

Fall 2021 Recommendations: COVID-19 Prevention Strategies

This is a dynamic document and is anticipated to evolve in response to new information. It is based on what is currently known about SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 as of August 1, 2021.

The systemwide Fall Capacity Planning Group makes the following recommendations to support the return of employees, students, and visitors in Fall 2021. Guidance and regulations specific to clinical healthcare settings may differ from the strategies identified in this document. Additional or different strategies may be warranted and/or required for employees, students, patients and visitors in those settings. The University's continued goal will be to implement health and safety measures to achieve a SARS-CoV-2 incidence rate equal or less than the surrounding communities.

Summary of Recent Changes

(Updates as of August 1, 2021)

I. Fully Vaccinated Campus

- Increased threshold percentage for the definition of “fully vaccinated campus” from 75% to 90% based on the higher transmissibility of the Delta variant and lower efficacy of the vaccines in reducing infection against that variant.

II. Prevention Strategies for Employee and Students

- Added requirement for fully vaccinated people to wear a face covering in indoor settings in counties with substantial or high community transmission or as determined by state/local guidance, whichever is more restrictive.
- Added recommendation for arrival testing for residential students.
- Added recommendation for inclusion of a percentage of fully vaccinated individuals in asymptomatic testing programs (percentage to be determined locally based on local conditions and operational capacity).
- Added a recommendation for locations in areas of low or moderate community transmission to consider *requiring* universal face coverings in instructional settings.

III. University Housing

- Added recommendation related to isolation and quarantine space.
- Added requirement for fully vaccinated students living in University housing to wear face coverings in indoor communal spaces.

IV. Indoor Dining

- Added recommendations related to indoor dining, which includes campus dining halls.

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I. Fully Vaccinated Campus

In June 2021, the CDC released [*Guidance for Higher Education*](#) (IHEs) that includes prevention strategy recommendations for IHEs where everyone is fully vaccinated (i.e., fully vaccinated campus) and for IHEs where not everyone is fully vaccinated (i.e., mixed campus).

For Fall 2021, a UC location is considered a fully vaccinated campus if **at least 90% of students, faculty and staff** are fully vaccinated prior to returning to campus¹. UC locations should follow the CDC recommendations for a mixed campus if the campus vaccination rate is below 90%. These recommendations include coordinating with the local public health department on the implementation of layered prevention strategies and allow a campus to implement more restrictive mitigation measures if deemed appropriate.

Vaccine Tracking

To accurately and effectively monitor vaccination rates, a location's immunization tracking system(s) should support individual submission of vaccination documentation for verification and/or have the capability to query existing state/local databases for the purposes of determining vaccination status.

Ongoing Strategies

All UC locations, regardless of vaccination rates, should continue to maintain robust testing (symptomatic and asymptomatic) and contact tracing programs, maintain access to isolation and quarantine space, monitor local prevalence rates and variants, issue clear and consistent public health messaging, and continue to collaborate and coordinate with the local public health department to help determine if additional mitigation measures are needed based on current local conditions.

¹ 90% represents the threshold “floor” that is needed for a location to follow the CDC guidance for a fully vaccinated campus. It does not represent a herd/community immunity target. Locations should aim to achieve the highest vaccination rates possible in alignment with the systemwide vaccination policy that requires, with limited exceptions, employees and students to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before physically accessing the University’s Locations and Programs.

II. Prevention Strategies for Employees and Students

This table is applicable to employees and students who work, live, or learn in any of the University's locations or otherwise participate in person in University programs. It is based on the *CDC Guidance for Higher Education* and the additional federal and state regulatory and guidance documents listed in Appendix A.

		GUIDANCE	
	Strategy	Fully Vaccinated Individual	Not Fully Vaccinated Individual
Vaccination	Proof of vaccination status or request for exception or deferral	Required	Required
Re-Entry Testing and Sequester	Pre-travel viral testing (domestic/international)	Follow CDC recommendations	Follow CDC recommendations
	Viral test <i>upon arrival/re-entry to campus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required for symptomatic individuals • Recommended for international travelers and residential students • Optional for others 	Required; non-vaccinated students who reside in university housing should be retested no earlier than 5 days after first test
Face Coverings*	Sequester with minimal social interactions (essential activities only)	Optional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students: minimum 7-day sequestration upon arrival • Employees: N/A
	Face coverings worn outdoors	Optional	Optional
Symptom Screening	Face coverings worn indoors	Required [†]	Required
	Self-performed symptom monitoring and electronic reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employees: Required • Students: Recommended 	Required for employees and students
Testing & Contact Tracing	Refer symptomatic individuals for medical evaluation	Evaluate and provide care as determined by medical professional	Evaluate and provide care as determined by medical professional
	Test symptomatic individuals and return results in ≤ 24 hours	Required if recommended per symptom screening algorithm and/or evaluation by medical professional	Required if recommended per symptom screening algorithm and/or evaluation by medical professional

