

Augustana College COVID Alert Levels

As we resume operations under the COVID-19 mitigation efforts outlined in Augustana Strong, it is important that our community is aware of the factors that the College will consider in assessing the risk presented by COVID-19.









The College will operate under one of four alert levels: Level 1- Low Alert/New Normal, Level 2- Moderate Alert, Level 3- High Alert, and Level 4 – Very High Alert. Movement between these alert levels will be informed by the indicators listed below, including the positivity rate on campus and in Rock Island County, the number of new cases, the College’s ability to link new cases to known cases, and the continuous ability to quarantine and isolate where necessary. Also identified in the chart below are other factors that will inform the College’s determination of the alert level. Of course, these factors and the operational impact of any particular level may be modified as new information, best practices and experience warrants.

The College Cabinet will monitor these factors on a frequent basis, and will determine movement between alert levels. Consultation with public health experts will continue, and any movement to Level 4- Highest Alert will include the Augustana College Board of Trustees. Changes in alert levels will always be informed by both the data and by the College’s judgment of current conditions. It is also important to understand that the College may, in response to a specific indicator or indicators, increase the operational restrictions in a particular area or areas to a higher alert level without moving to that higher alert level for all operations. This will allow for more targeted responses to current conditions and the COVID-19 risk they present. Augustana Community members must be prepared, however, to move to a higher alert level with little advance notice.

We are beginning the academic year at a Level 2/Moderate Alert level. We have numerous mitigation strategies in place for this level as outlined in “Augustana Strong,” some of which have been updated even since its August 10, 2020 publication. The College’s current alert level and mitigation strategies, as well as highlights of operating conditions, will be available online at: www.augustana.edu/augustana-strong.

Alert Level	Level 1: Low – New Normal	Level 2: Medium – Moderate Alert	Level 3: High – High Alert	Level 4: Very High-Highest Alert
Campus Operations	New Normal Campus Operations	Modified Campus Operations	Limited Campus Operations	Essential Campus Operations
DISEASE CONTROL INDICATORS				
Indicator	Low	Medium	High	Very High
Campus Positivity Rate*	<5%	5% - 9%	10% - 14%	15% or Higher
Rock Island County Positivity Rate	<5%	5%-9%	10% - 14%	15% or Higher
# Daily New Cases on Campus (measured over 7-14 day period)	Stable or Decreasing Cases	Stable to Moderate Increases	Moderate to High Increases	Sustained High Increases
# Daily New Cases in Rock Island County	Stable or Decreasing Cases	Stable to Moderate Increases	Moderate to High Increases over a 7 day period	Sustained High Increases over a 7 day period
Isolation/Quarantine Capacity	<50% isolation and quarantine beds in use, whether on or off campus	50%-74% isolation and quarantine beds full	75% isolation and quarantine beds full, without ability to meet excess demand off campus	Continued low quarantine capacity over a 14 day period, without ability to meet excess demand off campus
*To determine the most reliable positivity rate, the college may increase the sample size if the initial sample size for determining positivity rate is of concern.				

OTHER FACTORS FOR ESCALATING & DE-ESCALATING ALERT LEVELS

State of Illinois and Rock Island County – Mandates & Orders	In person instruction allowed with full or near to full occupancy/state and local mandates lifted	<i>Increasing Restrictions</i> 	Shelter in Place Order
Testing Capacity on Campus	Testing readily available on campus or in community with timely results	<i>Decreasing Testing Availability</i> 	Test difficult or impossible to obtain in timely manner
Forward Contact Tracing	Contacts identified and effectively quarantined	<i>Decreasing Contact Identification</i> 	Unable to identify and/or quarantine contacts
Overall Campus Experience	Faculty available to teach live classes, in-person student activities and experiences available, campus dining services available to students	<i>Increased Remote Only Options</i> 	All classes and student activities are remote; Essential Campus Operations only
Campus Prevention Compliance	Widespread compliance with any applicable campus prevention policies	<i>Decreasing Compliance</i> 	Widespread failure to comply with campus prevention policies
Hospital Stress in Quad Cities & Treatment Capacity	80% or more beds available in local hospitals	<i>Decreasing Hospital Capacity</i> 	Less than 20% of ICU, Medical or Surgical Beds available in local hospitals, combined with sustained increase in hospital admissions
Experience of Comparators	Similarly situated schools able to effectively control disease transmission through mitigation efforts	<i>Decreasing Effectiveness of Mitigation Efforts</i> 	Similarly situated schools experience widespread COVID-19 transmission and positivity rates
Status of Therapies & Vaccines	Therapies widely available to minimize risk of COVID and/or vaccine available	<i>Increasing Risk of COVID Transmission</i> 	No Vaccine/Therapies minimally available

