glendale**

435 Arden Ave (P3 parking level)

Glendale, CA 91203

Hours: Monday through Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location info: Pull into the parking structure of the Medical Building and drive up to P3.

The testing booth is located in the parking lot, and parking is free

#### **Nobility Health Los Angeles**

1709 W Manchester Ave

Los Angeles CA 90047

Hours: Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location info: Storefront location with ample free parking adjacent to the building

#### **Nobility Health East Los Angeles**

1517 Garfield Ave

Commerce, CA 90022

Hours: Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### ***What is Southwestern's relationship with Nobility?***

Southwestern has contracted with Nobility to provide testing to the Southwestern community that's free-of-charge to Southwestern and anyone in the Southwestern community who tests with Nobility. Southwestern does not receive any payment or remuneration from Nobility, nor does it pay Nobility. Instead, Nobility bills insurance or the federal government for the tests. By working with Nobility, Southwestern is able to provide regular testing and timely test results to our community at no direct charge to the school, students, or employees.

### ***I am unvaccinated, not fully vaccinated, or have not received or submitted proof of having received a booster shot. Can I test off campus at a pharmacy, hospital, or testing service other than Nobility Health?***

No. To satisfy Southwestern's testing requirement, you must test through Nobility, either on the Southwestern campus or at one of Nobility's three offsite locations.

***Will I be charged for testing through Nobility?***

No. You will not be charged for COVID-19 testing through Nobility. Nobility will charge your health insurance company for this test. After receiving a test, you may receive an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) from your health insurance company. Please note that this EOB is simply an explanation of your benefits and is **not** a bill.

***I am in a category required to test twice a week (unvaccinated, not fully vaccinated, no booster or proof of booster). May I access the Southwestern campus if I do not test?***

No. You will need to test negative for COVID-19 through Nobility Health each Tuesday and Friday to access any part of the Southwestern campus (other than the testing site itself or curbside pickup for the Bookstore, Print Shop, and KN95 mask distribution). (Students who live in the Residences should consult the [later FAQs](#).)

***Do I still need to test if I'm unvaccinated (or have not received or submitted proof of having received a COVID-19 booster shot) and approved for fully remote modality?***

An unvaccinated student who is approved for a semester-long remote option must test and receive a negative result before entering campus facilities for any purpose, such as studying in the library. You must have tested and received a negative test result within four days of coming to campus for any purpose, other than testing itself. If you do not plan to come to campus, you do not need to test twice a week. The same answer applies to students who have been approved for a semester-long remote option and have not received a booster or submitted proof of having received a booster.

***I am unvaccinated, not fully vaccinated, or have not received or submitted proof of having received a booster shot but have been approved for the semester-long remote option. I would like to come to campus only for curbside pickup for the Bookstore or Print shop? Must I test before coming to campus?***

If you are coming only for curbside pick-up, you need not test. However, you should remain in your car and wear a mask before rolling down a window or opening a vehicle door.

***How will I receive my test results?***

Nobility Health will send a secure link of your test results to you via text and email.

***I am subject to a testing requirement. What if I forget to test on campus one day and cannot get to a Nobility's offsite location that day?***

Immediately email [covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:covidmanager@swlaw.edu), describe the situation, and await an answer. You likely will need to stay off campus until the next testing day. Do not return to campus until you have heard from the COVID Compliance Manager or a dean, or until you receive another negative test result from Nobility Health.

***I have COVID symptoms or have been exposed to COVID and wish to test on campus. May I do that?***

Yes, but please stay in your car and leave campus immediately after the test. We also highly encourage you to communicate with your medical provider.

***How will Southwestern monitor whether unvaccinated students are complying with the testing requirement?***

Nobility Health provides a real-time, continuously updated data dashboard to Southwestern. An assigned employee monitors the testing frequency and test results of every individual who participates in testing with Nobility.

***What happens if I test positive for COVID-19?***

If you test positive for COVID-19 or your doctor thinks that you have COVID-19, you must immediately call Southwestern Security at 213.738.5793, email [covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:covidmanager@swlaw.edu), and follow the [protocols described in these FAQs](#).

***Do I need to report to Southwestern if I have been exposed to COVID-19, suspect exposure, or start experiencing symptoms of COVID-19?***

No, but please do not come to campus. In addition, if you have symptoms of COVID-19, we highly recommend that you talk to a healthcare provider and get a test for COVID-19.

***Must I wait until the next on-campus testing day to retake the test if I suspect a false positive?***

If you suspect a false positive, contact the COVID Compliance Manager ([covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:covidmanager@swlaw.edu)) and discuss the situation. It may be possible for you to re-test at one of [Nobility's off-site locations](#). But, you may have to wait for the next on-campus testing day.

***Who receives the results of my test?***

Southwestern's COVID Compliance Manager will receive the results. They will share individual results with the appropriate county health officials, if needed. They may also share individual results with a small group of senior campus administrators (e.g., Dean, Executive Vice President, Vice Deans, and Dean of Students) on a need-to-know basis. If a student who is required to test fails to test and does not immediately contact the COVID Compliance Manager, the COVID Compliance Manager will share that information with campus administrators who have a need to know (e.g., Dean, Vice Deans, Executive Vice President, Dean of Students, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, and the head of campus security).

***What are the consequences of failing to test when required to do so?***

After a first missed test, the COVID Compliance Manager will notify you about the missed test, alerting you that missing a second test during the semester will result in you being denied campus access privileges for the remainder of the semester and referred to Southwestern's Honor Code Committee.

