COVID-19

Safety Awareness Training:

Prevention/Protection Practices

Audience: Campus-Wide

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Purpose

This guidance identifies and describes current Harvard University policies and the on-campus COVID-19 prevention and protection practices that all Harvard University community members must employ to minimize the spread of COVID-19, the illness caused by the SARS CoV-2 virus.

Minimizing the spread on-campus depends on each person taking personal responsibility to understand and implement these practices.

This guidance is designed to supplement existing school and unit policies, plans, and procedures and to assist management in communicating these expected practices to personnel.

General Prevention and Protection Practices

All Harvard University community members shall adhere to the following general prevention and protection strategies and practices while on campus:

Review and Apply COVID-19 Safety Awareness Training: Prevention/Protection Practices

This document should be reviewed by all Harvard University community members who will have an on-campus presence this fall. It describes the required prevention and protection practices expected to be followed by all Harvard University community members while on-campus.

This guidance document can be accessed through the Harvard Training Portal (HTP) and is also available through the EH&S website.

Self-Monitoring for Symptoms

Harvard University community members are expected to assess their health status prior to any on-campus activities.
If a community member has COVID-19 symptoms, a recent COVID-19 exposure, or a COVID-19 diagnosis then a formal attestation must be documented using Crimson Clear, a web-based application that is accessed through HarvardKey, or by emailing Harvard University Health Services (HUHS) at clear@huhs.harvard.edu.

After a community member attests to symptoms, exposure, or infection then HUHS clinical staff will reach out to provide support and further instructions.

Persons who work in Harvard University-operated healthcare settings must use Crimson Clear to perform a symptom attestation every day that they are on campus.

Public facing Harvard University operations must ensure that members of the public are made aware of the need for self-attestation of any COVID-19 symptoms, exposures, or diagnoses prior to and then upon arrival on-campus.

If you are feeling unwell or are experiencing any symptoms associated with COVID-19 report them to your healthcare provider for further guidance and **do not report to work/class or engage in any on-campus activities.**

If HUHS or your healthcare provider suspects or confirms that you have COVID-19, follow their guidance on the length of time you must remain at home. Staff should notify their supervisor and work with HUHS and their healthcare provider to determine when to return to work and should follow Human Resources’ (HR) Coronavirus Workplace Policies.

**Assisting with Contact Tracing**

All members of the Harvard University community are required to cooperate fully with the contact tracing process, regardless of their vaccination status.

Contact tracing is a process that identifies and then notifies persons who were in close contact with infected individuals of their potential exposure to COVID-19 and the need for them to quarantine. Contact tracers also provide support and guidance to persons who are currently infected with COVID-19.
If you are sick and test positive you should notify HUHS, your supervisor, and your HR representative. Expect to be contacted by a Public Health Contact Tracer or HUHS to establish with whom you have had recent close contact in the workplace.

Testing

Symptomatic Testing

Persons with symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 should be evaluated by their personal healthcare provider. Anyone who tests positive should report this to HUHS via Crimson Clear (unless their testing was administered by HUHS).

Surveillance Testing

Members of the community who are eligible for Harvard University’s viral testing surveillance program should maintain their assigned testing cadence. Testing cadence is determined based upon individual vaccination status as well as current infection rates both on-campus and regionally.

Schools and units should monitor testing participation and act when individuals fail to test according to their expected cadence.

See Harvard University COVID-19 Testing and Tracing for more information.

Vaccination

Harvard University requires COVID-19 vaccination for all Harvard University community members, including:

- Students
- Faculty
- Staff
- Researchers
- Embedded vendors
- Anyone who will have any on-campus presence
Exceptions will be provided for medical or religious reasons. Note that unvaccinated individuals may be subject to additional public health measures (e.g., extra masking, testing) above and beyond what is required of vaccinated individuals.

Full vaccination is defined as two weeks after receiving the final dose of an Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-authorized or approved vaccine (currently Moderna, Pfizer, or Johnson & Johnson) or vaccines that have been authorized for use by the World Health Organization (e.g., AstraZeneca/Oxford, Sinopharm, Sinovac).

