

SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL

L O S A N G E L E S

COVID-19 FAQs for Spring Semester 2023 (including corresponding SCALE Periods, and January Intersession)

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These FAQs will be posted on Southwestern's [COVID Information and Updates page](#) and [Institutional Policies page](#)

Notice of revisions will be emailed to Southwestern email addresses.

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2022-2023 Instruction and Modality of Attendance

Will instruction during Spring 2023 continue to be in person and on campus?

Yes. Except for a limited number of fully remote courses that are announced in advance, and designated courses in the evening hybrid program, instruction for the entire 2022–2023 academic year is in person and on-campus.

We may pivot to online instruction in the following circumstances:

- If the L.A. County Department of Public Health strongly suggests that institutions of higher education shift online.
- If we experience an on-campus surge (in which case we could move certain courses or sections online while continuing in-person instruction for other courses and sections).
- If a large number of Southwestern faculty or staff contract COVID-19 and we are unable for some period to offer in-person instruction.
- Another circumstance impacts our ability to offer in-person instruction (e.g., natural disaster impacting the physical campus).

Is a fully remote attendance option available?

Yes, but only under very limited circumstances, as explained in Southwestern’s COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster Policy Section B, available on the [Institutional Policies page](#). As noted in that section, not all Southwestern courses will be open to students approved for remote attendance (e.g., some experiential courses). Also, students who are approved for remote attendance may be required to take a specific section of a course (whether required or elective) or be required to defer a course.

If I am approved for fully remote attendance, how will I participate in classes?

Remote attendance may be approved on a very limited basis, following an individualized, interactive process. This interactive process will include case-by-case determination of the most appropriate course enrollment and class participation modality. However, most remote attendance will be via Zoom.

Will a COVID-19-related temporary remote option be available?

No.

If I miss class due to COVID-19, will the absence be excused?

No. Southwestern does not have “excused” absences. It is critical, though, that members of the community who are COVID-19 positive or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or any other contagious disease not access campus. If you are absent due to COVID-19 or another contagious disease, email deanofstudents@swlaw.edu about your situation and also keep records about your COVID-19 or contagious disease-related absences in case you exceed the

14% absence limit and are subject to Southwestern's Administrative Withdrawal Policy, which has an appeal provision.

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

Except for a small number of classes (or portions of a class) where recording is not feasible due to confidentiality or other compelling reasons (e.g., the nature of exercises in an experiential course), we have requested faculty to audio-record class sessions and post recordings on the Canvas course page. 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, equipment or technology failure, or 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. Students who attend class in real time may later access the recording; accessing the recording in this situation will not impact your attendance for the class.

Examinations and Assessments

How will midterm and final exams be administered?

All midterm and final examinations will be in person and on-campus, even if the course is being taught remotely. We will be prepared to pivot to remote administration of exams in case of a surge or other circumstance that renders on-campus exam administration unsafe or unfeasible. We will also work with students approved for remote attendance to provide appropriate testing space.

Will exams be open-book or closed-book?

With a small number of exceptions that professors will note in the course syllabus, midterm and final exams will be closed-book.

COVID-19 Campus Health and Safety Protocols

VACCINATION POLICY

What is Southwestern's COVID-19 vaccination policy?

Southwestern requires proof of full and up-to-date vaccination against COVID-19 (including the first booster). Please see Southwestern's [COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster Policy](#) Section C.

Does Southwestern accept the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes, as of July 2022, Southwestern accepts the Novavax vaccine.

I have not previously sought an exemption from the vaccination requirement but wish to do so now. May I still request an exemption?

Southwestern may allow vaccine and booster exemptions when an individual has a documented medical condition that contraindicates a COVID-19 vaccination or booster or when an individual holds a sincere religious belief, practice, or observance that is contrary to receiving a COVID-19 vaccination. Southwestern may also allow a deferral if an individual is pregnant. Please see Southwestern's [COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster Policy](#) Section F. The deadlines for requesting the exemptions for the 2022–2023 academic year have passed; however, if your circumstances have changed (e.g., newly pregnant), please see the [COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster Policy](#).