Campus Operations by Alert Level

	Level 1: Low - “New Normal” Campus Operations	Level 2: Medium – Modified Campus Operations as outlined in Augustana Strong	Level 3: High – Limited Campus Operations	Level 4: Very High - Essential Campus Operations
Academic Program	All or most instruction in person with full or near to full occupancy in classrooms	Classroom density restrictions in place; minimal classes with more than 30 people	Classroom density restrictions in place & may be increased; increased courses may be offered remotely	All instruction is remote
Employees	Employees working on-site	Employees with workplace modifications or accommodations work from home; workplace de-densification in place	Increased Remote Work for those employees whose work can be done from home; workplace de-densification may be increased	Essential staff for on campus work only; all other employees work remotely, as possible
Employee Travel	Normal restrictions on Employee Travel in place	Increased Restriction on Employee Travel	Very limited Employee Travel	No Employee Travel, except as authorized by a Cabinet member
College Dining	Full dining service provided with few to no restrictions	Dining service available with increased grab and go options and other service restrictions ; increased cleaning protocols	Limited dining service available with increased grab and go options and possible increased limitations on dine in options	Very limited grab and go options available

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Campus Visitors	No Restrictions, or very limited restrictions, on Campus Visitors	Visitor Restrictions in Place	Visitor Restrictions in Place	No Campus Visitors
Community Transmission Mitigation Efforts	Mitigation efforts decreased as conditions warrant	Daily Screening and Temperature Checks required for all community members; regular hand washing; physical distancing requirements in place; masks required of all community members; Increased cleaning protocols	Mitigation efforts may be increased, including increased health screening and temperature checkpoints	Mitigation efforts may be increased
Residence Halls	Residence Halls open to full occupancy	Residence Halls open with reduced occupancy; common-use areas limited; new cleaning protocols in place	Temporary closure of one or more floors, wings, or full residence halls, or common-use spaces within residence halls	Residence Halls closed, where possible
Athletics	No restrictions on athletic practice or competition	Restrictions on or elimination of practice and/or competition in place; NCAA	Restrictions on practice and/or competition in place; may be increased	No athletic practice or competition

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		Resocialization of Collegiate Sport guidelines and requirements in effect		
Student Travel Off Campus	Normal Restrictions on student travel to off campus locations	Restrictions on student travel to off campus locations may be implemented	Restrictions on student travel to off campus locations in place, very limited exceptions	Shelter in Place
Student Gatherings – not sponsored by Augustana	Normal Restrictions on Student Gatherings	Non Augustana Sponsored gatherings must allow for social distancing, masking, and consist of groups of no more than 50 individuals	Non Augustana-sponsored on-campus and off-campus student gatherings are limited to 10 individuals, with social distancing and masking requirements in place	Additional restrictions on student gatherings may be imposed
Students & Off Campus Entertainment Venues	Normal Restrictions	Normal Restrictions	Students visiting entertainment and dining venues should use outdoor spaces, wear mask, and honor social distancing	Additional restrictions may be imposed
Student Travel, International & Domestic	Normal restrictions on Student Travel	Increased restrictions on student travel	Increased restrictions on student travel	Increased restrictions on student travel

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Community COVID Testing	College may conduct volunteer-based community testing on an infrequent basis	At least 10% of community tested on volunteer basis on a weekly basis	Testing frequency and percentages may increase and/or may be mandatory	Testing TBD; Negative test may be required to return to campus
Campus Ministries	All services and activities resume as normal	Chapel Service offered remotely or in groups under 30 in spaces that allow for social distancing; limited in person, small group meeting activities may be offered	All services and activities remote	All services and activities remotely or online
On Campus Events	Normal restrictions on event location and size	Events with 30 or fewer people may be held outside or in locations that allow for social distancing	Additional restrictions of on-campus events may be imposed	No on campus events
Campus Rentals to Outside Groups	Campus spaces available for rent under normal guidelines	Rental restrictions In Place, including 10 or fewer attendees, unless otherwise approved by Cabinet	Increased rental restrictions in Place	No campus rentals