

BARD GRADUATE CENTER FALL 2020 CAMPUS REOPENING PLAN

LAST UPDATED AUGUST 29, 2020

Bard Graduate Center (BGC) will reopen its 86th Street campus on September 8, 2020. This reopening plan takes the safety of BGC's students, faculty, staff, and visitors as its highest priority. Buildings will reopen for in-person classes with important changes to help ensure the safety and well-being of all. The BGC Gallery will reopen for a limited time, October 13–28, with timed and contactless entry, restricted occupancy, and social distancing. As the public health situation evolves and the state provides new guidance, BGC will adjust and share updated plans accordingly.

IMPORTANT DATES

August 19: Orientation for first-year students begins
September 4: Last Summer Friday; orientation ends
September 7: Labor Day holiday
September 8: First day of classes
September 14: Add/Drop period ends
October 12–16: Midterm examinations
October 13: *Eileen Gray* exhibition reopens
October 28: *Eileen Gray* exhibition closes
November 25: Last day of classes
November 26–29: Thanksgiving holiday
November 30–December 4: Makeup week
December 7–11: Reading week
December 14–18: Final examinations
December 21–January 3: Winter break; no classes
January 4: Application deadline/2021–22 academic year
January 14: *Majolica Mania* press preview; VIP preview and dinner
January 15: *Majolica Mania* colleagues opening
January 16: *Majolica Mania* exhibition opens to the public

ARRIVAL AND PLANNING

Bard Graduate Center's reopening plan is informed by current national, regional, and local conditions and best public health practices. BGC's COVID Response Team (Samantha Baron, director of administration and employee relations; Keith Condon, director of admissions and student affairs; James Congregane, director of facilities; Amy Estes, director of marketing and communications; Tim Ettenheim; chief operating officer; Peter N. Miller, professor and dean; Laura Minsky, associate director for research programs; Emily Reilly, associate gallery director and director of public engagement; Chandler Small, director of security; and Heather Topcik, director of the library) is following New York State guidance, which includes specific mandates

for higher education and museums, and guidance from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

REOPENING TESTING

All faculty, staff, and students must take a COVID-19 (PCR) test no more than ten days prior to beginning to work or study in BGC's buildings and present proof of a negative test. To support this requirement, free testing will be available to BGC faculty, staff, and students by appointment at 38 West 86th Street on August 13 and September 2. To sign up email [Alec Newell](#), academic programs coordinator.

Those who do not take advantage of these free testing opportunities must provide a negative test result at their own expense. (As of this writing, most private insurance fully covers this cost. BGC employees and students should contact their individual carriers and the testing centers they intend to use to determine coverage in advance.) To locate the nearest COVID testing site, visit [this site](#) operated by the New York State Department of Health.

Test results should be submitted to [Samantha Baron](#), director of administration and employee relations (for faculty and staff) or [Keith Condon](#), director of admissions and student affairs (for students). Positive antibody testing is not considered a negative COVID test result and cannot be submitted in place of a negative test result. Between the time of the test and beginning to access BGC buildings, it is important to adhere to safe behaviors: no large gatherings, wear a mask, and practice physical distancing.

Access to BGC buildings requires a negative COVID test result, a signed [health pledge](#), a [daily health check](#), and a temperature check on entry.

Anyone in the BGC community who tests positive for COVID-19 should email [Samantha Baron](#), director of administration and employee relations (for faculty and staff) or [Keith Condon](#), director of admissions and student affairs (for students); seek appropriate medical treatment; self-isolate as directed; and refrain from traveling. Any student or employee who receives a COVID-19 diagnosis may only return to BGC's 86th Street campus only after at least 48 hours symptom-free and producing two successive negative test results.

PROTOCOLS BEFORE ARRIVING AT/RETURNING TO BGC

All members of the BGC community should avoid large gatherings and practice social distancing for at least two weeks before beginning to live, work, and study in BGC's buildings.

