**Excerpts from CDC guidance on mask-wearing, physical distancing, etc. applicable to postsecondary education institutions.**

Thank you toEric Trekell of Everett Community College for posting this in the AHEAD Community on Coronavirus

Original source from William Goren, JD: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/considerations.html>

**Section 2: Guidance for IHEs Where Everyone is Fully Vaccinated**

**Wearing a Mask**

Students, faculty, and staff who are fully vaccinated do not need to wear masks, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance. Although fully vaccinated persons do not generally need to wear masks, CDC recommends continued masking and physical distancing for people with weakened immune systems. IHEs can be supportive of students, faculty, or staff who choose to continue to wear a mask for any reason.

**Physical Distancing**

Physical distancing is not necessary for fully vaccinated students, faculty, and staff on campus for IHEs where everyone is fully vaccinated except indicated in [CDC's Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html).

**Section 3: Guidance for IHEs Where not Everyone is Fully Vaccinated**

**Wearing a Mask**

When people who are not fully vaccinated correctly wear a mask, they protect others as well as themselves. Consistent and [correct mask use](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wear-cloth-face-coverings.html) by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained. Given evidence of limited transmission of COVID-19 outdoors,1,2,3,4,5,6 CDC has updated its guidance for outdoor mask use among people who are not fully vaccinated.

Administrators should encourage people who are not fully vaccinated and [those who might need to take extra precautions](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/index.html) to wear a mask consistently and correctly:

* **Indoors.** Mask use is recommended for people who are not fully vaccinated including children. Children under the age of 2 should not wear a mask.
* **Outdoors.**In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors. However, particularly in areas of [substantial to high transmission](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view), CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.

Although people who are fully vaccinated do not need to wear masks, IHEs should be supportive of vaccinated people who choose to wear a mask.

***IHEs that continue to require universal mask policies should make exceptions for the following categories of people:***

* ***A person with a disability who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).***
* ***A person for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the relevant workplace safety guidelines or federal regulations.***

 **Physical Distancing**

[Physical distancing](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html) 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. People who are not fully vaccinated should continue to practice physical distancing.

Promote physical distancing by

* Hosting virtual-only activities, [events, and gatherings](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html) (of all sizes).
* Holding activities, events, and gatherings outdoors in areas that can accommodate physical distancing, when possible.
* Spacing out or blocking off rows, chairs, and/or table seating positions in communal use shared spaces (such as classrooms, dining halls, locker rooms, laboratory facilities, libraries, student centers, and lecture rooms).
* Limiting occupancy and requiring mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated, including drivers, and on [campus buses/shuttles or other vehicles](https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/masks/mask-travel-guidance.html). Alternate or block off rows and increase [ventilation](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/ventilation.html) (i.e., open windows if possible).

 **Section 4: General Consideration for all IHEs**

**Considerations for Students, Faculty, and Staff with Disabilities**

* [People with disabilities](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-disabilities.html) should be highly encouraged to get vaccinated and be fully integrated into the most appropriate learning environment with the proper accommodations.
* Disability resource centers should review policies and procedures to assess/qualify students for new accommodations, modifications, and assistance that might be needed due to changes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
* Consider the individualized approaches for COVID-19 prevention that may be needed for some people with [disabilities](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-disabilities.html).
* Provide accommodations for people who might have difficulty with mask use, such as some people with disabilities or certain medical conditions. ***Allow exceptions in the IHEs mask use policy.*** People concerned about their ability to consistently and correctly use a mask should consult with their healthcare provider or IHE disability resource center, for suggested [adaptations and alternatives](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html#anchor_1604967124156).
* Ensure education remains accessible for students with disabilities as prevention strategies to reduce cases of COVID-19 are implemented.
* Encourage all students, faculty, and staff to discuss any accommodations they might need with the IHE's disability resource center.

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