If you miss a second test, the Dean of Students will email you with the following notifications:

1. You will be referred to Southwestern's Honor Code Committee. The Honor Code Committee will determine whether to initiate proceedings in connection with your failure to participate in COVID-19 testing as required.
2. Effective immediately, your campus access privileges will be terminated for the remainder of the Spring 2022 semester. If you live in the Residences, you must remain in your unit and access the common areas only as absolutely necessary (e.g., for leaving and entering the building, gathering your mail, disposing of trash, etc.). You should not visit other units, sit in the common areas, etc.
3. Accessing any part of the Southwestern campus during the remainder of the Spring 2022 semester will result in your suspension from Southwestern pending an investigation and Honor Code referral and may result in your permanent expulsion from the Law School.
4. If you wish to participate remotely in your classes for the remainder of the semester, you must submit an application to switch from in-person learning to remote learning. The link to the application is here: [Spring 2022 Request for Change in Modality - Formstack](#). Otherwise, you will be recorded as "absent" and withdrawn administratively when you reach the maximum number of absences permitted under law school policy.

***I am concerned about people seeing me test on campus and then making assumptions about my vaccine or medical status. How can I proceed?***

Because vaccinated individuals may choose to test, no one should make assumptions about the vaccination status of an individual who is testing on campus. However, you do have the option to test at [Nobility's off-site locations](#).

***If someone tests positive, will the campus community be notified?***

If we learn that someone has visited campus during the period when they likely were contagious, the campus will be notified via Southwestern email. Southwestern will not identify the person who tested positive in that email.

***If someone in my section or in my courses tests positive, will I be alerted?***

If Southwestern is informed of a positive test result, we will begin a contact-tracing process. If you were reported to be in [close contact](#) with that person, you will be contacted through that process. During that process, you may learn the name of the individual who tested positive. Also,



we will notify all students in a course or section if someone in their course or section tested positive and was physically in class, but will not reveal the person's name.

***If someone in my class tests positive or is diagnosed with COVID-19, will that class be moved online for some period of time?***

Whether a class is moved online for a period of time will depend on the results of the contact-tracing process. But a remote option is one possibility.

***I have additional questions about Southwestern's COVID-19 surveillance testing policy or program. To whom should I direct such questions?***

Please direct such questions to Southwestern's COVID Compliance Manager, at [covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:covidmanager@swlaw.edu).

## **HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

***Will individuals accessing campus be required to undergo temperature screening or other health checks?***

No. Southwestern has adopted a self-screening protocol. Under this protocol, members of the Southwestern community are required to screen themselves for COVID-19 symptoms and are not allowed to access the Southwestern campus if they have such symptoms. By coming to campus, you are representing that you do not have any COVID-19 symptoms.

***Is there a way for me to check my temperature while I'm on campus?***

Yes. Campus security has a touchless thermometer and cleaning supplies at the Bullocks Wilshire desk that you may use to take your own temperature.

***What are the symptoms of COVID-19?***

Symptoms may appear 2–14 days after exposure to the COVID-19 virus and may include fever or chills, loss of taste or smell, cough, headache, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat, fatigue, nausea or vomiting, muscle or body aches, diarrhea, night sweats, and runny or stuffy nose. Please check [CDC's website](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing) for the most current information.

***What should I do if I am sick or experience COVID symptoms or cold- or flu-like symptoms?***

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, we highly recommend that you talk to a healthcare provider and get a test for COVID-19. You should stay home and protect others until you get the result of your COVID-19 test or until your provider tells you that you don't have COVID-19. If you test positive for COVID-19 or your doctor thinks that you have COVID-19, stay at home. If you test negative for COVID-19 or your provider tells you that you don't have COVID-19, stay home until you have been fever-free without the help of fever-reducing medicines for at least 24 hours.

Also, please do not access campus while you are experiencing flu-like or cold-like symptoms; use the [temporary remote option](#).

### ***What protocols should I follow if I test positive for COVID-19?***

Do not come to campus and monitor for symptoms for 10 days following the date of last exposure. Immediately call Southwestern Security at 213.738.5793 and notify our COVID-19 Compliance Manager at [covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:covidmanager@swlaw.edu). Monitor your symptoms closely, and we highly recommend that you talk to a healthcare provider.

If you live in the Residences, do not access common areas in the Residences unless exiting or leaving the building (e.g., for medical appointments); please contact Michelle Tafoya, who can help facilitate mail and deliveries.

Complete the [temporary remote option form](#) and alert your professors. If after Day 10, you continue to experience symptoms, please coordinate with the COVID Compliance Manager – [covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:covidmanager@swlaw.edu) – for further instructions.

The LA County COVID-19 Isolation Instructions for People with COVID-19 is [here](#). Please note that Southwestern's protocol goes beyond the L.A. County Order you will receive if you test positive. You must follow that Order during the period it is in effect, then follow this Southwestern rule.

### ***What qualifies as close contact with a COVID-positive individual?***

A close contact means:

- You were within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period **or**
- You had unprotected contact with their body fluids or secretions. For example, you were coughed or sneezed on, you shared a drinking cup or eating utensils, you kissed, or you cared for them without wearing the right protective equipment.

"Close contacts" are not those who walked by an individual, rode an elevator with the individual, etc.

### ***What protocols should I follow if I suspect or have been notified by Southwestern that I have been in close contact with someone suffering from COVID-19?***

Please note that Southwestern's below protocols go beyond the L.A. County Order.

#### ***For Unvaccinated Students with No Booster, but Eligible for Booster:***

- Do not access campus and monitor for symptoms for 10 days following the date of last exposure
- Complete [temporary remote option form](#) and alert your professors
- If you test negative *with Nobility* and remain asymptomatic, you may return to campus after Day 10

- If you test positive or develop COVID symptoms within 14 days of your exposure, do not return to campus; coordinate with [covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:covidmanager@swlaw.edu) for instructions

**For Vaccinated Students, with Booster, if Eligible:**

- Do not access campus and monitor for symptoms
- Complete [temporary remote option form](#) and alert your professors
- Test with Nobility on or after Day 5
- If receive a negative test result *from Nobility* on or after Day 5, you may access campus
- If you test positive or develop COVID symptoms within 14 days of your exposure, do not return to campus; coordinate with [covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:covidmanager@swlaw.edu) for instructions

All close contacts should wear a high-quality face covering (N95, KN95, or KN94) face covering in all public indoor settings for 14 days after exposure of until a negative test result.

