

Guidelines for CUNY Spring 2022 Reopening

(March 7, 2022)

For Spring 2022, CUNY will have a mixed population of students, staff and faculty that are fully vaccinated, boosted, and not fully vaccinated. Our policies are designed to maximize the protection of all our community members including people who are not fully vaccinated. These policies follow the [CDC guidance](#) that identifies four factors that inform the optimal implementation of layered prevention strategies:

1. The level of community transmission of COVID-19;
2. COVID-19 vaccination coverage, including among students, faculty, and staff;
3. Implementation of a robust, frequent SARS-CoV-2 screening testing program with high participation from the unvaccinated campus population; and
4. Any local COVID-19 outbreaks or increasing trends.

CUNY continues to consider all of these factors to inform and update, when needed, the University's approach to the following layered implementation strategies.

Vaccination and Booster Requirements

Students returning to campus in the spring for in-person and hybrid courses, or any other on-campus activities will be required to submit proof of vaccination, unless a religious or medical exemption has been approved. Students must upload proof of being [fully-vaccinated](#) prior to the start of classes for the Spring term. A person is considered fully vaccinated:

- Two weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as Pfizer or Moderna, or;
- Two weeks after a single dose vaccine such as Johnson & Johnson (J&J), or;
- At the time specified in either in the FDA licensure or World Health Organization (WHO) approval, after the final vaccination of any other vaccines.

Additionally, students are required to receive vaccine [boosters](#), once eligible. Students who were eligible for a booster as of January 28, must upload proof of receiving it no later than March 1. Those who become eligible after January 28 will have 30 days after they become eligible to get the booster. Students who miss their deadlines won't be able to register for summer or fall classes until they upload their proof.

Booster Eligibility:

- Those 18 and older are eligible for a booster shot at 5 months after the completion of two dose regimen of Pfizer, 5 months after the completion of two dose regimen of Moderna or 2 months after the Johnson and Johnson (J&J) shot. The Pfizer or Moderna booster is preferred in most situations.
- Those 12-17 year olds who initially received the Pfizer two dose regimen are eligible for a Pfizer booster 5 months after completing the regimen.
- Those 12 and older 5 months after the completion of a WHO-approved vaccine that is not authorized by the FDA, or 5 months after completion of a mix and match series of WHO-approved and FDA approved/authorized vaccines.

In compliance with a public policy [directive](#) issued by Governor Hochul on December 31, all full- and part-time faculty, all non-teaching instructional staff (which includes, among others, NTAs, CLTs and those in the HEO series), and personnel in the Executive Compensation Plan, are required to be fully vaccinated (two dose Pfizer or Moderna regimen, or 1 dose J&J) in order to remain employed by the University, except if a medical exemption, religious exception or reasonable accommodation has been granted.

Proof of vaccination must be [uploaded into CUNYfirst](#) by no later than April 1, 2022. Regardless of mandate, faculty and

staff are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated and receive vaccine [boosters](#), once eligible.

Offering and promoting vaccination

CUNY has and will continue to strongly promote the vaccine and boosters. Campuses will continue to promote the University's #VaxUpCUNY campaign, a multifaceted, multimedia campaign to encourage CUNY students, alumni, faculty and staff to get their COVID-19 vaccination and boosters. The campaign is a critical strategy for easing anxiety for those that may be hesitant to vaccinations.

Masks

Due to the low levels of COVID-19 in New York City, the CDC no longer recommends and [New York State no longer has a universal indoor mask mandate](#). CUNY has therefore [lifted its temporary mask mandate](#).

Anyone who would like to continue wearing masks in any setting is welcome to do so at any time. Masks will continue to be available on campus and offices.

While the CDC is not requiring people to wear a mask in communities that have low or medium COVID-19 levels, faculty, staff and students who are still not vaccinated, or those who have been or will be granted a medical exemption or religious exception, are urged to continue to wear a mask. Mask requirements associated with isolation and quarantine as referenced later in these guidelines remain in effect.