TESTING

Does Southwestern have a COVID-19 testing requirement?

As of January 1, 2023, Southwestern will not require COVID-19 surveillance testing and will not be offering testing on campus. Southwestern will retain a relationship with [Nobility Health, Inc.](#), which will allow students and employees to continue testing on a voluntary basis at [Nobility's locations](#), at no charge to the individual or school. Nobility offers PCR and rapid testing.

Southwestern reserves the right to reinstitute surveillance testing, with appropriate notice, in response to changes in the public-health situation.

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.

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.

How will I receive my test results?

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

Who receives the results of my test?

Southwestern's COVID-19 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, Vice Deans, and Dean of Students) on a need-to-know basis.

Are there any steps I need to complete before I test?

Yes. It is strongly recommended that you register and complete the onboarding process before arriving for your first testing. The testing instructions and consent forms are located on Southwestern's [Institutional Policies](#) page.

INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19, ARE CLOSE CONTACTS, OR HAVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

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

If you test positive for COVID-19 or your doctor thinks that you have COVID-19, do not come to campus. Immediately email Covidmanager@swlaw.edu and follow the protocols described in these FAQs and the COVID-19 Compliance Manager's instructions. If you believe instructions provided by the COVID-19 Compliance Manager are contrary to the instructions in these FAQs, follow the COVID-19 Compliance Manager's instructions, as L.A. County and Southwestern regularly review and update their COVID-19 protocols, and the COVID-19 Compliance Manager will have information about your particular circumstances.

Generally, you must remain off campus and in isolation through at least Day 5 after testing positive, and you may be required to remain off campus through Day 10. Under [L.A. County rules](#), the day an individual tests positive is considered Day 0. If you test negative on Day 5, you may return to campus on Day 6 if you also have been fever-free for 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medicines and have no symptoms of COVID-19 or existing symptoms are improving. If you test positive on Day 5, you must remain in isolation through Day 10 or until the day after you test negative, whichever comes sooner—if you also have been fever-free for 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medicines and have no symptoms or existing symptoms are improving. For example, a person who tests negative on Day 7 may return to campus on Day 8 (assuming the other conditions are met).

If you return to campus before Day 11, you must wear an N95, KN95, or KF94 mask indoors while with others through Day 10.

You should alert the COVID-19 Compliance Manager the day before you intend to return to campus.

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

Yes, if you have been on campus within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms or a positive test result, email Covidmanager@swlaw.edu. Also, please do not come to campus if you have tested positive or have COVID-19 symptoms (see the answer immediately above). 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.

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 COVID-19 Compliance Manager will notify the campus 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 and the person accessed campus within 48 hours of the positive test or experiencing symptoms, 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.

Someone in the Southwestern community 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, or the Dean of Students Office at deanofstudents@swlaw.edu.

What qualifies as close contact with a COVID-19-positive individual?

Per the [L.A. County Public Health Department](#), you are a "close contact" if you shared the same indoor airspace with someone with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period while they were infectious.

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?

When asymptomatic:

- You are not required to quarantine if you are not experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19.
- You must test with Nobility or another provider, or by using a self-administered rapid test, between Days 3 and 5 after the date of last exposure. Day 0 is the day of the last contact or exposure with the infected person, and Day 1 is the first full day after the

last exposure. However, if you have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, you do not need to test unless you develop symptoms.

- From Day 1 through Day 10, you must wear an N95, KN95, or KF94 mask while indoors on campus in common areas or when around others indoors.
- If you test positive for COVID-19, you must follow the protocols in the above section pertaining to COVID-19-positive individuals.

When symptomatic: If you develop symptoms, you must quarantine and not access campus. You must also contact the COVID-19 Compliance Manager (Covidmanager@swlaw.edu) as soon as possible to discuss your situation and follow the COVID-19 Compliance Manager's instructions. If you return to campus before Day 11, you must wear an N95, KN95, or KF94 mask while indoors on campus in common areas or when around others indoors.