**Generally, how can I reduce the risk of contracting or transmitting COVID-19?**

- Get fully vaccinated and get the booster shot after consulting with your medical provider. Vaccination is the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID-19. It will slow the spread of COVID-19 including variants of the virus. And, it will also help lower the chances of new and more dangerous variants emerging.
- Wear a face covering that fits and filters well.
- Avoid crowded places.
- Wash your hands and/or use hand sanitizer often, especially after being in public spaces where surfaces are touched by many people. Avoid eating and touching your face with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when sick. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, talk to a doctor and get a test. You should stay home and away from others until you get the result of your COVID-19 test or until your provider tells you that you don't have COVID-19.

**Someone just told me they tested positive for COVID-19, or I have interacted with someone on campus who is exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19. What should I do?**

It is primarily their responsibility to inform Southwestern, so encourage the individual to do so. You should also feel free to assist someone in making such reports. You can also report concerns to Southwestern Security at 213.738.5793, [covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:covidmanager@swlaw.edu), or the Dean of Students Office at [deanofstudents@swlaw.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@swlaw.edu).

**Does the law school conduct contact tracing if someone reports a positive case of COVID-19?**

Yes. When the law school's COVID Compliance Manager receives a report of a positive case, whether through Nobility Health or a member of the community, they will quickly start a contact-tracing process.

### ***How does the contact-tracing process work?***

Following public-health guidance and protocols, the law school's COVID Compliance Manager or a member of the COVID Response Team (which includes senior administrators who are on duty after regular business hours) reaches out to the person who has tested positive or been diagnosed with COVID. For calls received by Security at or after 11 p.m., the contact-tracing process normally will begin between 5 and 7 a.m.

To conduct the contact tracing, we use a series of questions designed to learn when and where the person was on campus during the period when the person was likely to be contagious. For students, the questions gather information about:

- Vaccination (including booster) status;
- testing history;
- onset of symptoms (if any);
- COVID symptoms (if any);
- suspected source or point exposure (e.g., a particular event or person);
- when the student was on campus during the relevant period;
- program of study and year (e.g., SCALE II or Evening 4L);
- schedule (e.g., classes, meetings, and other activities);
- whether the individual moved around during class (e.g., for small-group work);
- individuals with whom the person was in close contact;
- whether the person congregated with others before or after class;
- whether the person removed their mask while on campus;
- whether the student lives in The Residences; and
- other information that the individual supplies or that arises from questions prompted by the individual's answers to other questions.

In addition, the law school official conducting the contact tracing consults seating charts for the classes in which the student participated, may speak with the professors or program Dean or director, and may speak with other individuals who might have relevant knowledge.

We then determine who was in close contact with the student, based both on the interview(s) conducted, and class seating charts. If students in a class were moving around or if the class does not have a seating chart, we typically will designate all individuals in the face-to-face classroom as close contacts. In a large class when the students did not move around, we typically designate students within two seats (in all directions) as close contacts.

If we determine that the individual was on campus (or participated in law school activities) during the likely period they were contagious, we then prepare and send different letters: a letter to close contacts (individuals who were within 6 feet of the individual for more than total 15 minutes during a 24-hour period); a letter to those in a class with the individual; and a letter to the campus community. We also notify program Deans and directors and other campus officials, some of whom may have participated in the contact-tracing process on some occasions

(Dean, Vice Deans, Executive Vice President, Associate Dean for Operations and Risk Management, Dean of Students, Associate Dean of Student Affairs).

Concurrently with the interview process, we pull the student's schedule and begin a deep-cleaning process of any areas on campus where the student was during the last 24 hours. This process may cause us to close classrooms and areas of campus and send students to other areas of campus to participate in their classes (which could be moved to remote format for the day).

Based on the totality of the circumstances, we also determine if any classes need to be moved to remote format, either because of the exposure or because we need to clean.

Once the contact tracing process is complete, Southwestern is required to report the gathered information to the LA County Public Health Department within one business day of being notified of the confirmed positive COVID case on campus. The COVID Manager may also follow-up with the positive individual for additional information after the initial tracing is conducted.

If we were to receive multiple calls and emails about positive tests or diagnoses, we would also use the information gathered to confer with the appropriate county public-health officials to determine if the cases are linked and whether any spread may have occurred on campus, at law-school events, or at events where individuals affiliated with the law school congregated.

***How often are classrooms cleaned?***

We clean classrooms every night. In compliance with public-health guidance, when we receive notice of a positive COVID test or diagnosis, as part of the contact-tracing process we determine where on campus the person has been and perform deep cleaning in all areas in which the individual has been during the past 24 hours. We also turn the air scrubbers on high for many hours. And generally, we urge everyone to use good hand and face hygiene.

As you likely know, the science shows that the virus spreads mainly as an aerosol instead of through touch, so we think this layered approach, along with our various air scrubbers and filters, exceeds public-health guidance.

***What if I'm sick right before or on the day of an examination or when an assignment is due?***

Contact the Dean of Students immediately to discuss your situation. Do not contact the professor directly. You will be required to provide documentation from a medical provider to reschedule an exam or to receive an extension on an assignment.

***What if I become sick and feel I cannot complete all of my classes for the semester?***

Contact the Dean of Students to discuss your options, which may include a withdrawal, a leave of absence, dropping some courses, or taking a grade of Incomplete in some or all courses, depending on your particular circumstances.

### ***What if I suddenly feel sick while on campus?***

Campus Security will assist if you suddenly become ill on campus.

- If you are able to, relocate to an exterior location or your vehicle and then contact Campus Security at (213) 738-5793 to advise them of your location; someone will come and help you. If you drove to campus and are well enough, feel free to drive home or to a medical provider.
- A blue tent will also be available on the upper lot of the parking lot; you can go to that location and contact Campus Security.

## **MASKS**

### ***When and where are face coverings (masks) required on the Southwestern campus?***

Per the L.A. County order, all individuals, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, must wear a mask whenever in an indoor space with others. Information on L.A. County's mask requirement can be found [here](#).