Those who choose to wear a mask should continue to follow CDC guidance on [acceptable face coverings](#).

Note, campuses may still require employees to wear protective PPE masks due to the nature of their work. Employers must comply with all applicable [OSHA standards](#).

Physical Distancing

Physical distancing means keeping space of at least 6 feet (about 2 arm lengths) between people who are not from your household in both indoor and outdoor spaces.

Because the majority of the CUNY community are expected to be vaccinated in the Spring 2022 semester (except for those granted medical or religious exemptions), physical distancing will not be a required safety measure for vaccinated individuals in classroom, educational and office settings. Those who are not fully vaccinated should continue to practice physical distancing.

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

CUNY will continue to facilitate health-promoting behaviors such as hand washing and respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette to reduce the spread of infectious illnesses including COVID-19. Provide frequent reminders of proper hand hygiene (verbally, posters, videos) with hand sanitizer widely available in common areas and rooms. Campuses must maintain hand hygiene stations around the institution, as follows:

- For handwashing: soap, running warm water, disposable paper towels, and a lined garbage can.
- For hand sanitizing: an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol for areas where handwashing facilities may not be available or practical.
- Make hand sanitizer available throughout common areas. They should be placed in convenient locations, such as at building entrances, and exits. Touch-free hand sanitizer dispensers should be installed where possible.

- Campuses should remind individuals that alcohol-based hand sanitizers can be flammable and may not be suitable for certain areas of a campus.
- Campuses should place signage near hand sanitizer stations indicating that visibly soiled hands should be washed with soap and water; hand sanitizer is not effective on visibly soiled hands.
- Campuses will recommend and reinforce [handwashing](#) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Campuses will place receptacles around the institution for disposal of soiled items, including paper towels and PPE.
- Campuses should provide disposable wipes to staff and faculty so that commonly used surfaces (e.g., keyboards, desks, remote controls) can be wiped down before and after use.

Housing and Communal Spaces

Given that vaccines and boosters will be mandatory for students living in campus housing, housing and dorms will resume normal operations with 100% of occupants fully vaccinated. Unvaccinated students may not live in campus housing.

Contact Tracing

Contact tracing with students, faculty, and staff associated with the campus should be used as a crucial strategy to reduce further transmission once a case is identified. CUNY will continue to aid in the identification of exposures, and notify close contacts, as appropriate, of exposure as soon as possible after being notified that someone in the campus has tested positive or been diagnosed with COVID-19.

CDC Guidance that CUNY and Campuses will continue to follow:

- Campuses should ensure timely reporting of COVID-19 cases to the NYC and NYS to aid in any investigations, and plan to provide information and records to aid in the identification of exposures.
- As soon as possible after they are notified that someone has tested positive for or been diagnosed with COVID-19, campuses should notify close contacts of exposure, in accordance with applicable privacy and other laws. Campuses may prioritize their case investigation and contact tracing per the CDC and NYS guidance below.
- Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 or have COVID-19 symptoms should isolate and notify their close contacts that they may have been exposed to COVID-19 and refer close contacts to the state or local health department website to learn about the steps they should take because of the exposure.

New York State is following the [CDC's case investigation and contact tracing guidance](#) during this winter surge in COVID-19 cases. The CDC's guidance emphasizes case investigations focus on those who tested positive most recently (last 6 days) and contact tracing focuses on household contacts and sensitive settings, such as high density workplaces, events or other settings with potential for extensive transmission.

Isolation and Quarantine

CUNY continues to follow the latest CDC guidance on [isolation and quarantine](#). Any students, staff or faculty who test positive with COVID-19 or are exposed to someone with COVID-19 must follow these guidelines, as outlined below, prior to returning to campus. **If you are required to isolate or quarantine, you must receive a negative test or doctor's certification prior to returning to campus.**

Test results will be accepted from [CUNY testing sites](#) or other licensed test providers.

