



Mitigation Measures Continue This Fall

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

From improved ventilation, to fast and free testing, to ongoing vaccine clinics, Georgia Tech is continuing to take a multipronged approach to preventing and mitigating the risk of the coronavirus as more students, faculty, and staff return to campus this fall.

Vaccination

The best way to prevent Covid-19 is to get vaccinated — and Georgia Tech is continuing to offer free, convenient Covid-19 vaccinations this semester. Clinics will take place at McCamish Pavilion Aug. 16-20, Aug. 23-25, and Aug. 27, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



Photo by Rob Felt

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A staff member with Facilities Management conducts routine cleaning on campus.

Tech Dining Opens New Operation on Campus

MORGAN MILLER
CAMPUS SERVICES

The fall semester will bring an array of new dining options to choose from. After more than 20 years of operation by outside contractors, Georgia Tech has moved to self-managed dining services with the creation of a new department, Tech Dining.

“After years of working with contractors, we knew that bringing the operation in-house was the opportunity to improve the dining program,” said Senior Director of Tech Dining Ryan Greene. “When we put Georgia Tech talent and resources to work, we can

provide the very best for our students.”

The Team

Greene knew that quality personnel are critical to a quality product, so his first step was to create a team of top-notch culinary professionals. This team includes formally trained chefs who direct menu planning and food preparation. In response to input from students, the culinary team developed new menus focusing on high-quality entrees, authentic international flavors, and expanded vegan and vegetarian dishes.

Culinary Director Scott Bruhn, who received his training at Johnson

& Wales, is passionate about the freshness of the food served at all campus locations and strives to provide a quality of food that is higher than normally expected on a college campus.

“We have assembled outstanding culinary talent for Georgia Tech,” said Bruhn. “We want to give these team members every opportunity to work with the best ingredients so they can demonstrate their skills. Whenever possible, we make things from scratch as opposed to simply assembling frozen or pre-packaged ingredients.” Examples of this effort include the

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Preparing for Fall Semester

As more faculty and staff make plans to be on campus this fall, several resources are available to help you be successful in your work and navigate the ongoing challenges of the pandemic.

Tech Moving Forward
(Institute updates, FAQs, public health information, and more)
health.gatech.edu/tech-moving-forward

Covid-19 Leave Reminders
c.gatech.edu/hr-covid-aug2021

Covid-19 Vaccinations on Campus
health.gatech.edu/coronavirus/vaccine

Daily Self-Checklist
health.gatech.edu/coronavirus/daily-checklist

Work Life Resources for Families
hr.gatech.edu/working-through-covid-19

Working at Tech Toolkit
hr.gatech.edu/working-tech-tool-kit

Campus Covid-19 Surveillance Testing
health.gatech.edu/coronavirus/testing

PPE Ordering and Supply Distribution
ehs.gatech.edu/covid-19/request

Nominations Now Open for 2022 Staff Council

COURTNEY HILL
STAFF COUNCIL

Beginning today, the Georgia Tech Staff Council is welcoming nominations for employees interested in running for a three-year term as a regular member or applying for a one-year term as a committee member.

“Our annual elections are key to furthering the Council’s successes,” said Quinaé Ford, 2021 Staff Council chair. “To serve on Staff Council means you strongly believe in the mission and goals of Georgia Tech and its leadership. The Council prides itself as a formal connection for fellow staff members to communicate with the Institute’s executive leadership. Yearly elections give us the opportunity to attract other staffers who will contribute to our engagement and advocacy for the staff population.”

The Council is made up of 20 regular members representing five classifications of employees, as specified by Georgia Tech’s Job Classification and Compensation System (JCCS).

For the 2021 election, the following regular member seats are available in the respective JCCS categories: Administrative and Professional (4 seats); Skilled Trades (1 seat); Scientific and Research (1 seat); Information Technology (2 seats); and Development (1 seat).

Candidates (both nominated

and self-nominated) must meet the following criteria:

- The staff member must hold a job title in the JCCS category under which they are applying.
- The staff member must have full-time or part-time (20 hours/week) status.
- The staff member must have completed at least one year of service (12 consecutive months) at Georgia Tech with a staff title as of August 16, 2020.
- The staff member may not hold a title(s) related to the following: academic faculty; executive or senior leadership; affiliate (e.g., Alumni Association, Foundation, etc.); research faculty; retiree; or student. (Please note that anyone holding any of these titles may not nominate a candidate to Staff Council or vote in the election process.)