### ***Are masks required when I am outdoors on the Southwestern campus?***

Not at this time. Masks are only required indoors. If you are in a crowd outside, a mask will help protect you and others.

### ***If I am alone in a room on campus with the door shut (e.g., in a study room), do I have to wear a mask?***

No. If you are alone in a room with the door shut, you do not need to wear a mask. Otherwise, you must wear a mask at all times while indoors, even if you know the other individual's vaccination status (but please don't ask them!).

### ***What type of mask am I required to wear?***

You **must wear an N95, KN95, or KF94 mask** that fits snugly against your face without any gaps. A mask must not have any visible holes or openings and must cover the nose and mouth. Cloth masks and surgical masks are no longer allowed, unless they are worn as a second mask over an approved mask. In addition, acceptable masks do not include a neck gaiter, scarf, ski mask, balaclava, bandana, turtleneck, collar, or single layer of fabric. Face shields are not a replacement for masks but may be worn with a face mask for additional protection. If you have a disability that prevents you from wearing a face mask, please contact the Dean of Students to discuss your situation.

### ***Will Southwestern distribute KN95 respirators during the Spring 2022 semester?***

Yes. You will receive an email the week of January 17 with instructions about picking up KN95 respirators.

***I'm worried I might forget my mask. Will disposable masks be available for individuals coming to campus?***

Yes, a limited supply of approved masks will be available at the Bullocks Wilshire security desk. All individuals are responsible for bringing their own mask to campus on a daily basis.

***How will Southwestern monitor and enforce the mask requirement?***

Any individual on the Southwestern campus who is not wearing a mask or not wearing their mask properly will be asked to wear one or to adjust their mask so that it covers their mouth and nose and fits properly.

If a professor reminds students in a class to check that their masks are on properly and a student fails or refuses to comply, the professor may ask the student to leave the classroom and will report the student to the Dean of Students Office for Honor Code proceedings.

Law school officials also walk around campus to check on mask compliance. They may provide you with a written notice if you are not wearing a mask (or wearing it properly), especially if you fail to come into compliance when they approach you or if they notice that you regularly are out of compliance.

***What happens if someone violates the mask requirement or another COVID-19 safety protocol?***

Violations of Southwestern's COVID-19 policies and protocols, including the mask requirement, will be considered a violation of the Student Honor Code. Southwestern has the discretion to give a warning for a first offense but may also refer a first offense to the Honor Code Committee. Any student observed to be in violation of the mask requirement will be asked for their student ID and be given a written notice on the spot.

All offenses after the first will be referred to the Honor Code Committee. Pending investigation and final outcome, the alleged violator's campus access may be suspended.

***What if I see someone violating the mask or other safety protocol?***

As a community, we are responsible for each other's safety as well as professional conduct. If you feel comfortable, remind the person about the school's masking requirement and other safety protocols. You can also advise Dean of Students ([deanofstudents@swlaw.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@swlaw.edu)), COVID Compliance Manager ([covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:covidmanager@swlaw.edu)), or one of the Vice Deans ([dwaisman@swlaw.edu](mailto:dwaisman@swlaw.edu); [agharakhanian@swlaw.edu](mailto:agharakhanian@swlaw.edu)) about the situation.

***Will Southwestern continue the Fall 2021 protocols for maintaining the air quality?***

Yes, Southwestern will continue the same practices with respect to ventilation, air filtration, air cleaning, and monitoring, as detailed in the [October 6, 2021 Student FAQs](#).

## Spring 2022 Instruction

### FORMAT

#### ***Will Spring semester instruction be in person and on campus?***

With the exception of some courses that are fully remote (designated as VRTL on Self-Service and listed below), SCALE Periods 4, 7, and 8 and traditional spring courses will be in person and on campus, starting January 31. SCALE Period 3 will remain remote for the entire period.

#### ***Will classes be recorded? If so, where will the recordings be posted?***

Yes. With the exception of a small number of classes where recording is not feasible due to confidentiality (e.g., clinics) or other compelling reasons, classes will be recorded and posted on the Canvas page for the course. A student is not deemed to have attended a class simply by reviewing the recording. Southwestern's plan to record classes is not a guarantee of a successful or an entirely audible recording. Recordings may be limited by available technology, by equipment or technology failure, or by human error. Students who miss a class are encouraged to seek notes from classmates and visit the professor during office hours if they have questions about concepts they missed.

#### ***Are there any special provisions applicable to Spring Break (March 7 to 13)?***

We will have Spring Break from March 7–13. Out of an abundance of caution, classes and operations will be remote the week after Spring Break (the week of March 14–20) so that all members of the community may test with Nobility Health (on campus or at one of Nobility's locations) for COVID-19 before returning to campus. We will provide more details about the testing schedule in February, but anticipate that testing will be required on March 15 or 16 through Nobility Health.

### REMOTE LEARNING OPTIONS

#### ***What if I need to switch mid-semester from in-person to remote learning, or vice versa?***

If a student experiences a **mid-semester change in circumstances**, they should complete the Spring 2022 Request for Change in Modality application to switch from remote to in-person learning, or vice versa. The form is located at [Spring 2022 Request for Change in Modality - Formstack](#).

#### ***What qualifies as a basis for switching to remote for the semester?***

Same reasons as the Fall 2021 semester, with one change as noted below.

- Caregiver for or living with vulnerable individual (e.g., child under 12, or elderly parent)
- Medical Reason (for the student; this category includes a mental health or anxiety issues related to COVID and supported by medical provider form)
- Pregnancy/Breastfeeding



- Unvaccinated, with Southwestern approved medical or religious exemption, and not comfortable coming to campus for a medical reason
- Individual or someone they live with could be regularly exposed to very large crowds and COVID-positive individuals (e.g., first-responder, hospital or medical personnel, frequent traveler through airports).