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

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 must not access the Southwestern campus if they have such symptoms. By coming to campus, you are representing that you are not COVID-19 positive and do not have any COVID-19 symptoms.

Can I check my temperature while I'm on campus?

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

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Does Southwestern have a masking policy?

Yes. Southwestern has adopted a phase-based system to determine when and where individuals will be required to wear masks indoors on the Southwestern campus. Please see [Southwestern's Indoor Masking Policy](#).

How is the air quality in the classrooms maintained?

Classrooms (as well as the Fitness Center) have air filters, air scrubbers, and air monitoring.

If I have been approved for remote attendance, may I come to campus for other reasons?

Individuals who have been approved for remote attendance have indicated that they must be remote to protect their own health and/or the health of a vulnerable individual for whom they are the primary caregiver; they have completed an extensive questionnaire and engaged in an interactive process with Southwestern administrators. While we want remote students to feel like they are part of the Southwestern community, they rarely should be on campus and should

participate in activities remotely. And if on campus, they generally should wear a highly protective mask, per Southwestern's current mask phase. If a student approved for remote attendance has a question about whether they may come to campus for a reason not listed below, they should contact Covidmanager@swlaw.edu before coming to campus. Coming to campus for reasons not approved or listed below may result in revocation of the student's ability to attend classes remotely.

- Library: Yes, with a mask; may reserve and use a study room alone; may not be in a study room with other individuals.
- Outdoor school events on or off campus: Must contact the COVID-19 Compliance Manager in advance
- 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: Participate remotely
- Dean's Fellows appointments: Participate remotely
- TA sessions: Participate remotely
- Student organization meetings (indoor): Participate remotely
- Indoor campus events: Participate remotely or watch recording
- Indoor off-campus events: Do not attend
- Fitness Center: May not use
- School travel (e.g., Honors Programs): No

Will the Tea Room (café) be open?

Yes. The Tea Room will be open and individuals may unmask while actively eating or drinking. Outside covered eating areas are set up on the upper deck of the parking garage (Bullocks Wilshire). Outside eating areas are also available in the Student Commons and the Promenade (Westmoreland).

Will the Fitness Center be open and are reservations needed?

The Fitness Center will be open. In addition to those who are fully vaccinated, membership will now extend to those with an approved exemption.

Effective November 7, 2022, when Southwestern is in the green phase of the [Indoor Masking Policy](#), reservations will no longer be required for members to access the Fitness Center. The Fitness Center reservation system will be implemented under the yellow and red phases only.

The Fitness Center will continue to require the following:

- Membership process through Administrative Services, W100, prior to accessing the facility
- Southwestern ID card access
- Member sign-in at the front desk upon entering the facility

Events and Travel

May student organizations hold on-campus events?

Yes. Please coordinate all events with the Student Affairs Office.

May student organizations serve food indoors during on-campus events?

Generally, yes. Please coordinate in advance with the student Affairs Office.

May student organizations hold off-campus events in indoor spaces?

Generally, yes. Please coordinate in advance with the student Affairs Office.

Are visitors allowed on campus?

Yes. For details, see the General Visitor Access Policy During COVID policy and the Alumni, Trustee, and Board Member COVID-Related Campus Access Policy; both policies are posted on the [Institutional Policies](#) page.

Does Southwestern have any current COVID-19-related travel restrictions or policies?

Not at this time. Prior policies and restrictions have been lifted.

Additional Questions

If I have additional questions, to whom should I direct those questions?

- **Vice Deans Anahid Gharakhanian and Julie Waterstone**—general policies; academics. Email: agharakhanian@swlaw.edu; jwaterstone@swlaw.edu
- **Nydia Duenez, Dean of Students and Diversity Affairs**—ADA accommodations and class absences due to COVID-19. Email: nduenez@swlaw.edu
- **COVID-19 Compliance Manager**—questions related to vaccination policy, exemptions, pregnancy deferrals, testing, and remote attendance requests based on caregiver categories described in Southwestern's [COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster Policy](#). Email: Covidmanager@swlaw.edu