- Isolation Guidelines if You Test Positive for COVID-19

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.

- Stay home for 5 days (day 0 is your first day of symptoms, or the day of your first positive test if you do not develop symptoms).
- If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house.
- In order to return to CUNY after isolation, you must receive a negative PCR or Antigen test (we strongly recommend an Antigen test, if available).
 - Collect the test sample only if you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and your other symptoms have improved.
 - If your test result is positive, you should continue to isolate until day 10. Following day 10 you must receive a negative PCR or Antigen test before returning to CUNY.
 - In lieu of a negative test, individuals may provide a doctor’s certification that they have recovered from COVID-19.
- Continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others for 5 additional days; if you cannot wear a mask, continue to isolate for 5 days.
- If you have a fever, continue isolation until you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.
- If you were severely ill with COVID-19 you should isolate for at least 10 days. Consult your doctor before ending isolation.

- If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19

Population:	What to do:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have received a booster, OR • Completed the primary series of Pfizer vaccine within the last 5 months or Moderna vaccine within the last 5 months, OR • Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months, OR • Tested positive for COVID-19 with a viral test within the previous 90 days and subsequently recovered and remain without COVID-19 symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You do not need to quarantine. • Wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days. • Get tested at least 5 days after your close contact (the date of your exposure is considered day 0); if you test positive, stay home and isolate per guidelines above. • <i>If you develop symptoms, get a test, stay home and follow the isolation guidelines above.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For those who have completed the primary series of Pfizer vaccine over 5 months ago or Moderna vaccine over 5months ago and are not boosted, OR • Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted, OR • Are unvaccinated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must quarantine. • Stay home for 5 days and get tested at least 5 days after your close contact (the date of your exposure is considered day 0); if you test positive, stay home and isolate per guidelines above. • In order to return to CUNY you must receive a negative PCR test at least 5 days after your exposure. • After that, continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others for 5 additional days. If you cannot wear a mask for the additional 5 days, continue to quarantine for those 5 days. • If you are unable to stay at home you must wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>If you develop symptoms get a test, stay home and follow the isolation guidelines above.</i>• <i>Do not travel during your quarantine period.</i> |
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Travel

- All individuals should follow the CDC [domestic travel recommendations](#) and [international travel recommendations](#) before reporting to work or campus and notify their manager in advance of the travel dates and should quarantine be required.
- Any students, faculty or staff engaging in official travel on behalf of CUNY must follow the latest [approval requirements for domestic and international travel](#).

Quarantine and Isolation Guidelines for Dormitories:

- Before returning to campus for the Spring semester, all dorm students must submit proof of a negative test.
- In consultation with the local health department, campuses with dormitories must identify where students who are infected with COVID-19 will be residing and how daily needs, such as food and medication, will be met if it becomes necessary to have a period of isolation or quarantine. Recommended facilities include, but are not limited to:
 - Sections of residence halls with private bathrooms, if possible, should be reserved to be used solely for the purpose of isolating or quarantining individuals living on-campus who have or who are suspected to have COVID19;
 - Nearby hotels that are arranged to accommodate individuals who have, or are suspected to have COVID-19; and/or
 - Individual homes, as long as the student is able to safely travel home (e.g. not using mass transit) and their home is safe for them to isolate away from other individuals.
- Physical Preparation:
 - The isolation and quarantine rooms should be physically separated from other residential student rooms.
 - The rooms should have private/separate bathroom facilities and be stocked with a thermometer, sanitizing wipes, tissues, soap, hand sanitizer, and toiletries.
 - Spaces should be labeled externally with appropriate signage that states restricted access (e.g., “Private Quarters” or “Authorized Personnel Only”) but does not state the reason for the restricted access due to concerns about potential for stigma and FERPA/HIPAA regulations. Any signage decisions should be reviewed with the campus or University general counsel.
 - Adequate numbers of rooms should be pre-identified to accommodate an increase in cases. The CDC may later provide guidance on adequate numbers of rooms.
- Operational Preparation:

