



Fall 2021
Being Safe at
Columbia University
Faculty and Staff
Presentation

August 25, 2021



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

If you require an accessible PDF version, please contact disability@columbia.edu

Fall 2021: Keeping Columbia Safe

- The University has put in place a comprehensive COVID19 safety plan for the Fall term.
- Face coverings **will continue to be required** indoors for fully vaccinated people, as well as unvaccinated individuals*.
- Additional key safety measures include vaccination mandate, face covering, testing, training, daily attestation, the Compact, facility enhancements and restrictions on travel, visitors, and gatherings and events.
- Each required protocol is important, but collectively these measures provide substantial protection for our community.
- **We are asking your help to reinforce a positive culture of compliance. It is critical that we serve as a positive example for each other and for our students**

* Only unvaccinated individuals on campus are those who have approved medical or religious exemption

Required Safety Protocols

All faculty, staff, and students must follow these protocols



Download the
ReopenCU
App



Get Vaccinated*
and Upload
Documentation



Read and
Sign the
Compact



Get
Tested



Complete
the
Training



Wear A
Mask
Indoors



Follow
Signage

**Or submit request for medical or religious exemption and follow additional protocols for masking and testing*

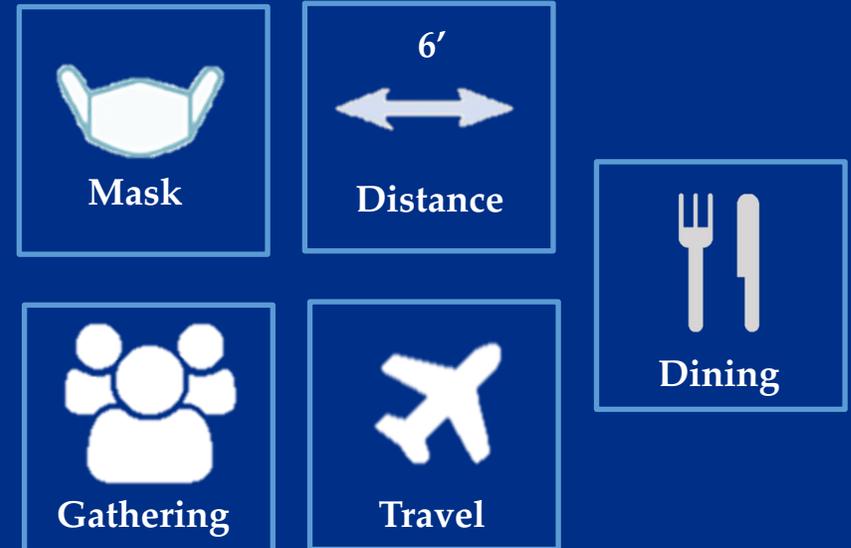
COVID-19 Monitoring Plan

The Columbia University COVID-19 Monitoring Plan has four risk levels based on priority COVID-19 metrics for New York City and the Columbia campus. The risk level determines what key actions are taken to re-institute or lift certain safety measures.

Key thresholds for each metric were set to signal COVID-19 risk level



Each risk level has key actions for re-institution or lifting of certain measures



COVID-19 Monitoring Plan

covid19.columbia.edu/content/covid-19-monitoring-plan

**Current Alert Level:
Low Risk (Yellow)**

Updated: August 10, 2021

Guiding Principles

- Columbia University Framework for COVID-19 Risk Assessment and Management is developed to provide guidance for fall 2021
- A single approach will guide the University's approach
- Careful consideration will be given to contextualizing of the observed trends, keeping in mind the change in knowledge about the epidemic, and the need for flexibility in analyzing and acting upon the criteria set forth
- The University will continue to prioritize activities relating directly to the University's instructional, research and service mission
- All actions will be informed by national, state, and local guidance

Wear a Mask Indoors



- **All individuals, regardless of vaccination status, must wear face coverings in indoor campus spaces, including classrooms**
- **Faculty and instructional staff may teach without a face covering, provided that they maintain 6 feet of distance from their students. Face coverings must be replaced as soon as the class finishes.**
- **Unvaccinated individuals must wear face coverings both indoors and outdoors**

Get Tested



- **Prior to accessing campus:**
Required to get a gateway test
- **Vaccinated:**
Participate in weekly random surveillance testing; if selected, must test within 2 weeks
- **Unvaccinated (approved exemptions):**
Weekly testing required
- **When required:**
Participate in contact tracing, and relevant testing, isolation and quarantine protocols
- Participate in follow-up testing as required based on findings from wastewater surveillance efforts

Columbia Community Health Compact

At all times, **including when off campus**, all Columbia community members are expected to follow the Compact.

As signatories of this compact, each of us commits to:

- Get vaccinated (or have an approved medical or religious exemption)
- Complete Columbia's symptom tracker app every day before coming to campus or leaving a campus residence hall, and stay home when sick
- Continue to follow basic health precautions including frequent handwashing/sanitizing
- Comply with any requirements to use face coverings or physical distancing
- Respect that there may be Columbia affiliates who choose to wear face coverings, or physically distance, when not required and that no judgments or assumptions should be made with respect to these individuals
- Follow signs and guidance posted throughout campus spaces and buildings
- Participate in testing, contact tracing, and isolation and quarantine protocols, when required
- Follow all University policies and procedures



What happens if someone tests positive for COVID-19?

