



Last Updated July 13, 2022
Latest Update March 18, 2022
Updated September 9, 2021
Updated August 5, 2021
Issued July 19, 2021

This guidance replaces all previous COVID and coronavirus guidance issued by the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board.

IBHE and ICCB are updating this guidance consistent with CDC and IDPH recommendations and the requirements under the Governor's Executive Order 2022-16. Updates are identified below.

Please refer to CDC's [Guidance for Institutions of Higher Education \(IHEs\)](#) for additional detail not covered here.

1. **COVID-19 Vaccination (Updated July 13, 2022).** Vaccination against COVID-19 is now widely available. Vaccination is the leading prevention strategy against COVID-19. All IHEs are strongly encouraged to provide information to promote vaccine trust and confidence and address vaccine hesitancy.
2. **Use of Masks or Face Coverings (Updated July 13, 2022).**
 - [CDC recommends](#) that all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, wear a well-fitted mask indoors in public areas when [COVID-19 community levels](#) are high or, for those who are at higher risk for severe illness, when COVID-19 community levels are medium.
 - Public or private entities, including IHEs, may establish their own policies for face coverings that exceed these requirements.
 - Individuals may choose to wear face coverings and should be supported if they choose to do so.
 - All individuals, including those who are up to date with COVID-19 vaccination, are required to wear face coverings in congregate facilities, in health care settings, and where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations.
 - [CDC recommends](#) wearing masks in indoor public transportation settings (Updated June 21, 2022).
3. **Diagnostic Testing and Screening of Asymptomatic Persons.** IHEs should ensure diagnostic testing is accessible and consider using screening, as follows:
 - Testing of persons with symptoms of COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status.
 - Testing of persons who are determined to be close contacts to someone with active COVID-19 infection at least 3 to 5 days after last exposure.

- Testing of staff and students/participants with possible exposure in the context of outbreak settings.
 - Screening of staff and/or students/participants, especially at medium and high [COVID-19 Community Levels](#), after breaks, or during large events
4. **Contact Tracing, Isolation and Quarantine (Updated July 13, 2022).** IHEs should refer to [CDC Guidance](#) on [quarantine and isolation](#).
 5. **Symptom Screening.** IHEs should continue to encourage students, faculty, and staff to monitor themselves for symptoms of infectious illnesses, including COVID-19. Those with signs or symptoms of infectious illness should stay home and use a [COVID-19 self-checker](#) to determine whether to seek testing or medical care.
 6. **Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette.** IHEs should continue to promote and facilitate health-promoting behaviors such as [hand hygiene](#) and [respiratory etiquette](#).
 7. **Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities.** IHEs should continue routine cleaning of high-touch surfaces and shared object in accordance with [CDC recommendations](#).
 8. **Ventilation.** Maintaining improved ventilation in accordance with [CDC recommendations](#) continues to be important.
 9. **Shared Housing and Communal Spaces (Updated July 13, 2022).** IHEs should consider CDC's [Guidance for Institutions of Higher Education \(IHEs\)](#) which recommends shared housing in IHE settings follow the general public guidance for [quarantine and isolation](#).
 10. **Food Service and Communal Dining.** IHEs should continue to promote practices that prevent the spread of COVID-19 due to close proximity among unmasked individuals, especially when community levels are high. Refer to [CDC guidelines](#) under "food service and communal dining" for more specific information.
 11. **Health Equity.** Racial and ethnic minority groups have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 due to [long-standing systemic health and social inequities](#). IHEs should address these inequities and protect people at [increased risk for COVID-19](#) by following CDC guidelines for [promoting health equity](#).
 12. **Considerations for Students, Faculty, and Staff with Disabilities.** Disability support service providers should follow [CDC guidance](#) when determining individualized approaches and accommodations for [people with disabilities](#). IHEs should make [exceptions](#) to any mask requirements for a person with a disability who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.
 13. **Gatherings, Events, Visitors, and Sports.** All individuals may engage in sports-related activities, both indoors and outdoors, without wearing a mask, except where otherwise required by laws, rules, or regulations, including local business and workplace guidance. When the COVID-19 community level is high, CDC recommends that all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, wear a well-fitting mask while indoors in public.
 14. **Study Abroad and Travel.** IHEs planning study-abroad programs should refer to CDC's destination-specific [Travel Health Notices](#) (THNs), postpone programs in [destination or host countries](#) with very high (Level 4 THN) COVID-19 levels, and be ready to take action if situations in the destination or host countries worsen while students, faculty, or staff are present there.
 15. **International Students (Updated July 13, 2022).** International students are recommended to up to date with COVID-19 vaccination with a CDC- or World Health Organization-approved vaccine prior to arrival. International students vaccinated outside of the United States should refer to [CDC Guidance Appendix A](#) International students are eligible to be vaccinated in Illinois.
 16. **Updates to Guidance.** This guidance remains subject to change pursuant to updated public health guidance and changing public health conditions. Future updates will be posted at [IBHE.org](#) and [ICCB.org](#)