



FAQs FACULTY Fall 2022

RECENT CHANGES IN CDC RECOMMENDATIONS

What's changed in the updated CDC's recommendations?

- Refocus public health efforts to reduce serious illness and hospitalizations among those most vulnerable to the effects of COVID
- Move to personal responsibility for maintaining health and protecting others
- Continue education efforts promoting vaccination
- Remove the distinction between vaccinated and unvaccinated regarding testing and isolation recommendations
- Stop testing of asymptomatic people in most settings unless they have a known exposure

[Click here for CDC's updated guidance](#)

What is the impact of the revisions for DU's community?

As the severity of the illness has decreased, the CDC is shifting the responsibility of COVID-19 prevention and response to the individual instead of businesses and educational environments. This approach is aligned with [DU's Fall public health planning](#). In general, DU's fall plans are aligned with the CDC's updated guidance with a few exceptions in enhanced testing and tracing protocols. (See below)

Will this change DU's guidelines on vaccinations?

No. The University will require individuals to be up to date on their vaccination or to file an annual exemption.

According to the CDC, when should individuals get a COVID-19 test? Will this be different for DU community members?

According to the CDC, individuals should seek testing when they are either symptomatic or have a known or suspected exposure to someone with COVID-19.

DU will continue to contact trace exposures within the DU community and all community members identified as a close contact will be required to test on days 1, 3, and 5 from exposure. Aggressive and more frequent testing identifies pre-existing infections the person was unaware of and day 3 testing is currently when most positives are identified.

How is this different from other recent quarters/semesters? How will DU's approach differ from the CDC's guidelines?

Unlike the start of recent quarters/semesters, DU will not require arrival testing prior to the start of the school year; however, DU will continue to make testing available at the Care Pod (only), free of charge 6 days a week, Sunday through Friday (closed on Saturdays). [Please see the Spit Lab website for operating hours](#). DU will also retain our contact tracing team, following up with individuals who test positive and alerting any close contacts of their required testing schedule and to wear a mask for 10 days from exposure.

What should members of the DU community expect if exposed to COVID-19?

DU requires anyone identified as a close contact to be tested at the Spit Lab as soon as possible and then again, every other day until day 5—for example, testing on day 1, 3, and 5 after an exposure. This approach increases our ability to detect the virus and swiftly isolate individuals, protecting the virus from spreading further within our community. DU

will also follow the CDC guidance and let everyone who is a close contact know that they are expected to wear a mask when indoors for 10-days after exposure for the safety of others.

How does this compare to the CDC's recommendations?

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 days after exposure (or sooner if they are symptomatic), irrespective of their vaccination status. DU requires day 1 and 3 testing in addition to day 5 testing to identify infections earlier when exposure to others can be prevented and so that treatment can be most effective.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Will seating assignments be required?

No, we will not implement seating assignments this year.

Are masks allowed even though they are not required?

Yes, masks may be worn at any time by students, staff, or faculty. People wear masks for many reasons and DU recognizes and respects an individual's decision to wear a mask and ask that we all respect each other's choices when mask wearing is optional.

Are masks required if someone is identified as a close contact or is coming out of isolation?

Individuals recently exposed and those testing positive will be informed of the CDC guidance on wearing a mask for 10 days following exposure.

If I don't want to be around unvaccinated or unmasked people, can I request a work accommodation?

The vast majority of people at DU are up to date on their vaccinations, and the vaccination and booster rate at DU is much higher than it is in the surrounding community. Employees with documented disabilities may request an accommodation through the [ADA Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX](#). Eligibility for disability-related accommodations is determined on a case-by-case basis based on functional limitations or experienced barriers. Requests based solely on the desire to avoid contact with those who are unvaccinated or unmasked and/or routine fear of infection will not be granted.

Can I change the modality of my class to online if I don't feel comfortable around unvaccinated or unmasked people?

No, faculty cannot change a class to online due to COVID concerns. The class must be offered in the modality for which students registered and teaching modality should be determined by the unit to meet pedagogical needs.

What should I do if I am immunocompromised?

It is recommended that people who are at risk of serious illness or are immunocompromised wear a KN95/N95 mask, test more frequently, and distance themselves from people when possible. You may consult with your health care provider regarding whether a request for an ADA accommodation is appropriate in your case.