The Columbia Contact Tracing Team quickly responds to assess the situation

The positive case is required to isolate for a minimum of 10 days



Isolate

Close contacts* who are fully vaccinated and asymptomatic – e.g., students sitting within six feet of the positive case – will not need to quarantine (must mask), but will need to get tested within 3-5 days of exposure

Close contacts* who are not fully vaccinated will need to quarantine for 10 days and get tested within 3-5 days of exposure.



Get Tested

If close contacts cannot be determined, all class members will be required to follow above guidance, based on vaccination status

***Close contact = Within 6 feet for over 10 minutes in a single instance or within 6 feet for a cumulative time of 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period**

Current Event and Gathering Guidance



Academic:

No capacity thresholds

Administrative and Other Teams:

Indoor: 250, Outdoor: 500

Social or Extracurricular:

Indoor: 25, Outdoor: 50

Other Gatherings (Conferences and Other Events that include non-Columbia affiliates):

Restricted

Fall 2021 Eating and Dining Guidance

Outdoor eating and dining are preferred over indoor dining in all cases. However, if outdoor arrangements are not feasible the below guidance should be followed.

Eating Outdoors

- Vaccinated individuals are not required to distance
- Unvaccinated individuals are required to distance (6 feet apart)

Eating Indoors

Applies to vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals

- All must maintain 6-foot distancing
- Minimize mask removal while eating when in presence of others
- Eating in break room, conference room permitted with distancing (6 feet), with sequential scheduling recommended to maintain 6 foot distancing
- Eating at workstations permitted with distancing (6 feet)
- Eating at laboratory benches not permitted as a general rule of safety

Student Specific Guidance

Students need to adhere to the above guidance, as well as the following

- Dining halls are grab-and-go service or with distanced seating (6 feet). Students will have the option for outdoor dining under tents and indoor dining (w/6 feet distancing)
- Cafes are grab-and-go service or with distanced indoor seating (6 feet)
- Eating with others indoors is allowed with distancing (6 feet) or alone in living space
- Class or faculty-sponsored meetings in off-campus restaurants not permitted
- When dining individually or with friends off campus take appropriate precautions, minimize indoor dining if possible, and avoid large groups

Fall 2021 Travel, Quarantine and Testing Guidance

For all individuals, vaccinated or unvaccinated, it is strongly recommended that you avoid traveling to states with high COVID-19 case incidence rates. It is strongly recommended that unvaccinated individuals should defer travel.

Domestic Travel

Fully Vaccinated Individuals



Vaccinated

- Avoid travel to high COVID-19 incidence locations
- Not required to test or quarantine

Unvaccinated Individuals



Test



Quarantine

- Avoid travel to high COVID-19 incidence locations
- Recommend test 1-3 days prior to and 3-5 days after travel
- Recommend quarantine (7 days if tested on day 3-5 or 10 days without a test)
- Avoid people with higher risk for severe disease for 14 days

International Travel

Fully Vaccinated Individuals



Vaccinated



Test

- Obtain required approvals
- Required to test within 3 days before travel and on day 3 – 5 after return
- Not required to quarantine

Unvaccinated Individuals



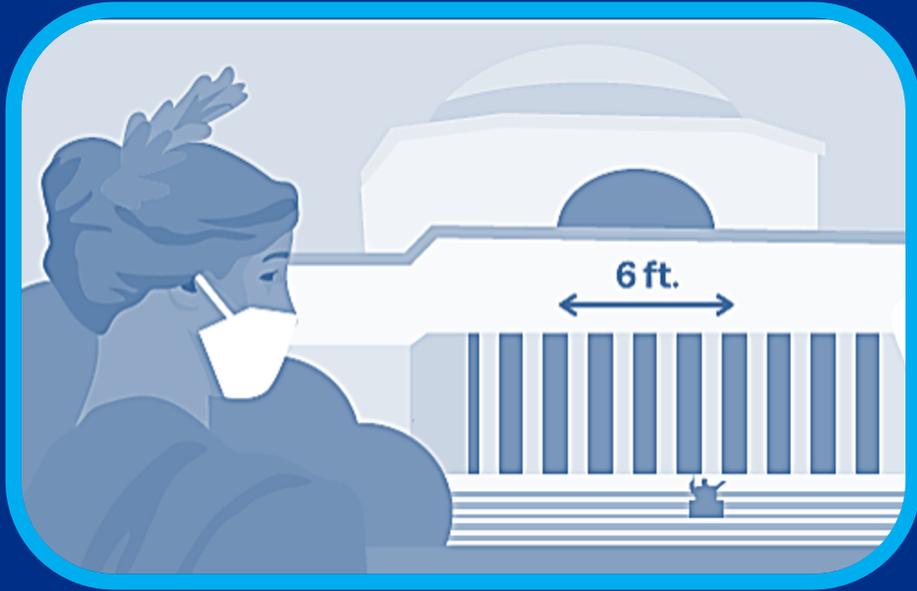
Test



Quarantine

- Obtain required approvals
- Required to test 1-3 days before trip and 3-5 days after travel
- Required to quarantine (7 days if tested on day 3-5 or 10 days without a test)
- Avoid people with higher risk for severe disease for 14 days