QUARANTINE MEASURES

In accordance with New York State law, those traveling from abroad or from [restricted locations](#) should self-isolate for 14 days prior to going to BGC's 86th Street campus. The [list of restricted](#)

[states](#) changes daily, so please check frequently before making plans to travel. New York State regulations require the full 14 days of quarantine for those traveling from restricted locations, even for those who receive a negative COVID test result while in quarantine. In addition, New York State requires all travelers coming from restricted states to fill out and submit the [New York State Traveler Health Form](#) upon arriving in New York. This form is only accessible to and for use by state government authorities; it is not connected to Bard Graduate Center in any way. Please abide by all state requirements when traveling to or in New York. For more information about New York State's approach to reopening, please check the [New York Forward](#) website.

Anyone who must self-isolate should send their quarantine plans and questions to [Samantha Baron](#), director of administration and employee relations (for faculty and staff) or [Keith Condon](#), director of admissions and student affairs (for students).

Those who live in Bard Hall may quarantine in their apartments. Every apartment in Bard Hall has its own individual heating/cooling system that exhausts air via the roof, and air does not circulate between apartments.

TRAVEL DURING THE SEMESTER

Think carefully before planning any travel during the semester. Public health restrictions are frequently changing and it is possible that New York City, New York State, or the government at your destination could limit travel in a way that would prohibit returning to campus.

Students who get ill, return home, or are unable to return after travel owing to COVID-19 restrictions will be able to continue learning remotely.

ACADEMICS

CLASSES

Most courses will be offered in an in-person or blended format. Two courses, Approaches and Survey, will be offered strictly remotely.

For all courses, students have the option of participating strictly remotely. There is no penalty for doing so. Students will still be expected to fully engage in their classes, whether in person or via Zoom.

Students should review their course schedules and be in touch with [Keith Condon](#) or their professors with any questions. BGC will work on a case-by-case basis to provide individualized academic support to students with special needs.

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN THE CLASSROOM

New York State guidance requires social distancing and masks. BGC has conducted a space audit to determine how best to manage social distancing in the classroom. In addition to applying social distancing best practices in all teaching spaces, BGC will use alternative teaching spaces to expand capacity. Classrooms will be cleaned and sanitized between classes.

SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Some international students may not be able attend classes in person in the fall due to travel restrictions and challenges obtaining visas. International students who cannot travel to Bard Graduate Center may participate remotely from their home countries. Bard Graduate Center and Bard College are closely monitoring current travel restrictions to the United States and advise students to check the website of the U.S. Consulate in their home countries for updates on exceptions for student travel to the United States. Students with questions should contact [Keith Condon](#), director of admissions and student affairs at BGC, or [Manishka Kalupahana](#) or [Jennifer Murray](#) in International Studies at Bard College.

HEALTH

HEALTH AND SAFETY IN BARD FACILITIES

Anyone entering a BGC facility, including visitors, will be required to complete a [health questionnaire](#) and a temperature check, wear a mask, comply with social distancing measures, and follow other guidelines as required.

To reduce the number of outside visitors in its buildings this fall, BGC:

- Will limit access to Bard Hall to those who live there and a small number of pre-approved service professionals and visitors.
- Will limit access to 38 West 86th Street to members of the BGC community and a small number of pre-approved service professionals and visitors.
- Will limit access to 18 West 86th Street to members of the BGC community and a small number of pre-approved service professionals and visitors until October 13, when BGC Gallery will reopen to the public under severe capacity limits and with contactless timed entry until October 28.
- Will not hold any public events, symposia, or talks.

To optimize the health and well-being of our students and employees, BGC will:

- Limit non-instructional gatherings and congregations in communal spaces.
- Limit the number of students in the classroom and provide for social distancing.
- Use directional signs and one-way traffic flow throughout buildings to reduce close contact.

- Designate separate entry and exit points for buildings.
- Adhere to sanitization and social distancing requirements, provide adequate hygiene and PPE supplies, and reduce common seating areas.
- Limit occupancy of classrooms and other public spaces on campus to 50 per cent.
- Enforce social distancing through placement of signs and barriers.

Non-essential work travel is prohibited and non-essential personal travel is strongly discouraged.

USE OF FACE MASKS ON CAMPUS

As mandated by New York State and to protect the Bard Graduate Center community, face masks are required indoors in all classrooms and communal areas and at any time it is not possible to be at least six feet away from another person. Outdoors, masks must be placed over the nose and mouth in any open area where you are less than six feet from others.

