



# The Taft School

## The Taft School 2020-2021 Community Agreement

*To come to Taft is to be part of a community where we serve others unselfishly, reflecting and acting upon the school's motto in both formal and informal contexts: Non ut sibi ministretur sed ut ministret. This principle guides who we strive to be as a community. In the midst of a global pandemic, our efforts to fully embody the school's mission means we understand that our health and safety depend on how well we take care of each other.*

**As a member of the school community, I AGREE to take active steps to protect the health and safety of every member of our campus and local community in the midst of this global pandemic. I AGREE to invite others to participate with me by reminding them of their responsibility to our community. I understand that this virus does not discriminate and neither will I. No person or group of people is responsible for this virus and I will not blame the presence of COVID-19 on anyone in the school community.**

By signing below, I AGREE to protect myself, protect others and The Taft School community by doing the following:

### Testing and Contact Tracing

-

- Participate in required COVID-19 testing, including testing prior to/upon arrival at the School.
- Participate in contact tracing as requested. I will respond and share complete information with contact tracers about others with whom I have come in contact and may be exposed.

### Self-Isolation and Self-Quarantine

-

- If I test positive for COVID-19 and am required to isolate, or I learn that I have come into close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and am required to quarantine, I will follow the School's instructions to leave campus as soon as possible, but in no event later than 48 hours, as well as any interim instructions from the School which may

include remaining in my residence or relocating to another space on campus until I can depart campus.

- Will follow all Health Center directives and School requirements before returning to campus from self-isolation or self-quarantine.

### Health and Hygiene

-

- Participate in any COVID-19 health and safety training as directed by the School.
- Screen myself daily for COVID-19 symptoms and immediately contact the Health Center if I experience COVID-19 related symptoms. I will comply with the medical instructions I am given.
- Promptly report any known or potential exposures to COVID-19 to the Health Center and stay in my room/home until given further guidance from the Health Center.
- Practice good personal hygiene consistent with public health protocols, such as frequent hand washing for twenty seconds, use of hand sanitizers before and after leaving campus buildings, and wiping down surfaces myself when arriving at and upon leaving a communal or community space.
- Keep my clothing, belongings, personal spaces, and shared common spaces sanitized and not share personal items with others, particularly items such as eating utensils and water bottles, which could spread the COVID-19 virus.
- Abide by protocols Taft establishes for hygiene in the use of shared bathrooms and other spaces on campus.

### Social Distancing, Face Coverings and other Behavioral Requirements

-

- Maintain whenever feasible a distance of six feet between myself and any other person, with the understanding that I do not have to maintain six feet distance from my roommate when in my own room.
- Wear an appropriate face mask when in public spaces on or off campus, including classrooms, hallways in academic and residential buildings, residential and academic common areas, laboratories, the library, when near others in outdoor campus spaces and courtyards; while in transit between classes, on campus pathways; and during meetings or gatherings with other students, staff, faculty, or other community members.
- Follow all directions given by the School and displayed on School signage.
- Adhere to all protocols Taft establishes for in-person class attendance.

- Follow protocols for group gatherings both indoors and outdoors. I will neither host nor participate in any gathering that exceeds the protocol limits or violates social distancing and mask wearing guidelines.
- Not invite or host non-Taft-affiliated individuals, to or on campus without advance permission from the Dean of Students office.
- Observe all dining hall protocols, including social distancing requirements.
- Out of respect for the health and safety of the Watertown community, I will follow protocols to limit exposure established by the State of Connecticut or and/the Town of Watertown.
- I will remain at Taft (or in Connecticut for day students) and not leave campus until School designated breaks. If I must travel while School is in session, I will seek permission from the Dean of Students office and follow any protocol Taft establishes for my return to campus, which may include testing and quarantine.
- Understand that this virus does not discriminate and neither will I. No person or group of people is responsible for this virus and I will not blame the presence of COVID-19 on anyone in my community.
- Completing any Connecticut state and United States required quarantine and/or testing prior to arrival on campus and if I have to leave the state during the academic year.
- Recognize that, based on public health circumstances, guidance and protocols will likely change, sometimes abruptly, and I agree to keep myself informed and to follow any new guidance and protocols set by the School.

### **Commitment to the Community Agreement**

I understand that I must adopt behaviors that advance our collective ability to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. I commit to doing my part and meeting my obligations to my Taft community.

If at any point I am unable to meet the commitments I am making to my fellow community members in this agreement, I will have forfeited the privilege of remaining on campus and may be asked to become a remote student.

I understand COVID-19 is a highly contagious virus and it is possible to develop and contract the COVID-19 virus even if I follow all of the safety precautions above and those recommended by the CDC, local, state and federal health and medical professionals. I understand that although the School is following the coronavirus guidelines issued by the CDC, Connecticut Department of Public

Health and other experts in reopening our school and to reduce the spread of infection, I can never be completely shielded from all risks of illness caused by, or associated with, COVID-19 or other infections. I understand that I have the option to attend Taft remotely for the 2020-2021 Academic Year and am voluntarily electing to attend Taft in person on campus despite these risks.

By signing below, I agree that I have read, understand, and agree to comply with the provisions of the Taft School Community Agreement. I further understand and agree that the expectations for my behavior also are subject to the provisions of the Student Handbook and the COVID-19 Supplement as may be amended from time to time.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

***I, the undersigned parent/guardian of the student named above hereby certify that my child has permission to return to The Taft School. I agree and attest that:***

- My child and we, the legal parents/guardians of my child (“We”) will abide by this Taft School Community Agreement and the provisions of The Taft School Student Handbook, including the COVID-19 Supplement.***
- I, or the person I have designated to the School, will pick up my child as soon as possible, but in no event later than 48 hours, if directed by The Taft School, including if my child tests positive for COVID-19, is subject to isolation/quarantine requirements, or, must study remotely.***
- We will have quarantined and complied with all State of Connecticut, federal and Taft requirements prior to coming on campus.***

***I understand COVID-19 is a highly contagious virus and it is possible to develop and contract the COVID-19 virus even if We follow all of the safety precautions above and those recommended by the CDC, local, state and federal health and medical professionals. I understand that although the School is following the coronavirus guidelines issued by the CDC, Connecticut Department of Public***

*Health and other experts in reopening school and to reduce the spread of infection, We can never be completely shielded from all risks of illness caused by, or associated with, COVID-19 or other infections. I understand that my child has the option to attend Taft remotely for the 2020-2021 Academic Year and that We are voluntarily electing to have my child attend Taft in person on campus despite these risks. By voluntarily enrolling my child on campus in The Taft School for the 2020-2021 Academic Year, I acknowledge and agree that I am assuming the risks associated with my child, myself, or family members possibly contracting COVID-19.*

**Parent/Guardian Signature:**

---

**Parent/Guardian Printed Name:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_