The following basis is **no longer available** for switching to remote learning: If, due to a student's professors having been granted a semester-long remote option, the student has only one face-to-face class and that class occurs on the same day(s) as their remote classes.

***What if I have temporary circumstances that necessitate remote learning?***

Depending on the temporary circumstances that a student is experiencing, they may participate in classes remotely **for one period of up to seven or fourteen consecutive calendar days**. Requesting either option requires that a student complete [this form](#) **subject to the Honor Code**. Details are provided on the form (including contacting your professors in addition to submitting the form).

Students can request **one** "temporary remote option" during the Spring 2022 semester (and corresponding SCALE Periods); if a student's circumstances warrant asking for the temporary remote option a second time, the request form will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for evaluation.

Your first seven-day request is deemed automatically approved when you submit a completed form.

***What if I'm not feeling well and I've previously used the temporary remote option?***

If you are experiencing COVID, flu, cold, or similar symptoms, do not access campus. Complete the [temporary remote option form](#) and the Dean of Students will follow up with you.

***What if I need a mental health day and would like to participate in my classes remotely?***

Absent an approved accommodation by Southwestern's Accessibility Services, students are expected to participate in classes in person unless approved for a semester-long remote option or qualify for the temporary remote option. Please contact the Dean of Students Office at [deanofstudents@swlaw.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@swlaw.edu) for any mental health related accommodation requests.

***What if a remote student loses internet connection during class? Will they still be marked present?***

A remote student who loses an internet connection should reach out to the professor if they lost the connection during the check-in window and could not mark themselves present. Students also should discuss other connectivity issues directly with the professor.

***If I have been granted the semester-long remote option, can I still come to campus for other reasons?***

We cannot develop and track individual plans for each student. Therefore, we have developed the following parameters, which we believe are consistent with the reasons we granted semester-long remote options. We want remote students to feel like they are members of the law school community, because they are. We'll also continue to offer some events for remote-only students to help them build relationships with faculty, administrators, and other students.

- **Library and study rooms:** Yes
- **Outdoor school events on or off campus:** Yes (subject to restrictions for individual events, which may be limited to individuals who have been vaccinated and boosted)
- **Class sessions on campus:** No
- **Professor office hours:** Attend remote hours
- **Student services (e.g., Financial Aid, CSO):** Remote
- **Bookstore:** Use online shipping or curbside pickup
- **Print shop:** Use online shipping or curbside pickup
- **Writing Center:** All appointments will be remote for Spring 2022
- **Dean's Fellows appointments:** Participate remotely
- **TA sessions:** Participate remotely
- **Student Organization meetings (inside):** Participate remotely
- **Indoor campus events:** Livestream or watch recording
- **Indoor off-campus events:** Do not attend
- **Fitness center:** No
- **School travel (e.g., Honors Programs):** No

If you have a question about anything on this list or an activity not on this list, please contact Dean Dueñez or Mena. **Please note:** If you are unvaccinated or have not received a booster and wish to come to campus for any reason, you will need to comply with the twice-weekly testing requirement described in other FAQs above.

***Will faculty have the option to teach their classes remotely?***

Yes. Just as students with any COVID-related reason may seek a semester-long remote option, faculty with such circumstances may do so as well. Faculty may also move classes online for up to two weeks for a COVID-related reason.

***Which professors will be teaching remotely for the semester?***

You can see in SelfService whether a course is being taught remotely or in person for the semester. The following courses are 100% remote. The classroom column indicates the assigned physical classroom, from which students may participate on campus, when on-campus classes resume.

<b>Professor</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Classroom</b>
BERGER	WILLS AND TRUSTS	BW390
BERGER	ESTATE PLANNING AND DRAFTING	W223
CAMERON	CIVIL PROCEDURE II	W511
CAMERON	SPORT LAW	W431
CAMPBELL	LAWS II: TRIAL PRACTICE 1T	W311
CAMPBELL	LAWS II: TRIAL PRACTICE 2T	W423
CARPENTER	CRIMINAL LAW SEM: SEX CRIMES AX (Tues)	W336
CARPENTER	CRIMINAL LAW SEM: SEX CRIMES EX (Wed)	BW3
CHEW	TRIAL ADVOCACY	BWJDC
CLEARY	TV PRODUCTION LAW	W223
DAVIS	NEGOTIATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION-SCALEI & mini-term	W229
DE GYARFAS	LAWS II: NEGOTIATION 5N	W611
DE GYARFAS	LAWS II: NEGOTIATION 4N	W523
GARLAND	CONST. CRIMINAL PROCEDURE	BW390
GENDRON	ENT. BUSINESS AFFAIRS NEGOT.	BW2
GODOY	EMPLOYMENT LAW SURVEY	W223
JOLLY	EVIDENCE	W329
KNIPPRATH	CONSTITUTIONAL LAW II	W511
LERNER	CIVIL PRETRIAL PRACTICE	W523
MAVIS	TRIAL ADVOCACY	BWJDC
MINKOFF	PRACTICAL LEGAL RESEARCH	BWLRC
NALBANDYAN	BIG & MED. LAW FIRM PRACTICE	W223
NALBANDYAN	REMEDIES - SCALE I	W229
OSTROVE	TAXATION OF BUSINESS ENTITIES	BW1
PALYAN	FAMILY LAW PROC. & PRACTICE	BWJDC
PUGSLEY	LEGAL ARGS MORAL & POL. SEM	BW3
PUGSLEY	CRIM LAW SEM: CONTEMPRY ISSUES	W335
REID	CONST. CRIM. PROCEDURE	W511
RODRIGUEZ	FOUNDATIONS OF LAW & PRACTICE	W311
SARENAS	BANKRUPTCY	W329
SCOTT	INFORMATION PRIVACY LAW	BW2
SCOTT	DRAFTING TECH AGREEMENTS	BW390
SEIGLE	COPYRIGHT – SCALE I	BW1
SHAFIROFF	PROPERTY	W311
SIMONIAN / SKOLNICK	CHILDREN AND THE LAW	W229
VAN LIER / KOKISH	ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY GUILDS	BW370
VAZQUEZ	COMMUNITY LAWYERING CLINIC	BW1
VAZQUEZ	CRITICAL RACE THEORY SEMINAR	BW2
WENGER	EVICTON DEFENSE CLINIC	BW1