GUIDANCE			
	Strategy	Fully Vaccinated Individual	Not Fully Vaccinated Individual
	Isolate symptomatic individuals pending results	Required	Required
	Refer individuals who test positive for case investigation and contact tracing	Required	Required
	Quarantine for 10 days close contacts of those that test positive	Not required if asymptomatic	Required
Asymptomatic Testing	Participation in asymptomatic testing program	Recommended	1x/Week (min) - 2x/Week (max) [‡]
Other State & Local Public Health Guidance	Other required non-pharmaceutical interventions and public health measures	Follow guidance	Follow guidance

* Locations are required to follow the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 [Emergency Temporary Standard](#) for the use of face coverings during an outbreak and [CDPH guidance](#) for the use of face coverings in certain settings, including healthcare settings, public transit, indoor youth settings, and mega events.

[†] Based on CDC guidance, face coverings are required in indoor settings regardless of vaccination status in counties of [high or substantial community transmission](#). State/local public health departments may issue more restrictive guidance; locations in those jurisdictions should follow whichever criteria is more restrictive. Additionally, employees and students should be strongly encouraged to mask in off-campus indoor settings.

[‡] The lower frequency is a minimum threshold. Adjunct application of other testing and viral surveillance technologies (e.g., wastewater testing) may offset or lessen the frequency of testing. By [State Order](#), the higher frequency is required for not fully vaccinated individuals in acute health care and long-term care settings.

Additional strategies to consider:

- Locations with low or moderate community transmission may consider requiring universal face coverings in lecture halls and other classroom environments² based on local conditions including but not limited to variants in the community, building infrastructure, and local public health department guidance.

² There may be a small number of indoor instructional settings where face coverings are not operationally feasible or supportive of the learning environment (e.g., certain performance-based courses), locations should understand the additional risk associated with variable levels of masking in these spaces and implement layered prevention strategies to mitigate as much risk as possible including but not limited to maximizing physical distancing, limiting class size, and improving ventilation.

- Locations may consider requiring daily symptom screening and electronic reporting for fully vaccinated students temporally (e.g., at the start of the academic term, returning from a mass travel event, etc.) or based on campus setting (e.g., high capacity lecture halls).
- Inclusion of a percentage of fully vaccinated individuals in asymptomatic testing programs can be randomized or focused on specific types of individuals (e.g., immunosuppressed individuals, those living or working in higher risk settings) and may be driven by the number of breakthrough cases and variants present in the local community.
- Locations should consult with the local public health departments on their return to campus plans and COVID-19 mitigation measures. Locations may choose to implement additional public health strategies and/or more restrictive measures.

III. University Housing

Fully vaccinated students and students with an approved medical exemptions or accommodations are eligible to live in University housing. Residential students who have initiated but not completed a vaccination series are required to follow the guidance for individuals who are not fully vaccinated (Section I), including participating in weekly asymptomatic testing, until they meet the definition of a fully vaccinated individual (see Appendix A: Key Terms and References).

Additional recommendations:

- For University housing environments where vaccination rates are verified to be 90% or higher, location's may choose to adjust prevention strategies for fully vaccinated individuals consistent with [CDC Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#).
- Cohorting students solely on vaccination status is not recommended. Location's should consider the unique risks associated with congregate living when making housing assignments. Special considerations may be given for immunosuppressed students living in University housing, regardless of their vaccination status.
- Locations should review with the local public health department their plans for isolation and quarantine space based on campus density projections and residential housing vaccination rates. Isolation/quarantine space does not need to be located in University housing. Locations may choose to maintain this space off-campus (e.g., hotel blocks). Confirmed COVID-19 positive cases can be housed together in surge situations if necessary. Quarantined students should be housed in single rooms.
- Residential students regardless of vaccination status must wear face coverings in indoor communal areas. Face coverings do not have to be worn by a residential student while

in their own living space (e.g., room, suite, apartment, etc.) regardless of vaccination status.

- Guests and visitors in University Housing are required to wear face coverings indoors regardless of vaccination status.
- Special considerations for fall “Move-In”:
 - Visitors/guests participating in move-in activities are required to wear face coverings indoors regardless of vaccination status.
 - Testing and verification of vaccination status of visitors/guests during the move-in process is not required.
 - Move-in materials and messaging should strongly encourage symptomatic individuals to avoid participating in campus move-in activities unless a negative viral test is obtained. Locations should have testing options available during the move-in process.
 - Students who are not fully vaccinated should follow the testing and sequestration guidance listed in Section I.
- In consultation with the local public health department and based on vaccination rates and community prevalence, locations may choose to implement additional public health strategies and/or more restrictive measures.

