



Pre-Arrival Information

Keeping our students safe is Thiel's number one priority as we battle COVID-19. There are many things that we would like you to know regarding how the institution will be dealing with this virus. As we have seen, the landscape around COVID-19 is always changing, and we will be making adjustments throughout the fall and summer per recommendations by local and state health officials. Thank you for doing your part to make Thiel College a safe community.

BEFORE ARRIVING TO CAMPUS

What should I pack? Please bring fewer items this year.

We are asking students to bring as few items to campus as possible. While it is important to bring enough items to make your living space feel like home, please remember to be mindful of this request. For example, bringing heavy winter clothes may not be necessary as you will be returning home for the semester at Thanksgiving.

Also, please bring **hand sanitizers** and **sanitizing wipes** for your own living space. We are also asking that you bring **face coverings** as well. Thiel will be providing two washable, reusable face coverings to each student, but we ask that students bring their own as well. Extra face coverings will come in handy when needing to wash the coverings Thiel provides, and in the case that your face coverings get lost or damaged.

Student Safety Plans

Each student is required to provide a "Safety Plan" to Residence Life prior to arrival on campus. This plan will help students prepare for the possibility that they will need to quarantine, isolate, or quickly leave campus due to closure of housing facilities. The following information will be requested as part of the plan, and students can [click here](#) to submit their plan now.

- Where you will go if we need to transition to remote instruction due to the pandemic
- Do you have a transportation plan for getting home or to an off-campus location if we need to quickly transition to remote instruction?
- Do you have a registered vehicle on campus or are they dependent on public transportation?
- How quickly can you get to their designated location given transportation options?
- Are plans in place at your designated location should quarantine or isolation be needed?
- Do you have access to reliable internet should you have to relocate?

COVID-19 TRAINING

All students will also be asked to participate in a COVID-19 training through our Safe Colleges website. The link to the training will be going out to all students soon and we ask that it is completed before August 17.

MEDICAL PAPERWORK

The tab below, will take you to the page of the Thiel website where mandatory paperwork needs to be filled out

NEW STUDENTS: All 3 forms listed need to be filled out and submitted before arriving on campus

RETURNING STUDENTS: Only the COVID-19 screening form is mandatory before arriving on campus

https://www.thiel.edu/campus_life/health-and-wellness

MOVE-IN PROCESS

Students will be asked to move the vast majority of their belongings to their Fall 2020 housing space between August 2nd and August 8th. Each student will receive an e-mail through a software product called SignUp Genius. That e-mail will give the student an option of what days and time frames are available for moving in.

We do ask that each student only bring 1-2 helpers to assist in moving belongings, to help with physical distancing. Students and helpers will also be required to visit a screening station prior to entering facilities and facial coverings will be mandatory in the buildings while moving in items. We ask that all students enter through the main entrance of the HMSC to grab their room key, and that is where the screening station will be as well. Thiel College housekeeping will be increasing cleaning during the move-in periods also.

After moving items in, students will return home and then arrive back to campus on their scheduled arrival date. Below are the scheduled arrival dates for First-Year, Transfer and Returning Students. Students involved in campus organizations arriving early will be contacted by the coach or director of that activity with more information about their arrival date.

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| First-Year Students | Saturday, August 15 |
| Returning & Transfer Students | Sunday, August 16 |

If you have any questions regarding the move-in process please contact Bob Phillips, Director of Residence Life, at 724-589-2011 or at rphillips@thiel.edu

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU RETURN TO CAMPUS

SCREENING STATIONS

Every day, each student will need to be screened before entering college facilities. The screening stations will be staffed by college personnel and they will be asking questions related to symptoms of COVID-19 and taking temperatures. The staff member will be using a no-touch infrared thermometer to take temperatures. If students record a temperature of below 100 degrees and are experiencing no symptoms, they will have passed the screening.

At that point, each student will receive a color-coded wrist band to signify approval to access facilities for the day. Staff and faculty will be checking to see if students have a wristband before allowing entry into an office, classroom, dining spaces, and other facilities.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

As students return to campus, they will be encouraged to keep a distance of 6 feet between themselves and others, whenever possible. The college has also taken steps to encourage physical distancing, such as re-arranging furniture in classrooms, dining spaces, and other common areas on campus. This has been done strategically to also encourage students to be able to communicate and operate efficiently in these areas.

INCREASED SANITATION

Thiel College will be implementing additional cleaning protocols, in addition to pre-existing practices. In the residence halls, common areas and restrooms will be cleaned twice daily. Hand sanitizers will be available in the entrance of the halls along with the regular use of disinfectant spray by the housekeeping staff.

All public restrooms and restrooms in classroom buildings will be cleaned twice daily along with hand sanitizer being available in each restroom. Classrooms and other public areas will be frequently sprayed down with disinfectant spray with increased hand sanitizer available.

COVID-19 SIGNAGE

Students will be seeing increased signage around all areas of campus regarding protocols of COVID-19. These will serve as reminders for students to make sure they are doing their part to keep campus safe.

FACE COVERINGS

Masks, shields, or related coverings must be worn in all campus facilities and where physical distancing is not possible (including outdoors).

- Face coverings are expected to be worn in the classroom
- Face coverings can be removed in dining facilities once the individual is seated and eating
- If a student has a medical condition preventing them from wearing a face covering, the student should provide documentation from a physician to the Campus Nurse.
- Athletes will be allowed to remove face coverings during competition. The athletic department will provide student-athletes specific instructions regarding face covering practices
- Students will be allowed to remove face coverings while using cardio equipment in the fitness center.

CAMPUS DINING

AVI, Thiel College's dining services partner, has developed a plan for a safe reopening of campus dining. Some key changes to be aware of:

- Self-service (salad bar, breakfast nooks, hot service line) options will be suspended and replaced with staff serving these items
- Disposable utensils, plates, and containers will be used as appropriate
- Condiments will be pre-packaged
- Students may be assigned times for meals to reduce large crowds
- To-go options will be available for every meal, and pre-order options available for lunch
- Seating will be reconfigured to accommodate a limited number of in-person diners

RESIDENCE LIFE

The following guidelines will be in effect for the 2020-2021 academic year, to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19

- Face coverings in common area spaces, including restrooms, laundry rooms, and hallways
- Hand sanitizer in all residence halls and apartment building entrances.
- Closure of common area kitchens and capacity limits to other common spaces
- Room checks by Residence Life staff members will be increased as well as rounds from Public Safety Officers
- Increased signage regarding COVID-19 protocols
- Students will not be permitted to have outside visitors (non-students) in their rooms, apartments, or townhouses, and there will be limitations on occupancy in each facility
- Alterations in Residence Life programming to comply with physical distancing guidelines and established policies
- Students will be asked to avoid unnecessary trips off-campus, including visits home

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Please visit [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) for more information regarding all aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Thiel College COVID-19 Update Page](#)