



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

While Illinois is in Phase 5, this guidance replaces all previous guidance issued by the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board under the Restore Illinois plan.

On September 3, 2021, Governor Pritzker issued [Executive Order 2021-22](#) which included certain requirements applicable to students and employees of higher education institutions. On February 28, 2022, Governor Pritzker issued [Executive Order 2022-06](#), which rescinded Section 1 of Executive Order 2021-22 relating to face coverings. IBHE and ICCB are updating this guidance consistent with CDC and IDPH recommendations and the requirements under the Governor's Executive Orders 2021-22 and 2022-06. Updates are identified below.

The CDC updated its [Guidance for Institutions of Higher Education \(IHEs\)](#). Please refer to that guidance for additional detail not covered here.

- 1. COVID-19 Vaccination (Updated March 18, 2022).** Vaccination against COVID-19 is now widely available, and all persons over the age of 5 are eligible. Vaccination is the leading prevention strategy against COVID-19. [Executive Order 2021-22](#), requires higher education personnel and students, as those terms are defined in the Executive Order, to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or submit to weekly testing. Any individual who is not fully vaccinated, including those who are exempted from the requirement due to medical or religious reasons, must undergo weekly COVID-19 testing to protect campus populations and slow COVID-19 transmission in surrounding communities. 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 and Physical Distancing (Updated March 18, 2022).**
 - As of February 28, 2022, [Executive Order 2022-06](#) lifted the statewide indoor mask mandate. [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.
 - 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 fully vaccinated, are required to wear face coverings on public transportation, in congregate facilities, in health care settings, and where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations.
3. **Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette.** IHEs should continue to promote and facilitate health-promoting behaviors such as [hand hygiene](#) and [respiratory etiquette](#).
 4. **Cleaning, Improving Ventilation, and Maintaining Healthy Facilities.** IHEs should continue routine cleaning of high-touch surfaces and shared objects and maintaining improved ventilation in accordance with [CDC recommendations](#).
 5. **Contact Tracing, Isolation and Quarantine, and Testing (Updated September 9, 2021).** IHEs should refer to [CDC Guidance](#) on these topics. Pursuant to [Executive Order 2021-22](#), higher education personnel and students are required to undergo weekly COVID-19 testing if they are not fully vaccinated by September 19, 2021, and until they are fully vaccinated.
 6. **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.
 7. **Shared Housing and Communal Spaces.** IHEs should consider CDC's [Guidance for Institutions of Higher Education \(IHEs\)](#).
 8. **Food Service and Communal Dining.** While there is [no evidence](#) to suggest that COVID-19 is spread by [handling](#) or eating food, IHEs should continue to promote practices that prevent the spread of COVID-19 due to close proximity among unmasked individuals, especially those who are not vaccinated. Refer to [CDC guidelines](#) for more specific information.
 9. **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](#).
 10. **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.
 11. **Gatherings, Events, Visitors, and Sports (Updated March 18, 2022).** 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.
 12. **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.
 13. **International Students (Updated September 9, 2021).** Pursuant to Executive Order 2021-22, all students, including international students, are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 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](#) for the need for vaccinations upon arrival in the United States. International students are eligible to be vaccinated in Illinois. Any individual who is not fully vaccinated, including those who are exempted from the requirement due to medical or religious reasons, must undergo weekly COVID-19 testing to protect campus populations and slow COVID-19 transmission in surrounding communities.
 14. **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](#)