

CARDOZO LAW

BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO SCHOOL OF LAW • YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

FALL 2020 REOPENING PROTOCOLS

July 28, 2020

As New York City moves through the phases of reopening and the situation continues to evolve, so too must our plans for all aspects of life at Cardozo, including academics, events, social gatherings and career development opportunities. Faculty and administrators have been working throughout the summer to build a new and exceptional student experience intended to ensure safety without compromising academic rigor. The University is following guidance from the CDC, New York State and New York City. We will continue to communicate transparently with you every step of the way.

Over the summer, New York has “flattened the curve,” enabling the city and state to move through several phases of reopening, though the pandemic has continued to spread nationally. While there is no way to completely eliminate the risk presented by COVID-19, we have developed a plan that layers several approaches—health screening, physical distancing, and cleaning—to reduce that risk.

The key to this approach is to understand that we are a community, and we are all in this together. To successfully manage the risk of COVID-19, we must commit to the health and well-being of the community as a whole. Achieving a return to in-person classes and work will require all members of our campus and community to make a commitment to abide by our health and safety protocols. At the heart of this commitment is the tenet that each member of our community is responsible not only to protect themselves, but also to protect others.

Yeshiva University has been consulting with infectious disease specialists from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and other medical professionals over the past several months on plans to reopen its campuses for the Fall 2020 semester. It has put together protocols for daily symptom monitoring and has been mapping out classrooms and otherwise working to implement federal, state and local guidelines.

In addition, the University has consulted with other health professionals to design an app for students and faculty to monitor their health and self-report symptoms. The medical director for the University will continually review plans and establish contingency plans should there be a spike in cases of COVID-19 in our region.

Each of us must change our behavior in order to protect the health of every member of our community. We each play a role in mitigating risk using the variety of tools we outline here: maintaining social distance; wearing face masks; planning our class schedules; cleaning and disinfecting shared areas; testing and monitoring health status; contacting tracing and reporting; and limiting the number of individuals in the building at any given time.

COVID-19 remains a rapidly evolving situation, and the protocols set forth herein are subject to change. The Cardozo website has information and updates, outlined below.

<https://cardozo.yu.edu/updated-fall-2020-plans>

This document includes information about reopening the law school building after its closure in Spring 2020; future communications will detail our protocols for maintaining health and safety during the semester, including contingency plans should we experience an increase in COVID-19 cases in New York or within our community.

A. Entering the Cardozo Building: Employee and Student Screening

Class times and seat assignments have been staggered to reduce congestion at the Fifth Avenue entrance. We will begin the semester by using only this entrance. Six-foot markers will be placed on Fifth Avenue. No visitors will be allowed in the building other than faculty, staff and students attending classes or with reserved study space (this policy may change as the semester progresses).

To enter the building, each person must have submitted a negative COVID-19 test, complete a daily symptom monitoring checklist and have a temperature check. Anyone traveling to New York must abide by New York State's Travel Advisory quarantine restrictions and other guidelines, which are set forth here: https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory#_ga=2.91596122.1564826479.1595858886-1521229276.1588183903

1. The COVID-19 swab test

All employees (faculty and staff) and students must obtain a *swab* COVID test dated no longer than two weeks prior to entering the Cardozo building for the first time since the COVID-19 outbreak. The University's employee and student health insurance plans will cover this test; those with alternate insurance plans should consult their respective providers. For a list of testing sites, visit this page: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/get-tested/covid-19-testing.page>

- Employees will submit their test results to Human Resources at COVID_HR@yu.edu
- All upper level and LL.M. students (returning and new) will submit their test results to CSLcovidtest@yu.edu.
- May and Fall 2020 1L students should submit test results to CSLcovidtest1L@yu.edu.

Please keep in mind that test results may be delayed by up to 10 days due to nationwide demand, and plan accordingly. An employee or student with a negative test result will be cleared to return to campus. Those with a positive test result will be required to remain home and to contact their medical provider. They will not be permitted to return to campus until they have completed the designated quarantine period and can provide a letter from their medical provider clearing them to return. Positive test results will be reported by the testing lab to the local health department for state mandated contact tracing. The

University will work closely with tracing services. The Office of Student Services is standing by to offer support to any student who becomes ill.

2. Daily Symptom Monitoring

In an ongoing effort to carefully monitor our community, each employee and student who is cleared to return to campus must conduct symptom monitoring every day before entering the building. Monitoring will be conducted primarily through a University-approved free smartphone application; if you do not have a smartphone, you may fill out a paper form that will be available at the security desk. The app will ask you a number of questions, including whether you are experiencing any symptoms from a given list, whether you have been in any high-risk environments, and whether you have traveled outside the United States or within a U.S. state under a travel advisory within the past 14 days. Questions on the app are subject to change as more information emerges about the virus.

