



Public Health Precautions for Return to Campus

To: Members of the University Community

From: Ka Yee C. Lee, Provost, and Katie Callow-Wright, Executive Vice President of the University and Chief of Staff in the Office of the President

Subject: Public Health Precautions for Return to Campus

Date: August 26, 2021

We look forward to welcoming the University of Chicago community back to campus this academic year with the added protection of widespread vaccination against COVID-19, and a host of other safety precautions. Last year we came together and succeeded in greatly limiting the spread of the virus on campus. With everyone's continued vigilance and compliance with the public health precautions described in this message, we are able to safely resume on-campus activities.

We continue to benefit from the guidance of medical experts at the University of Chicago Medicine as well as local and federal public health agencies. Recent pandemic developments such as the spread of the Delta variant have prompted changes in practice such as reinstatement of masking requirements in University facilities. This is in addition to the University's COVID-19 vaccine-related requirements for the community, and other steps in accordance with requirements being implemented by the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago.

If you have questions about the information provided below, please email coronavirusinfo@uchicago.edu (<mailto:coronavirusinfo@uchicago.edu>). The University will continue to provide additional information from medical experts about the state of the pandemic and our precautions throughout the academic year.

Vaccination

The University has enacted COVID-19 vaccination expectations for all students and employees except those with authorized exemptions. Most of the University community has already provided proof of vaccination. Vaccination greatly reduces the chances of contracting COVID-19 or developing serious illness, and it is a crucial part of our plans for a full resumption of in-person activities. On August 23, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration granted full approval for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, which is widely available in the U.S.

Employees were expected (<https://goforward.uchicago.edu/aug-3-2021-email-update/>) to upload proof of vaccination to the online registry by August 13; the deadline (<https://csl.uchicago.edu/announcement/steps-fulfill-covid-19-vaccination-requirement>) for students who have not yet begun on-campus activities is September 1. Please register (https://uchicagoportal.pointnclick.com/login_dualauthentication.aspx) today if you have not already done so. To date, 83% of employees and 84% of students have uploaded proof of vaccination. In addition, two percent of students have received an authorized exemption and will be subject to mandatory weekly testing. Chicago-area employees without patient-facing duties who have not uploaded proof of vaccination will also be subject to mandatory weekly COVID-19 testing. We will share updated figures in the coming weeks as employees and students continue to provide proof of vaccination or get vaccinated upon arrival to campus.