

Vaccine Update

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, over 1.1 million people in Illinois are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Given this growing number, questions have understandably arisen about what this means for the precautions associated with in-person teaching and learning at Elmhurst University.

The university policy remains that masks must be worn by all instructors while teaching in-person. Masks must also be worn in common hallways, in meetings with students or other faculty and staff, and in public areas not designated for food consumption. **This is true regardless of vaccination status or previous infection with COVID-19.** Similarly, students must abide by these same guidelines.

Have You Been Fully Vaccinated?

People are considered fully vaccinated:

- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, like the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, like Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine
- If it has been less than 2 weeks since your shot, or if you still need to get your second dose, you are NOT fully protected. Keep taking all [prevention steps](#) until you are fully vaccinated.

What Hasn't Changed

For now, if you've been fully vaccinated:

- You should still take steps to [protect yourself and others](#) in many situations, like wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet apart from others, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces. Take these precautions whenever you are:
 - In public
 - Gathering with unvaccinated people from more than one other household

- Visiting with an unvaccinated person who is at [increased risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19](#) or who lives with a person at increased risk
- You should still avoid medium or large-sized gatherings.
- You should still delay domestic and international travel. If you do travel, you'll still need to follow CDC [requirements and recommendations](#).
- You should still watch out for [symptoms of COVID-19](#), especially if you've been around someone who is sick. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should get tested and stay home and away from others.
- You will still need to follow guidance at your workplace.

What's Changed

If you've been fully vaccinated:

- You can gather indoors with fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask (not at the workplace or at Elmhurst University).
- You can gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household (for example, visiting with relatives who all live together) without masks, unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an [increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19](#).
- If you've been around someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay away from others or get tested unless you have symptoms.
 - However, if you live in a group setting and are around someone who has COVID-19, you should still stay away from others for 14 days and get tested, even if you don't have symptoms.

The following recommendations apply to non-healthcare settings.

Fully vaccinated people can:

- Visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.

- Visit with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.
- Refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure if asymptomatic.
- Take precautions in public like wearing a well-fitted mask and physical distancing.