Visitor Guidelines



- No non-affiliate visitors to undergraduate residence halls
- Other non-affiliate visitors and gathering restrictions in place
- Prospective students and family members on campus visits are restricted to outdoor spaces

Key Takeaways

- **The faculty and staff are critical role models** for our students and for each other – we are relying on you to send the right message to our community
- **Face coverings are required indoors** at present. Please remind those who are not wearing a face covering or wearing it improperly
 - Exception: Faculty and instructional staff may teach without face coverings with physical distancing
- Unvaccinated individuals must wear face coverings both indoors and outdoors
- **Outdoor dining is preferred over indoor dining in all cases.** For eating indoors, physical distancing is required. At this time, all dining services are “grab and go.”
- For all individuals, vaccinated or unvaccinated, it is strongly recommended that you **avoid traveling to states with high COVID-19 case incidence rates.** It is strongly recommended that unvaccinated individuals should defer travel.
- At all times, **including when off campus**, all Columbia community members are expected to follow the Compact.

Stay Up to Date

Critical real-time updates are posted on the [COVID-19 Resource Guide for the Columbia Community](https://covid19.columbia.edu) at covid19.columbia.edu.

Check regularly for the most current information and additional details.

The screenshot shows the top portion of the website. The main title is "COVID-19 RESOURCE GUIDE FOR THE COLUMBIA COMMUNITY". In the top right corner, there is a link for "FAQs - Medical Center". Below the title is a navigation bar with several dropdown menus: "Fall 2021", "Public Health", "Students", "University Updates", "Videos", "I Need Information About", and "Documents". The "Fall 2021" menu is currently open, displaying a grid of links organized into four columns:

What's New	Fall 2021 Travel Restrictions	Teaching and Learning	Research
Vaccine Requirement FAQs	Event and Gathering Guidelines	Return to In-person Instruction	Research Ramp-up Ambassadors
Upload Vaccine Documentation	Visitor Guidelines	Academic Calendar 2021-22	Work Remotely
ReopenCU App	Building Readiness	Instruction Guidelines	State and Local Guidelines
COVID-19 Testing Program	COVID-19 Monitoring Plan	Learn Remotely	

Current State: COVID-19 Monitoring Plan



**Low Risk Level
(Yellow)**

Testing

- Weekly mandatory testing of unvaccinated affiliates
- Increased random sampling of all vaccinated affiliates
- Wastewater surveillance, targeted testing if spike detected

Face Coverings

Indoors:

- Masking by vaccinated and unvaccinated persons
- Unvaccinated persons may distance if feasible

Physical Distancing

Outdoors:

- Vaccinated persons not required to mask or distance
- Unvaccinated persons required to mask and may distance if feasible

Dining

- Observe distancing when eating
- Outdoor venues preferred
- “Grab and go” or single-portion food only

Gatherings

- Academic: No capacity thresholds
- Administrative and Other Teams: Indoor: 250, Outdoor: 500
- Social or Extracurricular: Indoor: 25, Outdoor: 50
- Other Gatherings (Conferences and Other Events): Restricted

Travel

- University Travel Policy in place

Safety Coordinators and Research Ramp-Up Ambassadors

Each school and unit has designated a COVID-19 Safety Coordinator. In addition, Research Ramp-Up Ambassadors help facilitate issues specific to the research community.

Find your Safety Coordinator and Ambassador at covid19.columbia.edu.

Find your Safety Coordinator

- Morningside
- CUIMC
- Research Centers and Institutes
- University Libraries
- Administration
- Affiliates

Find Your Ambassador

- Morningside Schools
- CUIMC Schools
- Research Center or Institute
- University Libraries

Where to Go With a Concern

SUBMIT A QUESTION OR COMMENT

Faculty, staff, students, and affiliates can submit general questions or comments about University COVID-19 policies by emailing covidresource@columbia.edu

NON-ADHERENCE TO SAFETY PROTOCOLS

You can contact Public Safety:
Morningside:
[212-854-2797](tel:212-854-2797)

Manhattanville:
[212-853-3301](tel:212-853-3301)

Medical Center:
[212-305-8100](tel:212-305-8100)
or [212-305-7979](tel:212-305-7979)

REPORTS BY AND ABOUT STUDENTS

Use the “Report an Incident” button at the top of the University Life website, report through Student Conduct and Community Standards, or contact student affairs staff in each school

REPORTS RE: FACULTY OR STAFF

Go to your department chair or dean of faculty affairs

Speak with your supervisor or Human Resources

Report anonymously with the University Compliance Hotline (866)-627-3768
compliance.columbia.edu/hotline