- If a residential student contracts COVID-19, campuses must proactively identify appropriate residential spaces and reserve those spaces in the event of needed isolation or quarantine of a student(s).
- Campus leaders will consult with CUNY Central and health officials to run scenarios on transmission and ensure enough space is set aside to isolate all cases and suspected cases in an aggressive transmission scenario.
- A protocol should be made available to all individuals involved in the management of isolation spaces and its procedures.
- Minimally, a select group of individuals within housing/residence life, campus safety, and facilities should be aware of the rooms used for isolation.
- Student health services staff should remotely monitor students on a daily basis (temperature checks and symptom screening) and transfer to an on- or off- campus site for a clinical evaluation if symptoms advance or the patient requests.
- For students on the campus meal plan, dining services should arrange food delivery in collaboration with housing/residence life, student affairs or campus life. Housing/residence life staff could arrange for the purchase of a campus meal plan or coordinate meal delivery for those students who have not purchased the campus meal plan.
- Transportation should be made available to and from the location if medical care is needed.

Metrics and Early Warning:

CUNY will continue to monitor campus and community infection rates. CUNY Central Office will consult with campus leadership to determine the best course of action for additional safety protocols or scaling back campus activity, if necessary. Any decisions on shutting down particular buildings/areas within campuses, individual campuses, or multiple campuses, as appropriate, will be made by the Chancellery/COO's Office in consultation with local/State authorities.

Campuses must have a shutdown plan in place to respond rapidly. Campuses should rely on previously developed shutdown plans and consult the [Reclosing Protocols: CUNY's Guide for Safely Closing On-Campus Operations](#), for additional information on criteria for shutdown and shutdown protocols.

Testing:

CUNY is expanding testing for the safety and convenience of the CUNY community, creating a robust testing program using various testing models, some new and some expansions of existing efforts.

- All students are expected to test before returning to campus.
- Student athletes and students in residence halls will be required to submit a negative PCR test before returning to campus.
- Weekly testing will continue for those who are unvaccinated and expand to cover students in residence halls, regardless of vaccination status.
- Overall random testing will increase to 20% of the vaccinated and unvaccinated on-campus population. Participation in the random surveillance testing is mandatory and failure to participate will result in the removal of the individual's Cleared4 access pass to CUNY spaces.

To facilitate testing for required medical clearance to return to campus, tests will continue to be accepted from non-CUNY testing providers as well as from CUNY safeCircle test sites. Testing to return to campus should only be done at CUNY safeCircle test sites when you are symptom free to protect you and others in the CUNY community. If you are recovering from COVID-19, you should not get tested until you have completed your isolation requirements and are symptom free. If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, we encourage you to visit a public testing site near your home or use an at-home test kit.

Rapid tests will be available for approved screening circumstances when unanticipated entry to campus is required. The rapid tests will be distributed to CUNY testing sites and to selected locations on campus, and will be tracked through the testing system for inventory and usage management.

For more information about CUNY's COVID-19 testing program, please see the [Testing FAQ](#). For a list of testing locations, visit [here](#). For general frequently asked questions, please refer to the [Getting Back to Working in Person FAQ](#). If you still have questions, please contact your [HR office](#).

Self-Screening

Before coming to campus, each member of the community is expected to monitor your symptoms, stay away from others if you feel sick, and get tested at a public testing site if you have any symptoms. CUNY safeCircle testing sites should not be used if you have symptoms.

Visitor Policy

CUNY's [Visitor Policy](#) is designed to restrict anyone who has not been fully vaccinated or has not received a recent negative COVID-19 test from entering a CUNY campus or office.

Definition of Visitor

A visitor to a University campus is someone who is not a CUNY student, faculty or staff member. Examples of visitors include, but are not limited to:

- vendors and other individuals coming to campus to perform activities related to a contract with or in support of the University;
- employees of related entities of CUNY including without limitation auxiliary enterprise corporations, colleges associations, and child care centers;
- unpaid college interns;
- community members and other individuals coming to a campus to use University facilities such as pools and gyms, or to attend activities on campus; and
- family members or friends of CUNY students, faculty, or staff.