***If I am attending classes in person and cannot go home to attend a remote class, what should I do?***

Every class has a designated classroom (see question above) that can be used for remote participation if the class does not meet in-person for some or all of the semester. You can go to that classroom to participate in the remote class but must always sit in your assigned seat per the seating chart. You can also go to any other quiet place on campus in which you can speak without disturbing others (e.g., a study room in the Library). You should not participate in remote classes from Library carrels or open spaces in the Library. **You will need your laptop and headphones to participate in a remote class from campus; based on experience, we encourage students to use wired and not wireless headphones.**

***I attend classes on campus. What happens if I find out that an in-person class has been changed to remote for a day on very short notice?***

Go to the usual physical classroom or find another quiet place on campus to participate in the class with your laptop and headphones. If your classroom is not available, a note will be posted on the door about other available spaces. Please make notes or keep a record about where you sat and who sat near you.

***May I bring a beverage to class and drink it during class?***

You may bring a non-alcoholic beverage to class. But please unmask only for brief moments while you take a sip or use a straw and slip the straw under your mask.

***May I unmask to speak when I am called on in class?***

No. While the L.A. mask mandate is in place, no student may unmask while in class on campus except to take a brief sip of a beverage. We will re-evaluate this answer if the mask mandate is lifted. Please do try to speak up so students in the classroom and students participating remotely can hear.

## **EXAMS AND GRADING**

***How will midterm and final exams be administered this semester?***

Although we continue to monitor the situation, at this point, we anticipate that midterm and final examinations will be administered remotely. We also anticipate having a limited number of on-campus spaces for students who need to take their examinations in person.

***Will exams be open-book or closed-book this semester?***

With a small number of exceptions, we anticipate that Spring 2022 midterm and final exams will be closed-book. Unless an exam is specifically approved for open-book administration, it will be administered in a closed-book format. For Spring 2022 exams, the same protocols and security measures will apply as in the Fall 2021 semester.

**COVID-19 Campus Policies and Protocols**

**CAMPUS ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS**

***May I eat or drink in the Library?***

You may take brief sips of a non-alcoholic drink in the Library, but students may not eat in the Library until further notice.

***Where can I eat indoors on campus?***

Students are encouraged to eat outside. Options to eat outside include the Commons, the Promenade, and the tables set up on the top level of the BW parking lot. If a student has access to a private room (not in the Library), the student may eat in that room, if they are alone and the door is closed.

***Is the Tea Room open?***

The Tea Room will re-open on January 31. We anticipate that the hours will be Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Until further notice, individuals may not eat in the Tea Room. Cash and credit cards are accepted.

***Is the Fitness Center open?***

The Fitness Center will re-open on January 31. For more details, see the October 1, 2021 email from Vivien Lewis titled "Fitness Center Re-Opening Announcement."

***Is the Campus Bookstore open?***

The Bookstore will re-open on January 31. The Bookstore's regular business hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Before January 31, students may contact the Bookstore (and Print Shop) to make an appointment for curbside pickup.

## **OUTSIDE VISITORS TO CAMPUS**

### ***What protocols are campus visitors required to follow?***

We are again limiting visitor access. All visitors to campus must show proof of vaccination and a booster to gain campus access. They can do this by showing their vaccination card, or an accurate image of that card, at the Bullocks Wilshire security desk. Individuals who cannot provide a form of proof will not be granted access. For some events, Southwestern or the event sponsor may require proof of a recent negative COVID test. Exceptions to this rule include but are not limited to delivery persons, prospective students, families of students/prospective students, guests in the residences, legal clinic clients, etc. These visiting individuals must wear an appropriate face covering while on campus.

## **THE RESIDENCES**

### ***What protocols are guests and visitors to The Residences required to follow?***

- All resident guests and visitors are required to wear an approved mask indoors while outside of the resident's unit and in communal shared spaces, regardless of vaccination status. The mask must cover the individual's mouth and nose. Southwestern requires that masks go over the ears and not bandanas or gaiters. Vented masks are not permitted. For more information, see the [Masks FAQs](#).
- All resident guests and visitors present must adhere to personal prevention actions including:
  - Stay home when you are sick.
  - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Wash your hands at a minimum before meals, after using the restroom and after coughing and sneezing.
  - Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and then dispose of the tissue and clean your hands immediately. If you do not have a tissue, use your elbow (not your hands).
  - Do not touch your mouth, eyes, or nose with unwashed hands.
  - Avoid contact with people who are sick. Avoid sharing items such as phones or other devices. If devices must be shared be sure to wipe them down with a disinfectant wipe before and after sharing.
  - Constantly observe distances in relation to other individuals. When possible, maintain the recommended minimum 6 feet separation from individuals outside of your immediate household.

### ***What counts as "inside"?***

"Inside" is any area enclosed with a roof and walls on at least two sides (so hallways outside the apartments are "inside," and the BW parking garage is "inside").

## Travel

### ***What travel policies apply for advocacy team or other school business travel?***

Southwestern's travel policies regarding advocacy teams and other travel for school business are attached at the end of these FAQs.

### ***I am enrolled in an externship and a travel opportunity has come up as part of my fieldwork. May I travel as part of my externship course?***

Please review the Spring 2022 Externship Agreement for the applicable policy.

### ***I have a semester-long remote option. May I travel with an advocacy team or on other school business?***

No, students with an approved semester-long remote option may not travel on school business or using school funds.

### ***Is it okay to travel home or to visit friends on the weekend or during Spring Break?***

Yes, provided that you strictly adhere to the local and CDC guidelines for domestic travel. International travel is not recommended.

### ***What are the current guidelines for domestic and international travel?***

L.A. County's Travel Advisory and Guidance can be found [here](#).