Staff Council will accept nominations for new members and for committee membership through August 27 at staffcouncil.gatech.edu/staff-council-elections. The election period will follow, from September 13-24.

To learn more about the Georgia Tech Staff Council, visit staffcouncil.gatech.edu.

View a recording of last week’s Staff Council information session at c.gatech.edu/staff-council-aug-10.



The Whistle

WORK AND LIFE AT GEORGIA TECH

Editor: Kristen Bailey
Copy Editor: Stacy Braukman
Photographers: Allison Carter, Rob Felt, Christopher Moore

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Clinics will also take place Sept. 7-10 and Sept. 13-17, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Book a vaccination appointment at mytest.gatech.edu. Vaccines are highly effective at preventing severe illness from Covid-19. If you are unvaccinated and are exposed to someone with Covid-19, you will be subject to quarantine per current Georgia Department of Public Health guidelines.

To date, Georgia Tech has administered more than 32,000 doses to more than 17,000 individuals.

Testing

Asymptomatic surveillance testing will also continue to be offered during the fall semester for all students, faculty, and staff. For those new to campus or who did not participate previously, this saliva-based testing program takes just a few minutes per test and is available at multiple sites on campus. Georgia Tech faculty who are top researchers in their field created this simple, effective testing program to reduce transmission of Covid-19 in the campus community. The program has been an essential tool in keeping cases down throughout the past year. Everyone on campus, regardless of vaccination status, is invited and encouraged to test weekly. Learn more about how it works and find a testing site at c.gatech.edu/testing.

No reservations are necessary — simply visit mytest.gatech.edu on your smartphone when you arrive at the test site. Results are delivered via email. Make weekly testing part of your routine — pick a day and time, and even go with a friend. (If you experience Covid-19 symptoms, seek symptomatic testing instead.) Regular testing can help identify potential clusters before they become outbreaks.

Face Coverings

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently issued new interim guidance recommending the use of masks inside public buildings, even by fully vaccinated individuals, as a precaution given the broad circula-



Photo by Rob Felt

Covid-19 vaccines are still available on campus for all faculty, staff, and students, as well as their family members ages 12 and older. Vaccine clinics will take place at McCamish Pavilion every day this week.

tion of the highly contagious delta variant of the virus.

At Georgia Tech, everyone is encouraged to wear a mask or face covering while inside campus facilities. Vaccines and masks are highly effective at stopping the spread of Covid-19.

PPE

Similar to recent semesters, Infrastructure and Sustainability has supplied Housing with personal protective equipment (PPE) kits to distribute to students living on campus this fall. Each resident will receive a cloth face covering, hand sanitizer, and other supplies in their room upon checkin. Additional PPE requests for students, faculty, or staff can be made at ehs.gatech.edu/covid-19/request.

Ventilation

Teams in Infrastructure and Sustainability have been hard at work since the beginning of the pandemic to help ensure a safe and healthy environment for the campus community. We know that good ventilation and air circulation can significantly reduce the risk of transmission in indoor

settings. Facilities Management has upgraded air filters across campus to MERV-13 filters and is ensuring that all systems are operating optimally. As an added precaution, outside air ventilation rates have been increased where possible, and ultraviolet lights have been incorporated in air handling units across campus. An expert team of Georgia Tech faculty and students continue to monitor data captured from air quality sensors, which have been installed in various classrooms across campus.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Hand sanitizer stands are stationed at every building entrance as well as in restrooms and classrooms. Disinfectant and wipes will continue to be made available in classrooms and for workspaces. Custodial Services also continues to clean and disinfect classrooms, common areas, and restrooms daily. However, heavily used restrooms located in buildings that operate 24 hours a day (such as Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons) will continue to be cleaned and disinfected four times a day.