If you answer “no” to all of the questions, your app will show a green light. Upon displaying this result to the security guard, you may proceed with the next step for entering the building. If your app does not glow green, you will not be allowed to enter the building.

3. Temperature Test

A member of the security staff or other personnel will take each person’s temperature at the building entrance, using a contact-less thermometer. Those with a temperature below 100 F will be allowed to enter the building. Those with a temperature at or above 100 F will be asked to leave, told to consult their medical provider for next steps and report those next steps to Human Resources (employees) or the Dean of Students (students). Anyone sent home will not be permitted to return to the building until cleared by Human Resources (employees) or the Dean of Students (students).

Students are advised to take their temperature before going to school in order to avoid missing a class if they are not permitted to enter the building.

B: Inside the Cardozo Campus

1. The Cardozo Compact: Our Commitment to Community

Achieving a return to in-person classes will require all members of the Cardozo community to commit to abide by our health and safety protocols. At the heart of this commitment is the tenet that each member of our community is responsible for protecting others in addition to themselves.

Each student must sign and abide by the Cardozo Compact, which will require compliance with our health and safety protocols. Any student who violates the Compact will be asked to leave the building and may be subject to disciplinary action, which may include being barred from the building for the duration of the pandemic, or even suspension or dismissal from the school for serious infractions.

- **Masks are required.** Every person at the law school is required to wear a face mask/covering in the building when in the presence of others and in public settings (e.g., common workspaces, meeting rooms, classrooms, elevators, hallways etc.) Exceptions will be made for individuals working alone in a confined office space, children under the age of two, or for

those eating in designated eating areas. Disposable masks will be provided for those who have not brought their own. Disposable masks must be thrown out after one use; cloth masks should be washed after each wearing.

- ***Social Distancing of six feet or more must be maintained at all times unless impossible.*** Current guidelines recommend a distance of at least 6 feet between people. High-traffic areas in the building will be marked at 6-foot intervals.
- ***Comply with room limitations, distance markers and directional signs.***
- ***Practice good hand-washing hygiene.*** According to the CDC, gloves are not necessary for general use and do not replace good hand hygiene. Washing your hands often is considered the best practice for common everyday tasks. Gloves will be required for medical personnel, food service personnel, housekeeping and maintenance personnel and those accepting and distributing mail and packages.
- ***Avoid informal group gatherings in the building.*** Security will be working to ensure rules for safety. Please do not congregate in hallways or public spaces.

2. Upgraded heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems

The University has taken steps to reduce the likelihood of the HVAC system spreading COVID-19 on the Cardozo campus. The University has:

- Increased the flow of fresh air into the building and opened outside air dampers to the extent possible to minimize the recirculation of air
- Installed new filters, which will be inspected and changed with regularity as recommended
- Followed all CDC and other relevant guidelines

3. Enhanced cleaning protocol

- a. Facilities will be deep-cleaned each day.
- b. Surfaces in classrooms, including teaching podiums, desks and chairs will be cleaned between every class. We have staggered class times to facilitate room cleaning.
- c. Disinfecting wipes will be available in all rooms for those who wish to wipe down surfaces.
- d. High-touch surfaces in public areas, such as doorknobs, elevator buttons, etc. will be wiped down regularly throughout the day,
- e. Wherever possible, doors will be propped open with doorstops to minimize the need to touch door handles.

4. Occupancy Limits and other Logistics

- There will be occupancy limit signs on the doors to each classroom.

- There will be occupancy limits posted on the door to each bathroom; smaller bathrooms will have an occupancy limit of 1 person at a time; larger bathrooms will have tape over stalls and signs indicating which stalls may be used.
- We are waiting for New York City inspection and approval of our newly modernized Elevator 4 (the Fifth Avenue elevator). Occupancy limits will be posted on all elevator doors. One elevator will be designated as an Express elevator to the 7th floor library entrance. Anyone traveling to and from classes on floors 1-3 will be asked to use the stairs unless they have a physical disability.
- Signs will be posted throughout the building. 6-foot markers will be in place by the elevator banks, at the entry to the law school, and on Fifth Avenue in front of the building.

We appreciate your careful attention to the safety and health of all members of the Cardozo Law School community. We look forward to working together to make this a vibrant and productive semester for all.