

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 July 15, 2021. This document supports the implementation of the UC SARS-CoV-2 Vaccination Program Participation Policy and updates [Fall 2021 Capacity Planning Recommendations](#) issued in April 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.

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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 75% of students, faculty and staff** are fully vaccinated prior to returning to campus¹. UC location should follow the CDC recommendations for a mixed campus if the campus vaccination rate is below 75%. These recommendations include coordinating with the local public health department on the

¹ 75% 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. This lower threshold may be adjusted and locations may choose a higher threshold based on new information, emerging variants, etc. 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.

implementation of layered prevention strategies and allow a campus to implement more restrictive mitigation measures if deemed appropriate.

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.

All UC locations, regardless of vaccination rates, should continue to maintain robust testing (symptomatic and asymptomatic) and contact tracing programs, 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 public mitigation measures are needed based on current local conditions.

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</i> arrival/re-entry to campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required for symptomatic individuals • Recommended for international travelers • Optional for others 	Required; non-vaccinated students who reside in university housing should be retested no earlier than 5 days after first test
	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

		GUIDANCE	
	Strategy	Fully Vaccinated Individual	Not Fully Vaccinated Individual
Symptom Screening	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
	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*	Optional	1x/Week (min) - 2x/Week (max)
Face Coverings[†]	Face coverings worn outdoors	Optional	Optional
	Face coverings worn indoors	Optional	Required
Other State & Local Public Health Guidance	Other required non-pharmaceutical interventions and public health measures	Follow guidance	Follow guidance

* The lower frequency for the unvaccinated 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. Additionally, high vaccination rates combined with low community prevalence may offset or lessen the need for this type of viral surveillance.

[†] 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. Additionally, employees and students may voluntarily choose to wear a face covering, regardless of vaccination status.

Additional strategies to consider:

- Locations with vaccination rates < 75% may consider implementing universal face coverings in lecture halls and other classroom environments based on local conditions including but not limited to local transmission, variants in the community, building infrastructure, and local public health department guidance.
- 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).
- Locations are encouraged to include a percentage of fully vaccinated individuals in asymptomatic screening programs. Inclusion 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.
- 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.

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 75% or higher, campuses 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.
- Residential students who are not fully vaccinated should follow the [CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#) while in communal areas. Face coverings do not have to be

worn by any residential student while in their own living space (e.g., room, suite, apartment, etc.) regardless of vaccination status.

- Guests and visitors in University Housing should follow the locally determined visitor policy which can rely on self-attestation or a vaccine verification mechanism, including use of the state’s [Digital COVID-19 Vaccine Record](#) portal.
- Special considerations for fall “Move-In”:
 - Given the fluid and transitory nature of the move-in period, locations should consider implementing universal face coverings for all students, employees and guests participating in move-in activities.
 - 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. Visitors

- 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 75% 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 75%.
- **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, 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 of 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](#) (June 11, 2021)
CDC [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#) (May 28, 2021)
CDC [International Travel](#) During COVID-19 (June 10, 2021)
CDC [When You've Been Fully Vaccinated](#) (June 17, 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](#) (June 15, 2021)
UC [Fall 2021 Capacity Planning Recommendations](#) (April 28, 2021)
UC SARS-CoV-2 Vaccination Program Participation Policy