Community members are advised to complete their vaccination as soon as possible and submit verification of vaccination to HUHS immediately.

If you have already received the vaccine:

- Keep your vaccination card safe and make a copy of it for your files.
- If you have been vaccinated outside of HUHS please follow Harvard University COVID-19: Verify Your Vaccination for securely submitting your vaccination information.
- On-campus testing is still required, but fully vaccinated persons may have fewer testing requirements than unvaccinated persons.
- Continue to practice healthy habits (e.g., face covering use, physical distancing, personal hygiene, etc.) in accordance with Harvard University protocols.

**General Use of Face Coverings**

Face coverings continue to be required indoors at Harvard University in all spaces, with limited exceptions.

Even when not wearing a mask outdoors, all Harvard University community members should have an acceptable face covering on their persons at all times when on-campus.

**Unvaccinated Persons**

Unvaccinated persons may remove their face coverings when outdoors and able to consistently maintain at least six feet from others. This is for any purpose, including eating, drinking, and physical fitness.

Mask usage is required for unvaccinated persons when outdoors and six feet of distancing cannot be consistently maintained.
Fully Vaccinated Persons

Fully vaccinated persons are no longer required to wear face coverings when outdoors. Fully vaccinated individuals may eat and drink together indoors and outdoors without physical distancing.

Visit [Face Coverings: General Use](#) for additional information face coverings.

Physical Distancing

Beginning July 15, 2021, indoor physical distancing is no longer required for fully vaccinated persons.

Household members or vaccinated persons may dine together. Signage should reiterate that only members from the same household or fully vaccinated persons may dine together in close proximity.

Physical distancing is not required outdoors for fully vaccinated individuals.

**Unvaccinated persons must continue to practice physical distancing both indoors and outdoors at all times.**

COVID-19 state sector-specific occupancy limits and Harvard University occupancy limits have been lifted. Building and room capacities may return to pre-COVID-19 levels provided that under no circumstances may fire safety or occupancy limits be exceeded.

In settings where physical distancing is no longer required, it remains a prudent health practice to practice physical distancing when close contact is not necessary.

Schools or units may have more restrictive requirements for distancing.

Practicing Good Personal Hygiene

Basic personal hygiene practices, including hand washing and coughing/sneezing etiquette, are critical in preventing the spread of respiratory viruses.

Ensure that you wash your hands regularly, especially:

- Before touching eyes, nose, or mouth
- Before putting on and after removing your face covering
- Before you eat
• After using the restroom
• After touching any potentially contaminated surface
• After coughing or sneezing

Be sure to wash hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and warm water. If you are not near a handwashing sink, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

If you feel the urge to cough or sneeze do so into a tissue or into your inner elbow even if you are wearing a mask or face covering.

If you are experiencing symptoms suggestive of COVID-19, cold, or flu you should avoid contact with others and plan to work/study remotely.

Cleaning and Disinfection

Schools and units should follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for routine, pre-COVID-19 cleaning and disinfection in occupied buildings, unless there is someone who has accessed the building who is confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19.

If there has been a person who has tested positive or is suspected to have COVID-19 in your facility within the last 24 hours, you should clean and disinfect high-touch, shared surfaces that the person has accessed.

Harvard University Guidance for On-Campus Activities

Harvard University Guidance for On-Campus Activity provides schools and units relevant and up to date COVID-19 requirements and recommendations for planning on-campus activities, including events and gatherings. This tool can also be used by community members with questions about what activities are currently permitted on-campus.
School and Unit Return to Campus Planning

Schools and units may have reason to implement separate guidelines that are more restrictive than those described in this document. Please check with your school or unit to review any additional requirements that may be in place before returning to campus.

Additional Resources

As schools and units plan for the 2021-2022 academic year, students, faculty, and staff will continue to receive critical updates from Harvard University leaders.

Please ensure that you are checking your email regularly to stay up to date on the latest information.

COVID-19 Safety Training: Links and Resources contains a full list of COVID-19 resources.