Rules for Visitors

Every visitor to a CUNY campus, whether accessing indoor or outdoor spaces, must provide proof to CUNY that they (i) are fully vaccinated or (ii) have had a negative COVID-19 molecular (PCR) test performed by an accredited lab no more than 7 days prior to the visit. "Fully Vaccinated" means:

- Two weeks after a second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines; or
- Two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine; or
- At the time specified in either the FDA licensure or World Health Organization approval, after the final administration of any other vaccines.

Visitors are also required to comply with all other University policies and codes of conduct, as well as government and/or campus-specific rules and protocols, applicable to individuals on campus that are intended to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, including by way of example:

- any masking requirements; and
- complying with any applicable federal, state or local quarantine rules.

Before coming to a CUNY campus, visitors are encouraged to consult the campus' website to review the most current access rules and protocols. A link to each campus plan can be found on [CUNY's Spring 2022 Reopening Plans page](#).

Exception for Short Visits with No Close Contact

Visitors who are on campus for 30 minutes or less per visit do not have to comply with any COVID-19 vaccination or surveillance testing requirements applicable to CUNY staff unless the visitor expects during that time to be less than 6 feet distant of another person for a total of 15 minutes or more.

Policies for Minors under 5 Years Old

TYPES OF UNDER 5 GROUPS	DESCRIPTION	CUNY PROTOCOL
1. Accompanying a visitor	Children accompanying a visitor who have business to tend to on campus for a limited time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exempt from testing • Recommended masking for children 2-5 years of age who are not eligible yet for the vaccine.
2. Attending events	Children attending an event, performance, or assembly where a large group will congregate for an extended period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exempt from testing • Limit access on campus • Recommended masking for children 2-5 years of age who are not eligible yet for the vaccine.
3. Enrolled in programs	Children who routinely come to CUNY facilities to participate in a program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require Weekly Testing • Recommended masking for children 2-5 years of age who are not eligible yet for the vaccine.

Athletics

For safety protocols and updates regarding CUNY's athletics programs, see the [CUNY Athletic Conference Return to Sport Plan](#). All athletes will be required to produce a negative test before returning to campus for the Spring semester.

For additional information on safely participating in athletics, schools may consult the [NCAA's Training and Competition Guidelines](#).

General Guidelines for Healthy Facilities

CUNY will maintain many approaches to limit the spread of communicable disease. These include: regular and enhanced cleaning, safe disinfection, improved ventilation and maintaining healthy facilities.

Cleaning and Disinfection

- Campuses must ensure adherence to hygiene and cleaning and disinfection requirements as advised by the [CDC](#) and identify cleaning and disinfection frequency for each facility type and assign responsibility.
 - Cleaning should occur at least daily, or more frequently as needed. Campuses may want to either clean more frequently or choose to disinfect in addition to cleaning in shared spaces if the space has additional risks such as high traffic, poor ventilation or occupied by people with increased risk for COVID-19.
- Campuses may choose to provide appropriate cleaning and disinfection supplies for shared and frequently touched surfaces for employees and encourage their employees (or cleaning staffs) to use these supplies following manufacturer's instructions for use before and after use of these surfaces. Campuses may provide such supplies for others.
 - To reduce the number of high-touch surfaces, campuses should install touch-free amenities such as water fountains, trash cans, and paper towel dispensers. If installing touch-free amenities is not feasible, campuses will at a minimum, make hand sanitizer available near high touch surfaces (e.g. trash receptacles, paper towel dispensers).
 - Occupants of the campus will be vested with the responsibility for cleaning their own work areas. Campuses will provide workspaces with single use disinfecting wipes and/or multi-surface spray cleaners to support self-servicing. For college-owned vehicles, drivers should clean and disinfect high touch points on and in vehicles before and after each use. Disinfecting supplies will be stored in each vehicle.
- Ensure that materials and tools used by employees are regularly cleaned and disinfected using registered products. Refer to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) list of products registered in New York State and identified by the EPA as effective against COVID-19. If cleaning or disinfecting products or the act of cleaning and disinfecting causes safety hazards or degrades the material or machinery, campuses must put in place hand hygiene stations between use and/or supply disposable gloves and/or limitations on the number of employees using such machinery.
- Campuses must ensure regular cleaning of restrooms. Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected more often depending on frequency of use.

