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Purpose

This guidance is intended to describe the minimum set of Harvard University COVID-19 prevention and protection practices that community members are expected to know and implement to minimize the spread of COVID-19, the illness caused by the SARS CoV-2 virus. Please note that schools and units may also have more restrictive policies, plans, and procedures.

This guidance is designed to assist school and unit management with the communication of these Harvard University practices to their constituents, especially those returning to campus for the first time. The guidance can be accessed (and tracked) via the Harvard Training Portal (HTP) and is also available on the EH&S website, along with many other useful COVID-19 resources.

University Prevention and Protection Practices

Minimizing spread requires each person to understand these practices and be responsible for their consistent adherence to these practices. School and units may have additional and more restrictive policies/plans/procedures that are not listed here.

Vaccination

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

- Students
- Faculty
- Staff
- Researchers
- Embedded vendors

Exceptions may be provided for medical or religious reasons. Note that unvaccinated individuals may be subject to additional public health measures (e.g., more frequent testing). Unvaccinated persons should ensure they take steps to plan and protect themselves while on campus, including face coverings, distancing (when possible), and avoiding locations/activities where there are unmasked people.
Full vaccination is defined as two weeks after receiving the final dose of a 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 Harvard University Health Services (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.

**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 is feeling unwell or is 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.

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 HUHS at clear@huhs.harvard.edu.
If a community member is sick and tests positive, they should notify HUHS, their supervisor, and their 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.

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

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.

**Viral Testing**

**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.

**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).

**Face Coverings**

Face coverings are required indoors at Harvard University in all spaces, with limited exceptions. All Harvard University community members should carry an acceptable face covering at all times when on-campus.
Unvaccinated Persons

While outdoors, unvaccinated persons are required to wear a face covering if six feet of distancing cannot be consistently maintained.

Face coverings may be removed outdoors when persons are able to consistently maintain at least six feet from others. This is for any purpose, including eating, drinking, and physical fitness.

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

Indoor and outdoor physical distancing is no longer required for fully vaccinated persons.

Unvaccinated persons should continue to protect themselves by practicing physical distancing when possible, especially when unmasked.

Massachusetts’ COVID-19 state sector-specific occupancy limits and Harvard University occupancy limits have been lifted.

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.

Eating and Drinking

Eating and drinking indoors should be limited to areas where others could reasonably anticipate this unmasked activity. Appropriate eating and drinking areas outside of private residences include licensed food service operations and kitchenette and café areas, but can also include break and meeting rooms/spaces and conference rooms.
Face coverings must be worn until seated. Face covering may only be removed when actively eating and drinking and be replaced as soon as finished eating and before leaving the chair.

Unvaccinated persons should ensure that they take steps to plan and protect themselves while eating and drinking by remaining physically distanced from others.

An individual may also eat and drink in their personal workspace (e.g., cubicle) if face coverings are promptly donned when approached by anyone else.

**Practicing Good Personal Hygiene**

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

Ensure that you wash your hands regularly, especially:

- Before touching eyes, nose, or mouth
- Before you eat
- Before putting on and after removing your face covering
- 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.

**Cleaning and Disinfection**

Schools and units should follow [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/cleaning-disinfecting.html) 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 COVID-19 Resources**

As new information becomes available, Harvard University’s COVID-19 resources, including this guidance document, will be regularly updated.

**Harvard University Guidance for On-Campus Activity**

[Harvard University Guidance for On-Campus Activity](#) provides schools and units with relevant and up to date COVID-19 requirements and recommendations for on-campus activities, including visitors, events, and gatherings. This tool is the resource for community members with questions about what activities are currently permitted on-campus.

**Keep Harvard Healthy**

[Keep Harvard Healthy](#), Harvard University’s coronavirus website, provides detailed information on policies for returning to campus, personal, and University-related travel. Community-wide messages, announcements, and a frequently asked questions section are also included.

**Environmental Health and Safety COVID-19 Resources**

[EH&S COVID-19 Resources](#) includes guidance documents, fact sheets, operational environmental control procedures (ECP), trainings, and COVID-19-specific services (e.g., remote workstation evaluations).