



# Guidelines for On-Campus Operations

(Revised: 8/17/2022)

## **COVID-19**

On August 11, 2022 the CDC updated many COVID-19 recommendations and while this is a welcomed step in the years-long battle against the novel coronavirus, it doesn't necessarily mean it's time to drop your guard and pretend that COVID-19 is gone completely. As we begin the 2022 Fall Semester, we will follow the updated CDC guidelines in our efforts to manage COVID-19 within our campus community. Click [Here](#) for the CDC's Press Release and [Here](#) for revised Isolation Guidance.

### **Why did the CDC loosen its COVID-19 recommendations?**

"The current conditions of this pandemic are very different from those of the last two years," CDC epidemiologist Greta Massetti said in conjunction with the release of the revised guidance. Rather than attacking the virus in every possible situation, the new guidance reflects the fact that a combination of vaccinations and therapeutics have curbed severe illness and death from COVID-19, and emphasis should now be placed on protecting high-risk individuals.

### **What are the CDC's new guidelines for social distancing and the six-foot rule?**

Although distancing is no longer emphasized, it is still one way to mitigate the likelihood of infection, it is now just one of many other methods suggested by the CDC such as frequent handwashing.

### **Should employers routinely screen their workforce to identify asymptomatic cases in an effort to slow the spread?**

The CDC says this is no longer necessary in most workplace settings outside healthcare.

### **What about contact tracing positive cases?**

The CDC now only recommends case investigation and contact tracing in healthcare settings and certain "high-risk congregate settings" like nursing homes.

## **When should employees get a COVID-19 test?**

According to the CDC, people should only seek testing when they are experiencing COVID-Like symptoms or have a known or suspected exposure to someone with COVID-19.

## **What should workers do if exposed to COVID-19?**

Quarantine of exposed persons is no longer recommended – regardless of vaccination status. Instead, the CDC recommends that those who have been exposed to an infected person wear a mask for 10 days around others when indoors in public. They should also test for COVID-19 at least five (5) days after exposure (or sooner if they are symptomatic) – again, irrespective of their vaccination status.

## **What should workers do if they are symptomatic or infected?**

Employees shall continue to conduct a daily wellness check and when experiencing COVID-Like symptoms shall NOT report to work but follow the normal procedure for notifying their supervisor.

The CDC still recommends that symptomatic or infected persons promptly isolate and remain in isolation for at least five (5) days. Isolation can end after five days only when the individual is without a fever for at least 24 hours (without the use of medication) and all other symptoms have improved and continue to wear a mask through day 10.

## **What are the CDC's guidelines on vaccines and masking?**

These recommendations have not changed.

**Vaccines** – The CDC says it is important to continue to increase vaccination coverage and ensure that everyone is up to date with boosters. It recommends that vaccination is still an essential strategy in curbing the impact of COVID-19.

**Masking** – The CDC has retained its “community level” stance in recommending masking based on the current levels of COVID-19 in the local area.

- At the low Community Level, the CDC has no masking recommendations.
- At the medium Community Level, the CDC recommends adding masking or respirator protections for those at high risk for severe illness.
- At the high Community Level, the CDC recommends that all persons wear masks

**Facilities Upgrades:** Sneeze guards, permanent door props, door closures with hold open features, foot pulls to provide a no-hands way of opening doors remain available in our workplace.

**Personal Sanitizing:** The recommendation remains in place for frequent hand washing or use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

**Enhanced Cleaning Protocols:** All high-touch areas will be cleaned and disinfected routinely by Facilities and/or Housekeeping in accordance with guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Unless informed otherwise, disinfecting of

office surfaces is the responsibility of office personnel (e.g., desks, phones, computer keyboards, tables, chairs, file drawer handles, and doorknobs).

**Authorized to Work from Home:** All operations will be conducted on-campus. Any potential need to work from home will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and can only be approved by the President.

## **MONKEYPOX (MPV)    CDC Information Link**

### **Background**

Monkeypox (MPV) is the latest virus to catch world-wide attention and on July 23, 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Monkeypox (MPV) a public health emergency. A growing number of states have declared a state of emergency and most recently, on August 4, 2022, the federal government declared MPV a public health emergency.

### **MPV Facts**

While MPV cases are on the rise, there are several key distinctions between MPV and COVID-19 — the most important of which is how the disease is transmitted. Unlike COVID-19, according to the CDC, MPV is not an airborne disease, rather it spreads primarily through close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact, such as:

- Direct contact with monkeypox rash, scabs, or body fluids from a person with monkeypox.
- Touching objects, fabrics (clothing, bedding, or towels), and surfaces that have been used by someone with monkeypox.
- Contact with respiratory secretions — usually from prolonged face-to-face contact.
- Intimate contact, including:
  - Sex and sexual contact
  - Hugging, massage, and kissing
  - Prolonged face-to-face contact
  - Touching fabrics and objects during sex that were used by a person with monkeypox and that have not been disinfected, such as bedding, towels, and sex toys
  - While MPV can be transmitted through respiratory secretions or through prolonged face-to-face contact, it is not considered an airborne disease like COVID-19.

According to the CDC, in social gatherings, the amount of close, personal, skin-to-skin contact drives the risk of transmission. For many workplace settings, the risk of MPV spread or outbreaks at work is likely low.

While one way MPV can be spread is by sexual contact, MPV can be acquired by all people, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. All employees are reminded that instances of discrimination and/or harassment at any level or for any reason is prohibited and will not be tolerated in our community.

## **The CDC has identified the following symptoms of MPV:**

- Fever
- Headache
- Muscle aches and backache
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Chills
- Exhaustion
- Respiratory symptoms (e.g., sore throat, nasal congestion, or cough)
- A rash that will go through several stages, including scabbing, before healing.
- According to the CDC, symptoms usually present within three weeks of exposure to the virus. It may take up to four days for a rash to present following onset of flu-like symptoms.

## **Safety and Prevention:**

While the CDC and state and local health departments continue to study the rate and method of transmission of MPV, and as guidance continues to develop, it is understood that many of the COVID-19 protective measures that remain in place can also protect one from MPV. Thus employees should avoid close skin-to-skin contact with others, wash their hands frequently or use alcohol based hand sanitizer (especially before eating, touching one's face, and after using the restroom), and disinfect their work areas to help ensure their safety.

## **Isolation When Diagnosed With MPV:**

The CDC advises that individuals who have MPV should isolate, consult with their healthcare provider and local health department and remain out of the workplace until all symptoms have resolved. Isolation may last anywhere from two (2) weeks to four (4) weeks and may vary by individual.

## **Close Contact and Quarantine:**

CDC's guidance for exposure does not recommend quarantine at this time, provided that the exposed individuals remain asymptomatic. Exposed individuals should monitor themselves for symptoms for up to 21 days and take their temperatures twice daily and may continue daily activities, including attending work.

**Compliance:** Individual compliance with these guidelines is essential to providing the safest workplace environment possible and everyone is expected to honor and follow these guidelines in an effort to protect others and themselves. If you have any questions, concerns or personal circumstances that might be in conflict with these guidelines, please discuss them with your supervisor.