The CDC travel guidelines can be found [here](#).

## Events and Student Organization Activities

### ***Will events be held on campus this semester?***

Some events will be held on campus, but most larger events will either be held remotely or will be livestreamed and/or recorded.

### ***Will in-person events be livestreamed or recorded?***

School-sponsored events will be livestreamed and/or recorded whenever possible. We encourage student organizations to do the same.

### ***Can student organizations hold on-campus events and meetings? If so, must they livestream the events and meetings?***

Student organizations can hold events and meetings on campus but should coordinate in advance with the Associate Dean for Student Affairs to help plan the event or meeting and discuss various considerations, such as how to involve students who are attending classes remotely.

### ***Can student organizations serve food at events?***

Student organizations cannot serve food during an indoor event (even if only a few people are expected to attend in a large room) but can serve food outdoors. Please contact the Associate Dean for Student Affairs to discuss options.

### ***Can student organizations reserve outdoor spaces for events?***

Student organizations can reserve limited outdoor spaces on the Southwestern campus for social mixer events. During 12:30–1:30 p.m. and 5:00–6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, outdoor spaces will be reserved for the general student population to eat lunch and dinner, unless there is an all-school program or other special event approved by the Dean’s Office. General student organization meetings will take place in classroom settings, without food. (They can also be held remotely.) Please complete the facilities usage request form located on the Student Affairs Canvas page to reserve a space on campus. Student organizations can direct questions related to classroom and outdoor spaces to Robert Mena, Associate Dean for Student Affairs at [rmena@swlaw.edu](mailto:rmena@swlaw.edu).

### **Additional Questions**

We understand that many of the topics we are addressing are complicated and that individual students may have fact-based scenarios they would like to discuss with us. Please feel free to reach out to the individuals below, all of whom are glad to address your questions and concerns.

- **Vice Deans Dov Waisman and Anahid Gharakhanian**—general policies; religious and medical exemptions; specific course schedules; remote options. Email: [dwaisman@swlaw.edu](mailto:dwaisman@swlaw.edu); [agharakhanian@swlaw.edu](mailto:agharakhanian@swlaw.edu)
- **Nydia Duenez, Dean of Students and Diversity Affairs**—general policies; ADA accommodations; pregnancy and breastfeeding accommodations; attendance issues; diversity affairs. Email: [nduenez@swlaw.edu](mailto:nduenez@swlaw.edu)
- **Robert Mena, Associate Dean, Student Affairs**—general policies; student organizations and student events. Email: [rmena@swlaw.edu](mailto:rmena@swlaw.edu)
- **COVID-19 Compliance Manager**—specific safety protocols (e.g., contact tracing); medical exemptions; vaccination status; COVID testing. Email: [covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:covidmanager@swlaw.edu)



## COVID-19 Procedures for Employees and Students Traveling on Official School Business

*Administrative policy effective as of September 29, 2021; revised December 28, 2021; revised January 12, 2022.*

- 1. Travel Permitted:** Employees and students may travel on official school business. Vaccinated and unvaccinated employees and students may travel. Students and faculty who have been approved for the semester-long remote option may not travel. Unvaccinated individuals or individuals who have not yet received and submitted proof of a COVID-19 booster who travel must arrange to continue testing each Tuesday and Friday (or on a similar schedule), even while traveling by working with the COVID Compliance Manager ([covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:covidmanager@swlaw.edu)) in advance. This policy applies to all travel paid for with Law School funds of any type. It also applies to all travel in which the individual is serving as an official representative of Southwestern Law School (e.g., AALS meetings), even if another organization is paying some or all of the travel costs. This policy does not apply to advocacy competitions teams, as the Law School has issued separate procedures for those events.
- 2. Pre-travel Notice: Faculty members** who are traveling should notify the Vice Deans at least one month in advance of the travel, or as soon as possible if the trip is less than four weeks out. **Staff members** who are traveling should notify the Associate Dean for Operations and Risk Management at least one month in advance of the travel, or as soon as possible if the trip is less than four weeks out. **Students** who are traveling should notify the Associate Dean for Student Affairs at least one month in advance of the travel, or as soon as possible if the trip is less than four weeks out. We encourage the traveler not to purchase airline tickets or make unrefundable purchases before consulting with the appropriate dean. If the dean receiving the report has concerns about the travel, the dean will alert the COVID Response Team. The COVID Response Team or the Dean may, for good cause based on public-health reasons, deny the travel or place restrictions on the travel.

**3. Travel Protocols:**

- a. General protocols:** Southwestern employees and students should abide by CDC guidelines for travel and any local COVID rules, orders, or protocols.
- b. Masks:** Regardless of the protocols, regulations, or government orders in the city to which the employee or student is traveling, the Law School strongly urges that employees and students wear masks while indoors with others.

**4. Return to Campus:** For travel outside of California, Southwestern students and employees must follow the guidelines below. For travel within California, students and employees may return to campus immediately after the travel, unless they are experiencing COVID or flu-like symptoms or have been exposed to COVID; in those circumstances, they should consult their medical provider and follow the guidelines below.

- a. Fully vaccinated individuals who have had and submitted proof of receiving a COVID-19 booster:** Three to five days after returning to the Los Angeles area, these individuals should test with Nobility Health. After they receive a negative test result, they may return to campus. They should not access campus, except to test, before receiving the negative result, but do not have to quarantine. Students should use the temporary remote option, and faculty should teach their classes remotely between the time they return from the trip and receive a negative test result.
- b. Unvaccinated and partially vaccinated individuals and individuals who have not received and submitted proof of having received a COVID-19 booster:** Unvaccinated and partially vaccinated individuals, and individuals who have not received and submitted proof of having received a COVID-19 booster must continue testing with Nobility Health each Tuesday and Friday. They must not access campus, other than to test, until day eight, and only if their most recent test with Nobility Health is negative. During the seven days, students should use the temporary remote option, and faculty should teach their classes remotely.