DINING, from page 1

dining team grinding spices on-site to improve freshness and quality, fresh fruit for juicing, and the bakery at West Village running 24/7 to produce baked goods, sweets, and fresh buns and bagels on campus. Bruhn also plans to add smokers, a popcorn kettle, and homemade donuts.

Bringing the team in-house has benefits for employees as well as students, faculty, and staff. Food service employees, previously paid as contract employees, are now state employees with competitive wages and benefits such as retirement plans, health coverage, and tuition assistance. Opportunities for employee growth and development are available as well.

Changes to Dining Venues

Tech Dining will operate three all-you-care-to-eat dining halls and more than nine retail dining locations across campus. Both Brittain and North Avenue dining halls are featuring new concepts, and West Village has transitioned from a food court to an all-you-care-to-eat model. All three dining halls offer a convenience store, WreckStop or WreckStop Express, where patrons may use cash or credit instead of a meal card to purchase select grocery items, assorted beverages, and other convenience items.

Tech Dining has partnered with PJ's Coffee in New Orleans to create a signature blend of coffee exclusively available at Georgia Tech. Called Burdell's Brew, the rich, flavorful blend is



Photo by Rob Felt

Faculty and staff members can dine at campus dining locations and receive a discount when using Faculty/Staff Dining Funds.

named after Tech legend George P. Burdell. Both Brittain and North Avenue dining halls will offer the coffee, freshly ground, iced, cold brew, and brewed to order.

Dining Halls

Brittain Dining Hall and North Avenue Dining Hall both boast all-new food stations. West Village, which previously operated as a food court model, is now, like Brittain and North Avenue, an all-you-care-to-eat dining hall with brand new station concepts. Guests can enjoy a variety of diverse menus, including Asian and Indian-style cuisine at Ginger and Spice, Mexican-inspired meals at Tech Taqueria, or Italian food at The Leaning Tower of Tech. Mindful Bytes is the place for those in search of vegan, vegetarian, and healthy food. Ramblin' Coffee and Sweets is a full-service coffee shop where baristas make drinks to order and serve an extensive number of freshly made pastries, scooped ice cream, and assorted desserts.

Retail Vendors

Retail dining across

campus will also be changing. The Dining Hub, located in the Exhibition Hall, will house two vendors: Panda Express and Twisted Taco. Local Atlanta favorites Cluck-N-Mooh and Kaldi's Coffee will also be welcomed to campus.

Kaldi's will set up a full coffee shop in Clough Commons this fall, replacing the current Starbucks. Kaldi's takes special care in sourcing coffee. The beans for the Georgia Tech location will come from Los Tablones in El Salvador. The sustainable Los Tablones farm is operated by Georgia Tech graduates, members of the Markwort family who have been farming coffee in El Salvador for over four generations. Cluck-N-Mooh, a restaurant known for its burgers, wings, and fries, with locations around Atlanta, is developing special menu items for their Georgia Tech location.

Rising Roll Gourmet Café is returning for a second year on campus. In the Sideways Café in the Price Gilbert Memorial Library, Blue Donkey is also back for a second year. In addition to the library location, a coffee

cart will also be on campus, primarily at Tech Square and the Instructional Center Lawn.

The Blue Donkey cart joins a fleet of food trucks that will be on campus five days a week. In addition to favorites like Chick-fil-A and Gyro Chef Mediterranean, new vendors will be offering lunch on a rotating schedule.

A new concept in the Tech Tower, replacing Highland Bakery, is Whistle Bistro. The new restaurant offers both sit-down dining and takeout entrees and will serve Boar's Head deli sandwiches, brew specialty coffee, and offer fresh baked goods.

By paying careful attention to detail and responding to student feedback, the Tech Dining team has created an assortment of high-quality dining opportunities for Georgia Tech's students and employees. "We've pulled together an amazing team that has the talent and skill necessary to make Tech Dining one of the premier college dining operations in the nation," said Greene.

Employee Meal Plans

Faculty and staff members can use dining funds to enjoy savings when they dine on campus. Funds can be added via payroll deduction or through a BuzzCard deposit. Both options come with the same benefits and a declining balance that can be used at any campus dining location. For every \$20 deposit, employees receive a 20% bonus in their account.

To learn more about meal plans and Tech Dining, visit dining.gatech.edu.