How do the changes impact vaccinated verses unvaccinated individuals?

At this time, due to widespread vaccination and the proportion of individuals who have had COVID-19, the CDC's current COVID-19 recommendations, "no longer differentiate [required behaviors] based on a person's vaccination status because breakthrough infections occur...and persons who have had COVID-19 but are not vaccinated

have some degree of protection against severe illness from their previous infection” ([CDC report dated August 11, 2022](#)) Consistent with DU policies implemented over the summer, we are not differentiating required protocols based on vaccination status at this time. Please note that the CDC still strongly recommends up-to-date vaccination as a protection for the individual from serious illness and for the community and DU follows these recommendations by requiring up-to-date vaccination or exemption.

Now that there is no mandatory testing how will DU monitor and track outbreaks?

Beginning August 1, instead of mandatory testing, DU will follow a COVID-19 outbreak management process as our revised approach to controlling the spread of COVID-19. DU will continue to monitor positivity rates and outbreaks on campus and will require DU community members to undergo mandatory testing in the following situations:

- When you are notified by the DU contact tracers that you are part of a unit experiencing an outbreak as defined by the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment as five or more confirmed and related cases of COVID-19 in a facility or group within 14 days
- When you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19
- And/or when you have been exposed to and identified as a close contact of an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19
- You may also choose to test whenever you would like to, and we recommend testing before and after travel or situations like travel that increase your exposure.

How will I know if my class, unit, or school is involved in an outbreak?

Emails requiring testing at the pod are sent to people connected to the outbreak. If you are part of a class or department experiencing an outbreak, you will receive a notification. Testing continues for multiple days as does wearing a mask until two weeks have passed with no further positives.

The University is required to report all positive cases to the Denver Department of Public Health and Environment (DDPHE). DDPHE works with DU's contact tracers, the public health project manager, and the executive director of enterprise risk management to determine if there are confirmed and related COVID-19 positive cases within units or classes.

DDPHE determines when an outbreak is closed.

What is faculty's role with enforcement for students?

Instructors and staff suspecting a violation has occurred may use the following progressive measures to address student non-compliance:

1. Ask the student to comply with the requirement for which a violation has been observed. For example, ask the student to "Please report your positive test to reportCOVID@du.edu, mask and isolate immediately."
2. Submit a [COVID-specific Incident Report](#) to the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities (SRR), providing details about the incident.

What is the enforcement protocol if people do not report a positive test or fail to mask when required?

Students, employees, and visitors must comply with DU's public health protocols. When known violations are reported, students are reported to the Student Rights and Responsibilities office. Employee violations

are reported to their direct supervisor and visitors are asked to leave campus.

In classrooms and related activities, individual instructors have the right to determine whether specific student classroom behavior and conduct is disruptive to the learning environment. In extenuating circumstances, instructors may require a student to leave an individual class meeting based on disruptive behavior and conduct. Instructors are not authorized to permanently remove a student from the course without following the Disruptive Classroom Behavior process. Instructors should initiate the [Disruptive Classroom Behavior](#) process as soon as possible after the initial disruption.

What is DU's approach to accountability?

As we move into the endemic phase, we are shifting primary responsibility for COVID management to individuals. Please be mindful to take precautions that protect yourself and others.

Will DU continue to offer friends and family testing?

Yes, DU will continue to offer friends and family testing with an appointment at the Care Pod during the regular testing hours. The cost of the test is \$30 payable by credit card only. Please make an appointment using the link [DU Spit Lab website](#).

Will DU test for monkeypox (MPV)?

No, the lab does not currently test for MPV. The Health and Counseling Center is equipped to test people who have symptoms consistent with MPV. The test is sent to a commercial lab. Anyone who is concerned they may have or have been exposed to MPV should contact the Health and Counseling Center at 303-871-2205.

Will access be required for buildings?

Some academic and community buildings allow entrance without an id card. In September, we will expand the number of buildings in this category. You should continue to carry your ID card because more than half of DU buildings will continue to require ID access. Also, if we experience a surge in COVID-19 cases, we may return to requiring ID card access for all buildings.

Will DU offer COVID-19 vaccines?

COVID-19 vaccinations are available to all DU community members by appointment through the Health and Counseling Center (HCC). To make an appointment log into your [myhealth portal](#) and select “Schedule an Appointment”.