Procedures for Supporting Compliance with the 2021-2022 Community Agreement

Principles and Process

Students who sign the 2021-2022 Community Agreement are indicating a positive intention to follow the College’s plan to reduce COVID-19 transmission on campus. Non-adherence to any element of the agreement, or engagement in behavior that increases the potential for COVID-19 transmission in our community, will be addressed via a member of the "ObieSafe Non Compliance Team" (representative of the Dean of Students Office or designee). This response is due to our shared responsibility for community safety and well-being, education about pro-social behavior, and the utilization of restorative principles to repair harms when they occur.

Reporting Non-Adherence

Community members are expected to work together to help everyone maintain COVID-19 transmission prevention practices on campus. Concerns regarding student non-compliance with the Community Agreement may be addressed by submitting the ObieSafe Non-Compliance Comment Form or calling the Office of the Dean of Students (440) 775-8462. Reports will ordinarily be reviewed within 1 business day of receipt. If you need assistance with an immediate threat to health or safety, please call Campus Safety at (440) 775-8444.

Applicable Policies

Students are expected to follow all policies issued by ObieSafe including, but not limited to, those listed in the "2021-2022 Community Agreement", those issued via official ObieSafe correspondence, and orders or mandates issued by the local, state, or federal agencies. These policies include, but are also not limited to, testing requirements, quarantine requirements, campus life policies, and other policies issued for public health. Students are responsible for monitoring their email and ObieSafe correspondence. If a Community Member has a question regarding ObieSafe policy, please contact ObieSafe at obiesafe@oberlin.edu or the Dean of Students Office at deanstu@oberlin.edu.

Process and Outcomes

A student reported to have violated the “2021-2022 Community Agreement” will receive notice from a representative or designee of the Office of the Dean of Students. That notice may be an informal warning, a request for an interview to provide more information, or in the case where there is an immediate suspension or dismissal from Oberlin College with no refund and an opportunity to meet with a member of the ObieSafe Non-Compliance Team. Where a report is of conduct that would warrant the termination of the student’s Housing Agreement, suspension, or dismissal of the student, the student will be provided the procedures offered in the "Oberlin Student Conduct Policy". Should the conduct be sufficiently serious that the student has been removed from housing on a temporary basis, this opportunity to be heard will occur while the student is off-campus.

If other existing campus policy violations accompany the reported “2021-2022 Community Agreement” violations, a separate process for resolving those issues may occur in the processes described by the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards. As such, violations of the "2021-2022 Community Agreement" are not subject to the "Oberlin Student Conduct Policy". If
a student chooses, they may consolidate these processes by requesting a meeting with the Director of Community Life and Standards, who may hear the complaint themselves or assign a designee.

Options for resolution, if there is evidence that the Community Agreement Non-Compliance occurred, include, but are not limited to:

   A. informal documentation and conversations,
   B. restorative conferences,
   C. formal warnings and mandated public health educational outcomes,
   D. suspension or dismissal from Oberlin College

If found responsible for violating the “2021-2022 Community Agreement”, a student may be assigned educational sanctions in order to continue to participate in the College community. These sanctions include outcomes such as: a) a status sanction ranging from a warning to separation from the college, b) restorative outcomes meant to repair the harm caused in a situation, and c) educational requirements meant to educate the student on the importance of a policy and the harm caused by violating the policy while reducing the likelihood of a recurrence.

When appropriate, the representative of the Office of the Dean of Students will prioritize restorative and educational outcomes that help a student remain a member of the Oberlin community. Each report will be evaluated individually and outcomes will be tailored to the seriousness of the conduct, but students should be aware that behaviors that create a substantial risk of COVID-19 transmission may result in immediate suspension or dismissal from housing. Additionally, repeated violations of the 2021-2022 Community Agreement may result in suspension or dismissal.

A student may ask for a review of any ObieSafe decision which will be assigned to a different member of the "ObieSafe Non-Compliance" team than who made the original decision. Given the importance of public health, all outcomes, including suspension or dismissal, are still in effect during the review process. Acceptable reasons for a request for review are A) an outcome that is disproportionate to the precedent, B) a procedural error that affected the outcome, or C) new information that was not readily available at the time of the original decision.

Further Information

The Office of the Dean of Students warmly welcomes questions, feedback, or concerns related to ensuring campus adherence to COVID-19 related policies. Please contact the Office of the Dean of Students (440-775-8462; deanstu@oberlin.edu) with any questions.