Bard Graduate Center will provide a mask to all students, faculty, staff, and visitors who need them, although they are encouraged to bring their own masks. Information about recommended masks is available [here](#). Appropriate use of face masks has proven critical in minimizing transmission of COVID-19 by symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals. However, the mask or cloth face covering is a complement to, not a substitute for, social distancing.

SOCIAL DISTANCING AT BARD HALL

Masks must be worn in communal areas at all times, but are not required when members of an individual household (family members or roommates sharing an apartment) are in their apartment together without any guests.

MONITORING SYMPTOMS IN THE COMMUNITY

All students and employees will be required to complete a [daily health screening](#) prior to entering BGC buildings each day, wear face coverings, practice physical distancing and required cleaning procedures, and follow all recommended public health guidelines. If concerns arise during the self-administered health screening, the student or employee will be required to self-isolate until it is determined that it is safe for them to return. Students and employees who test positive for COVID-19 or may have been exposed will be required to self-isolate for two weeks or until they produce two successive negative test results.

RESPONDING TO POSITIVE CASES IN THE BGC COMMUNITY

Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19, whether as part of the reopening testing or at another time during the semester, should email [Samantha Baron](#), director of administration and employee relations (for faculty and staff) or [Keith Condon](#), director of admissions and student affairs (for students); seek appropriate medical treatment; self-isolate as directed; and refrain from traveling.

Anyone with a COVID-19 diagnosis may return to BGC's 86th Street campus only after being symptom-free for at least 48 hours and producing two successive negative test results.

If someone in the BGC community tests positive for COVID-19, BGC will ask that person to identify those with whom he/she/they have studied or worked in "close contact" (defined by the CDC as within six feet for a prolonged period of time) at BGC.

BGC will then reach out to those people to let them know that they have been identified as close contacts of someone diagnosed with COVID-19. They will be asked to leave 86th Street, self-isolate, monitor themselves for any symptoms, and seek appropriate medical treatment.

Then BGC will alert the community that someone tested positive and is now self-isolating, and that close contacts have been told and were asked to leave the workplace and self-isolate.

PROTOCOL AFTER EXPOSURE TO SOMEONE WHO TESTS POSITIVE

Anyone who has been in close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 within 14 days of that diagnosis should inform [Samantha Baron](#), director of administration and employee relations (for faculty and staff) or [Keith Condon](#), director of admissions and student affairs (for students), self-isolate or quarantine until 14 days have passed since the exposure, and produce two successive negative test results before returning to in-person class or work.

CLEANING AND SANITATION PROCEDURES

BGC facilities employees have conducted cleaning and sanitization of all campus facilities over the past three months. They have now implemented cleaning and disinfecting protocols across campus in accordance with CDC guidelines and OSHA guidelines.

BGC students and employees should not clean BGC printers and copy machines after each use. Rather, each machine will be cleaned hourly by the BGC facilities team.

All BGC students and employees will be trained and supplied with EPA-approved cleaning/disinfecting supplies to use in their personal and shared spaces.

Over the summer, air filters in all BGC HVAC filtration systems have been upgraded to the most advanced commercially available, and they will be replaced on a regular schedule.

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Everyone has experienced a great deal of change and disruption during these past several months. It is important to attend to both mental and physical health during such a time.

BGC employees who participate in BGC health insurance plans have mental health coverage through these plans. In addition, BGC employees can call ComPsych Guidance Resources at 800.272.7255 for confidential support any time. See the attached flyer to learn more about ComPsych services.

BCG students have access to private counseling on an as-needed basis. Contact [Keith Condon](#), director of admissions and student affairs, for more details.

Free and Low-Cost Mental Health Services Available to Anyone:

- [Crisis Text Line](#): Access to free crisis counseling, 24/7, via text or Facebook Messenger.
- [Free Digital Mental Health Resources](#) (available through NYC Well).
- [Mental Health Resources in NYC](#): A guide intended to help find free or low-cost mental health services for asylum seekers and other vulnerable persons in New York City.
- [NAMI-NYC](#): Provides a free helpline, free classes, and free support groups.
- [NYC Health Mental Health Resources](#): Includes a list of organizations in all five boroughs that offer counseling services with sliding scale fees.
- [NYC Well](#): Free, confidential crisis counseling, mental health and substance misuse support, information and referral to other resources.
- [Recommendations for Mental Health During Covid](#): published by NAMI.