IV. Indoor Dining (includes Dining Halls)

Face coverings are required in indoor dining settings regardless of vaccination status, unless eating or drinking. All individuals regardless of vaccination status should avoid eating indoors with others while symptomatic, or when directed to isolate or quarantine by public health authorities or their delegates.

Additional recommendations:

- Not fully vaccinated individuals should avoid eating indoors in crowded settings and should choose outdoor dining options and use to-go options as much as feasible. When those options are not available, not fully vaccinated individuals should maintain 6 feet physical distancing while eating and drinking.
- Individuals with underlying medical conditions that put them at high risk for severe disease should consider avoiding congregate indoor dining settings as much as feasible.
- Locations should follow any additional state/local public health requirements.

V. Visitors

This section applies to visitors and campus affiliates who are not employees or students.

- In alignment with CDPH guidance, locations may decide to accept visitor self-attestation as proof of vaccination status or choose to implement a vaccine verification system. This is a local decision that should include consultation with the local health jurisdiction.
- Locations should follow [CDPH guidance](#) for vaccine verification, pre-entry negative testing, and face coverings for indoor and outdoor mega events.
- Where visitors are known, locations may ask campus departments/units to collect visitor contact information to help facilitate contact tracing should it be necessary.

Appendix A: Key Terms and References

Key Terms

- **Fully vaccinated campus:** A campus where at least 90% of students, faculty, and staff have completed their vaccination series to protect against COVID-19 prior to returning to campus except those people who are unable to get the COVID-19 vaccine due to medical or other reasons.
- **Fully vaccinated:** A person is considered fully vaccinated when they have received a complete vaccine series and ≥2 weeks has passed since the final vaccine; as well as any boosters consistent with manufacturer instructions and applicable agency approval or authorization.
- **Mixed campus:** A mixed campus includes people who have completed their COVID-19 vaccination series and people who have not completed their vaccination series to protect against COVID-19. A UC location should follow the CDC recommendations for a mixed campus if the campus vaccination rate is below 90%.
- **Not fully vaccinated:** People who are not fully vaccinated are: (i) individuals of all ages, including children, who have not completed a vaccination series to protect against COVID-19; (ii) those not ≥2 weeks post vaccination series or; (iii) individuals with approved medical exemptions or accommodations.
- **Employee re-entry:** The return of employees to University facilities following the end of remote work conditions established during the pandemic to comply with local and statewide stay-at-home orders.
- **Optional:** Implementation to be determined by the UC location based on, but not limited to, operational capacity, local public health guidance, and local COVID-19 prevalence rates. Implementation of or adherence to optional strategies is not determined by an individual employee or student.
- **Recommended:** Not required for implementation; if feasible and aligned with operational capacity, locations are encouraged to implement recommended strategies as part of a layered COVID-19 prevention approach.
- **Sequester:** Minimize in-person interactions among students, faculty and staff, whether in the dorms, dining facilities, or other campus locations where students congregate, or off-campus for those students who live at home or in off-campus housing. Students who are sequestering should leave their on- or off-campus residences only to participate in essential activities (e.g., attending class or work, to purchase food, participate in low-risk outdoor recreational activities, or obtain health care services).
- **Student arrival/re-entry:** The arrival of students back on campus or the surrounding community to start the academic term and/or following a mass travel event (e.g., Thanksgiving break, winter break, etc.)

- **Vaccine:** A COVID-19 vaccine satisfies the requirements of the UC vaccine policy if: (i) the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has issued a License or an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the vaccine or; (ii) for a vaccine administered abroad, the World Health Organization has approved Emergency Use Listing (EUL).

References

Cal/OSHA COVID-19 [Prevention Emergency Temporary Standard](#) (June 17, 2021)
CDC [Choosing Safer Activities](#) (May 28, 2021)
CDC [Domestic Travel](#) During COVID-19 (June 10, 2021)
CDC [Guidance for Institutions of Higher Education](#) (June 4, 2021)
CDC [Guidance for Unvaccinated People](#) (July 26, 2021)
CDC [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#) (July 27, 2021)
CDC [International Travel](#) During COVID-19 (June 10, 2021)
CDC [When You've Been Fully Vaccinated](#) (July 27, 2021)
CDPH [Beyond the Blueprint for Industry and Business Sectors](#) (May 21, 2021)
CDPH [COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations](#) for Fully Vaccinated People (May 12, 2021)
CDPH [Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#) (July 28, 2021)
CDPH [State Public Health Order of July 26, 2021](#)
UC [Fall 2021 Capacity Planning Recommendations](#) (April 28, 2021)
UC [SARS-CoV-2 \(COVID-19\) Vaccination Program](#) Policy (July 15, 2021)