

Massachusetts School of Law Community Agreement

This is our personal commitment to protect the health and safety of our community by each of us to each other by agreeing to shared behavioral changes. For the greater good of our community, I agree to forgo some of my independence by choosing to be part of the MSLAW community and choosing to adopt these behavioral changes. Even though I personally may feel some of these behavioral changes are unnecessary, shared sacrifice is one of the cornerstones of our country. I will do my best to comply with the spirit of this agreement even if my work as a necessary worker or family responsibilities make it difficult.

As we resume in-person classes next month, MSLAW is relying upon the guidance and direction of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), local, state, and federal health and medical professionals in determining our plan for safe reopening and our return to MSLAW. That plan includes traditional in-person classes on Monday through Thursday, numerous online classes, hybrid classes where first year students will attend in-person classes at MSLAW on Monday and Wednesday with an asynchronous online class substituting for the traditional first year Friday class, as well as recording traditional classes for those students at high risk. In the event we are unable to complete in-person classes through December, classes will go online. Your academic advisor will work with you to develop a course schedule that works well for you.

One element of our plan for next semester is for all of us to make a shared commitment to each other's health and well-being. While cleaners will be in the building cleaning and disinfecting MSLAW throughout the day and evening when MSLAW is open and on weekends when MSLAW will be closed, we need to help protect each other from the spread of this disease. By returning to classes, we each agree to a set of behaviors that will support keeping ourselves, our peers, faculty and staff, as well as the community safer. Thank you for your commitment to protecting yourself and our community.

If at any time after you have voluntarily returned to MSLAW, you feel uncomfortable remaining at MSLAW, please reach out to Assistant Dean Kaldis or your academic advisor. We will listen, discuss your situation with you, and assist you as you make the best decision for your academic success.

Stated Simply

Keep daily track of your temperature and any unusual symptoms.

At all times in the MSLAW community, wear a suitable face covering and physically distance.

Wash your hands for 20 seconds and use hand sanitizer.

When in doubt, you must stay home.

No one will be penalized when taking responsible action by staying home from class to study or work in order to avoid exposing others to their symptoms.

As a member of our community, I AGREE to take active steps to protect the health and safety of every member of our MSLAW and local communities in the midst of this global pandemic. Furthermore, I recognize my efforts keep those with whom I live and myself safer and healthier. My personal, academic and professional success is dependent on staying healthy and agreeing to shared behavioral changes that will keep others and myself protected from illness. I AGREE to invite others to participate with me by reminding them of their responsibility to our greater community.

I AGREE to protect myself, protect others and the MSLAW community by doing the following:

1. Protect Myself

I will:

- Take a viral test before arriving on MSLAW, or immediately upon arriving, if requested.
- Monitor myself for symptoms of COVID-19, take my temperature daily, and report to Dean Kaldis at pota@mslaw.edu if I experience any COVID-19 symptoms. I will not be penalized for staying home to study or work if I take this responsible action.
- Take a viral test if I am experiencing any of the COVID-19 symptoms, or if I have been notified that I was in close contact with someone who has tested positive.
- Get a flu vaccine when available during the fall semester, as well as a COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes advisable.
- Wash my hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds frequently, especially after being in a public place or after blowing my nose, coughing or sneezing, before touching food, and after using the bathroom. Use hand sanitizer at times when soap and water are not available.

- Avoid touching my face, mouth, eyes or nose. Cough and sneeze into inner elbow. Avoid handshakes.
- Avoid sharing food, drink, utensils or similar items.
- Minimize touching surfaces in shared areas.
- Carry hand sanitizer, an extra face covering, and cleaning wipes in my bag/backpack. Make sure I have back-up supplies of items listed here.
- Avoid crowded rooms, elevators, buses, or off MSLAW locations where social distancing is difficult.
- NOT host and or attend gatherings and parties where social distancing is not possible. I will remove myself from the gathering immediately upon realizing it is not a safe environment.
- Keep track of my activities and limit my social contacts to a core group of friends. This will help protect me and assist with exposure (contact) tracing. Medical professionals and those researching the transmission of the virus recommend limiting social contacts to no more than 6-8 people per day.
- Respond to calls or texts from contact tracers to enable tracking of the disease.
- Download and activate any required MSLAW and approved public health applications.
- Read all MSLAW emails and alerts to stay informed about health and safety updates or responses to COVID-19.
- Respond immediately to messages from MSLAW staff who may be checking on my well-being or otherwise need my assistance.
- Develop an isolation and quarantine plan before returning to MSLAW.
- Assemble a Go-Kit in case I need to be isolated or quarantined and cannot get access to my home.

