

Together Safely FAQ

The Albion Plan

What are the main components of the Albion College Comprehensive Public Health plan to return to on-campus instruction?

The plan includes a variety of activities in three main areas: **Education**, **Environmental Adaptation**, and **Population Health Monitoring and Risk Reduction**. Our plan was created with the guidance of an external advisory panel of medical experts together with our internal health professionals.

- **Education** includes a wide variety of public health education efforts to make sure all members of the Albion community understand the basic science and public health principles underlying our actions.
- **Environmental Adaptation** includes all of the physical adjustments we have made to campus, including more than 100 new technology-enhanced classrooms, automatic doors, traffic-flow indicators for entry and exit doors, and a wide variety of signage and other adaptations to limit close contact.
- **Population Health Monitoring and Risk Reduction** includes regular testing to detect, isolate and eliminate infection before it becomes community-spread, and monitoring who is coming and going from our campus bubble so that we can reduce risk of infection entering from outside or an infection on campus spreading to the community.

The Aura App and Contact Tracing

Why is Albion tracking students and how does it work?

Albion College is using the Aura app to report student test results directly to students, collect student self-reported daily health assessments, and share reminders with students about the public health practices they should be following. It also has the capability to record the location of students throughout the day much like a fitness app might record your run or your steps. This location data is an essential tool for rapid tracing of any close contacts of a student who has a positive test result. The location data can also be used to notify campus authorities if a student leaves campus so that we can manage the risks associated with someone leaving campus and returning. ***Albion College does not access the detailed ongoing location of each student.*** Albion College only uses location data for contract tracing in the event of a positive test.

Is the Aura app legal?

The Aura app is fully HIPAA compliant. Students sign an informed consent and a FERPA and HIPAA release so that the College may share necessary demographic data with the lab, along with the sample collected, and the testing lab may share test results with the College.

Is it secure?

Albion College takes seriously protecting all confidential information. The makers of the Aura app have assured us that they are conducting daily internal security audits and that they have consulted with external, independent security firms to ensure that the Aura app is safe and will keep all personal information, of every member on our campus, confidential. The data being collected is specific to COVID-19 and includes only COVID test results, the daily self-reported health assessment, and location. All data will be destroyed once the semester is over.

Freedom of Movement and Risk Reduction

Are students able to leave campus?

Yes, students are able to leave campus. We have not defined a perimeter around campus. We are a college town. "Campus" to us includes many locations in Albion like local businesses and parks, and extends beyond College property. New locations are being added daily as we verify health and safety protocols. The measures allow us to manage risk, not to limit movement.





Are students able to leave town?

Students can request permission to leave the area we have defined as campus (inclusive of most of the City of Albion) for a wide variety of reasons. Requesting permission involves a brief conversation with a College administrator to understand and evaluate the risk of exposure. This case-by-case approach, focused on education and risk assessment, is exactly what we do best as a small liberal arts college. If a student has a recurring reason (weekly, monthly, etc.) to leave campus, or if the student has a family emergency, they do not need to request permission each time.

Are students permitted to have visitors on campus?

Families and guests are welcomed on Albion's campus as long as they register with us, remain outside of our enclosed facilities, and agree to observe our health guidelines of staying physically distant and wearing masks.

Will students be suspended if they leave campus or violate other COVID-related rules?

Students will not be suspended for leaving campus or violating COVID-related rules. Our first approach will always be educational. Students who continually violate the rules will be referred to the student judicial system where due process and student rights are protected.

An Active Campus

Will students be able to enjoy the normal activities of a residential campus education?

Yes. In-person classes are already small and easily adaptable to social-distancing guidelines. Many activities, including the annual fall play, will still occur in person following public health protocols. Albion has installed several outside tents, created several outside instruction areas for classes, moved fitness equipment outside, and will be adding outside fire pits throughout campus in the coming days. Campus is already buzzing with activity!

Quarantine and Isolation

Are students being quarantined? For how long? What happens if a student tests positive?

Yes. Upon arrival, students are quarantined for three days unless their negative test results are returned sooner. If a student tests positive, they are moved to isolation on campus and cared for by our Director of Health and Wellness, can return home or, if necessary, will be transferred to a healthcare clinic.

Faculty and Staff

What precautions are faculty and staff taking as they go to and from campus?

All faculty and staff will be following our health and safety protocols, which limit exposure to people outside of their immediate family off campus. Policy and protocols for faculty and staff emphasize the reduction of risk in ways more appropriate to their circumstance as non-campus residents. Public health practice is built on the principle that we should focus on reducing risk where possible and that is exactly our approach.

A Flexible Plan

Are there exceptions to in-person instruction for students who need them?

Yes. While the majority of our students (90% of survey respondents) are strongly in favor of returning for in-person learning, students can and have requested virtual learning options for specific exceptions, including health conditions and situations where areas of study require it (such as an education major in the midst of student teaching). Additionally, about 15% of our courses will be online to accommodate faculty who have similar exceptional circumstances.

Will Albion College reassess its planning as the situation this fall continues to develop?

Yes. There is no perfect solution, and every higher education institution is navigating this in real time. Our goal is to do what's best for Albion students, faculty and staff. Right now, we believe this is the best possible path forward. However, we will be monitoring the results closely and following medical guidance, shifting our approach on an ongoing basis as needed, and communicating with our entire community as quickly as possible.