- Campuses are expected to follow CDC guidelines on [“Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility”](#) if someone is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19:
 - Campuses do not necessarily need to close operations, if they can close off the affected areas.
 - Close off areas used by the person who is sick, suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19.
 - Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
 - Wait 24 hours before you clean and disinfect. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible (several hours).
 - Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, such as offices, classrooms, bathrooms, and common areas.
 - Once the area has been appropriately cleaned and disinfected, it can be reopened for use.
 - Individuals without close or proximate contact with the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 can return to the work in the area or resume on-campus activities immediately after cleaning and disinfection.
 - If more than seven days have passed since the person who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary, but routine cleaning and disinfection will continue.
 - Campuses must provide for the cleaning and disinfection of exposed areas in the event an individual is confirmed to have COVID-19, with such cleaning and disinfection to include, at a minimum, all heavy transit areas and high-touch surfaces (e.g., elevators, lobbies, building entrances, badge scanners, restrooms, handrails, door handles).
- Campuses should avoid use of furniture that is not easily cleaned and disinfected (e.g., cloth fabric sofas).

[Additional guidance on ventilation and HVAC systems](#)

Where possible, CUNY facilities should ensure there is an adequate flow of fresh air to workspaces and optimize the ventilation system operations in order to reduce the risk of airborne exposure to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The CDC has identified many approaches in its [Ventilation in Buildings](#) guidance document, including:

- Increasing the introduction of outdoor air through opening of dampers and operable windows;
- Disabling demand control ventilation or systems that turn the fans off when thermostats are satisfied so that fans run continuously;
- Running HVAC systems at maximum outside airflow for 2 hours before and after the building is occupied;
- Ensuring ventilation systems operate properly;
- Increasing air filtration to as high as possible (MERV 13) without significantly reducing design airflow;
- Making sure filters are properly sized and fit properly;
- Ensuring restroom exhaust fans are functional and operating at full capacity;
- Considering portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) fan/filtration systems to enhance air cleaning; and
- Considering ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI) as a supplemental treatment when options for increasing room ventilation and filtration are limited.

The CDC recommends that facility operators adopt a layered approach to COVID-19 transmission mitigation and suggests that facility operators “consider using some or all of [its list of control measure] tools to improve ventilation.” As part of the ventilation assessment, campuses were instructed to implement these measures to the extent practicable. These control measures and the CDC guidance formed the basis of the ventilation assessment planned and conducted by CUNY.

As part of this overall assessment, an engineering consultant conducted site visits at all CUNY buildings and for those buildings identified for re-opening it determined what control measures were available for each building and reported its findings to CUNY. Based on the CDC guidelines and the reported data, CUNY identified the buildings that meet a sufficient subset of the CDC guidelines to limit the risk of airborne transmission of the SARS-CoV-2. The reports confirmed which buildings or portions of buildings could safely be used for in-person learning.

Campuses were directed to review these reports and directed not to use or occupy buildings until they have been assessed, if necessary, undergone work to address ventilation issues and included in a report indicating that they can be used for in-person learning. In addition, campuses were specifically directed that they may not use or occupy any building or portion of a building that has not been included in a report indicating that it may be used for in-person learning.

Campuses must continue to perform maintenance and conduct operations to maintain the control measures recommended by the CDC that formed the basis of CUNY's reports.