2. Protect Others

I will:

- Wear a face covering including an appropriate mask/face shield when in public, on public transportation, outside the privacy of my own room/home including on public sidewalks, parks or other public areas, and in all instructional settings (classroom, media lab, courtrooms etc.).
- Maintain appropriate social and physical distancing, especially in classrooms, the media lab, library, café, or in any shared indoor space.
- Observe the posted public health modified occupancy limits of shared indoor spaces and follow any signage directing traffic patterns or other social distancing precautions. Prepare and bring a COVID-19 safety/cleaning kit that includes face coverings, hand sanitizer, disinfectant and wipes, disposable gloves and zip lock bags for waste disposal.

- Stay home and contact Dean Kaldis if I feel ill or after possible exposure to someone who is ill or has tested positive for COVID-19 and avoid close contact with others.
- Adhere to daily contact limitations and limits on sizes of group gatherings. The size of group gatherings will change as the MA DPH guidelines change throughout fall.
- Respect social/physical distancing signs, barriers, and protocols intended to assure social/physical distancing between MSLAW community members at MSLAW.
- Bring no guests with me at MSLAW or have anyone meet me at MSLAW without prior written authorization from Dean Kaldis.

3. Protect the Community

I will:

- Participate in testing and contact tracing as instructed to preserve community health.
- Adhere to isolation and quarantine instructions if I test positive for COVID-19 or if I am exposed to someone who has tested positive.
- Limit leaving my home to attending classes, attending places of worship, tending to necessary business, work, shopping and meal pick up, health care, outdoor activities, and other necessary business or personal matters.
- Limit my own personal travel and not host outside visitors beyond my small circle of like-minded family and friends who follow proper protocols.
- Keep my personal belongings and shared common spaces clean.
- Carefully observe instructional signs and follow directions in both on and off MSLAW locations.
- Serve as an active bystander for the well-being of others and myself by encouraging social distancing and other health guidelines outlined here. I will respectfully help others remember their responsibility and remind them to wear face coverings and keep appropriate distance to assure everyone's health and safety and respect others when they have reminded me of my obligations under this Agreement.
- Report any concerns regarding compliance to expectations outlined in the agreement to Dean Kaldis and my academic advisor.

I understand COVID-19 is a highly contagious and potentially deadly virus. I know it is possible to develop and contract the life-changing 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

MSLAW is following the COVID-19 guidelines issued by the CDC, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and other experts to reduce the spread of infection, nothing can completely shield me from all risk of serious illness caused by COVID-19 or other infections. I recognize that an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. I voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19 and agree not to hold MSLAW or any of their, trustees, officers, employees, agents, contractors, or volunteers liable for any illness or injury related to COVID-19. I understand that following the recommended guidelines serve as a way to decrease the likelihood of the spread of the disease.

I have read, understand, and agree to comply with this MSLAW Community Agreement. I further understand that I am subject to the provisions of the MSLAW Honor Code as it relates to these expectations for my behavior.

I realize as a member of MSLAW's community, we are expected to lead by example, and I will do so in order to try and protect our community and all our loved ones from this deadly disease.

Signature

Date: _____

Print name

I will not comply with the terms, and I refuse to sign this Agreement:

Signature

Date: _____

Print Name

Students, faculty, and staff are required to sign a copy of this agreement prior to returning to MSLAW for the Spring 2021 semester and submit the signed copy to the Registrar's Office.