**5. Questions:** Questions about this policy should be directed to the Vice Deans (faculty), Associate Dean for Operations and Risk Management (staff), Associate Dean for Student Affairs (students), or the COVID Compliance Manager (any category).

## Advocacy Competition Teams COVID-19 Procedures, 2021–2022

*Administrative policy effective as of September 29, 2021; revised December 28, 2021; revised January 12, 2022.*

1. **Travel Permitted:** Advocacy competition teams may travel during the 2021–2022 academic year. Vaccinated and unvaccinated students, faculty, staff, and coaches may travel. Students and faculty who have been approved for the semester-long remote option may not travel. Unvaccinated individuals and individuals who have not received and submitted proof of a COVID-19 booster who travel must arrange to continue testing each Tuesday and Friday (or on a similar schedule), even while traveling and at the competition, by working with the COVID Compliance Manager ([covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:covidmanager@swlaw.edu)) in advance.
2. **Competition Selection and Travel Approvals:**
  - a. **Honors Program competitions—initial selection:** Honors program faculty co-directors are encouraged to select competitions in states or cities that have enacted science-based COVID-19 public health precautions, such as indoor masking, and that have strong vaccination rates. They should also ensure that the competition sites have effective COVID protocols in place. The COVID Compliance Manager is available to work with faculty co-directors in advance to help evaluate potential competition locations.
  - b. **Student organizations sponsoring competition teams:** For student organizations that plan to send a team to an advocacy competition, the organization’s president or faculty advisor should contact Associate Dean Robert Mena with competition location and dates as soon as possible. He will then serve as the liaison between the team and the COVID Response Team for the preliminary approval, one-month check, and final approvals described below.
  - b. **Preliminary approval:** Before the school or another individual pays the registration or commits any travel funds, the COVID Response Team will evaluate the proposed competition for public health purposes and either approve or deny the request or seek additional information to support the request. For honors program competitions, the faculty co-directors’ choice will be given deference, but the COVID Response Team may deny the request for compelling reasons, including the host city’s (or state’s) approach to COVID-19, lack of effective COVID protocols at the competition, or similar factors. To seek the COVID Response Team’s approval, the faculty co-directors should contact the Vice Deans and provide the competition name, location, travel and competition dates, competition website, competition COVID protocols (links are sufficient), and other information the co-directors believe is relevant. They should also provide

information about the registration deadline, including whether registration is first-come, first-served. The Vice Deans will communicate the COVID Response Team's decision to the faculty co-directors. Absent compelling circumstances, travel to the competition will be approved. The faculty co-directors may then register a team and make travel arrangements. The co-directors are encouraged, where feasible, to make arrangements that can be canceled or changed, if needed. Once travel arrangements are confirmed, the faculty co-directors should provide that information to Associate Dean Mena ([rmena@swlaw.edu](mailto:rmena@swlaw.edu)).

- c. One-month check:** Approximately one month before the start of the competition, the COVID Compliance Manager will review public health information for the competition location, including trends in the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, and any changes in governmental orders or decrees in Los Angeles or the host site that might impact travel. The COVID Compliance Manager will report findings at the next weekly COVID Response Team meeting. After that meeting, the COVID Compliance Manager or a Vice Dean will communicate with the faculty co-directors about whether the Law School has concerns about the team traveling to the competition.
  - d. Final approval:** Approximately one week before the team is scheduled to depart for the competition, the COVID Compliance Manager will review public health information for the competition location, including trends in the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, the number or percentage of ICU beds open, and any changes in governmental orders or decrees in Los Angeles or the host site that might impact travel. The COVID Compliance Manager will report findings at the next weekly COVID Response Team meeting. If a meeting is not scheduled at least five calendar days before the competition team's scheduled departure, the COVID Compliance Manager will email the COVID Response Team with updated information. A Vice Dean will communicate with the faculty co-directors about whether the Law School gives final approval for the team to travel. Absent compelling circumstances, the competition team will be allowed to travel. The Vice Dean may ask the faculty co-directors to communicate safety information to those traveling.
- 3. Practices in Los Angeles:** During indoor practices, students, coaches, and others must wear a mask while a local or school mask requirement is in effect. If a team can practice outdoors, masks will not be required unless a local or school mask order has been extended to outdoor areas.
  - 4. Travel and Competition Protocols:**

- a. **General protocols:** Southwestern Law students, faculty, staff, and coaches should abide by CDC guidelines for travel and any local and competition COVID rules, orders, or protocols.
  - b. **Masks:** Regardless of the protocols or rules in the host city or at the host school or location, the Law School strongly urges Southwestern Law students, faculty, staff, and coaches to wear masks while indoors with others. If the competition rules allow students to compete without masks, they may do so.
- 5. **Return to Campus:** For competitions outside of California, Southwestern students and employees must follow the guidelines below. For competitions inside California, students and employees may return to campus immediately after the competition, unless they are experiencing COVID or flu-like symptoms or have been exposed to COVID; in those circumstances, they should consult their medical provider and follow the guidelines below.
  - a. **Fully vaccinated individuals who have had and submitted proof of receiving a COVID-19 booster:** Three to five days after returning to the Los Angeles area, these individual should test with Nobility Health. After they receive a negative test result, they may return to campus. They should not access campus, except to test, before receiving the negative result, but do not have to quarantine. Students should use the temporary remote option, and faculty should teach their classes remotely between the time they return from the competition and receive a negative test result.
  - b. **Unvaccinated and partially vaccinated individuals and individuals who have not received and submitted proof of having received a COVID-19 booster:** Unvaccinated and partially vaccinated individuals, and individuals who have not received and submitted proof of having received a COVID-19 booster, must continue testing with Nobility Health each Tuesday and Friday. They must not access campus, other than to test, until day eight, and only if their most recent test with Nobility Health is negative. During the seven days, students should use the temporary remote option, and faculty should teach their classes remotely.
- 6. **Questions:** Questions about this policy should be directed to the Vice Deans or the COVID Compliance Manager.