

University Policy

Volume G1: Governance	G1.0 COVID-19 Return to Campus INTERIM POLICY Effective Date: 8/23/2021 Last Revised: 1/18/2022 Date of Next Full Review: 5/06/2022	Responsible Office: Office of the President
		Responsible Officer: President

Northeastern Illinois University (the "University") establishes this Interim Policy to outline regulations, procedures, guidelines, and best practices to ensure a safe and organized return to work at University locations during the COVID-19 global pandemic regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status.

The University follows the guidelines set forth by the [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC), [Illinois Department of Public Health](#) (IDPH), and the [City of Chicago](#) and has aligned this policy with the [Covid-19 Return to Campus Plan](#). This policy is subject to frequent change with the introduction of additional public health guidelines from local, state, and federal authorities. NEIU continues to take a conservative multi-layered approach to continue to maintain the health and safety of the entire NEIU community.

This policy is intended to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19 among students, faculty, staff, and community members as they continue to return to visiting all University locations.

Regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status, this policy applies to all members of the Northeastern Illinois University community: students; employees; applicants for admission or employment; and University visitors, vendors and contractors.

Campus: All Northeastern Illinois University locations.

Close contact: For COVID-19, a close contact is anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period regardless of face mask or vaccination status.

COVID-19:





COVID-19 Vaccination and Booster Exemption:

Individuals may request and receive a vaccination exemption from the requirement 1) if they have a medical contraindication to the COVID-19 vaccine or 2) if the COVID-19 vaccination would require the individual to violate or forgo a sincerely held religious belief, practice, or observance or 3) they are a 100% remote student (only enrolled in remote or online classes) and will not be physically on campus for any reason. Students living in the Nest residence hall are not eligible for a 100% remote exemption.

COVID-19 Testing Requirement:

Non-vaccinated or vaccination exempt students and employees are required to participate in weekly COVID-19 testing until this new requirement ends or the student or employee is fully vaccinated and has submitted their full vaccination record. Students with a 100% remote exemption are not required to test weekly.

Individuals are required to upload weekly test results to the NEIU Health Portal.

Student non-compliance with weekly testing requirements will be reported to the Student Affairs office as an incident report that may result in adjudication as student misconduct and non-compliance to university policy and guidelines.

Employee non-compliance with weekly testing requirements will be reported to supervisors for notation in the employee's personnel file. Non-compliance may result in potential disciplinary action up to and including termination, depending on the circumstances and number of such failures.

COVID-19 Specific Health Reporting Requirements:

Positive tests set in motion a [process of notifications and reports](#) that vary by case. Positive tests for individuals who have been on campus are sent through an interdisciplinary team that addresses additional documentation as well as safety, cleaning, tracing and notification considerations.

Students who test positive for COVID-19 must immediately notify [Student Health Services](#) at health-services@neiu.edu.

Additionally, if employees are aware of positive cases, they are required to report positive and presumptive student COVID-19 cases and exposures to [Student Health Services](#).

Employees who test positive must follow their departmental call-in procedures and notify the Office of Human Resources of their positive test result.

Personal Illness:

Faculty, staff and students may not report or return to campus while they are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 (or other respiratory illnesses), such as runny nose, head congestion, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, muscle pain or body aches, headache, or chills. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention maintain a [current list of symptoms](#) associated with COVID-19.

Students, faculty, and staff who experience an onset of symptoms while at a University location must leave immediately. Staff will contact their manager to request leave. Faculty will contact their dean or department chair. See Procedures section below.

Employees who are unable to work due to personal illness will use available sick time. If an employee's available sick time has already been exhausted, they should contact the



Travel:

Commuting: When commuting to campus via public transportation, follow the [CTA guidelines](#).

Domestic Travel: Persons who are fully vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine can travel freely within the United States. If persons who are not fully vaccinated must travel, they should follow the [CDC's recommendations for unvaccinated persons](#).

University-Sponsored Domestic Travel: University-sponsored domestic travel by students, faculty, and staff is permitted. Domestic travel requests must be submitted through the standard Travel Authorization Request and Encumbrance (TARE) procedure for official authorization for travel.



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Meeting/event requests will continue to be addressed on a first-come first-served basis, with the understanding that not all



Procedure for reporting all illnesses: Employees who are ill will notify their supervisor and stay at home.

If an employee becomes ill while at work:

Employees who appear to have flu-like or respiratory symptoms upon arrival at work or during the day will immediately be separated from other employees and visitors and be sent home.

The employee will stay at home and should contact their health care provider for medical guidance.

The Office of Human Resources will be contacted if the employee tests positive for COVID-19.

When to quarantine or self-isolate:

If an individual tests ill positive for COVID-19:

Stay home and self-isolate for five days regardless of vaccination status.

After 5 days, if you have no symptoms or resolving symptoms (including no fever for at least 24 hours) you may leave isolation with a negative test.

Take a rapid or PCR test on day 5.

If the test is positive, continue to isolate for 5 more days

If the test is negative, you may leave isolation

After 5 days, if you have persistent symptoms, continue to isolate for at least another 5 days and until your symptoms improve.

Wear a face mask around others for 10 days.

If an individual is a close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19:

If you are fully vaccinated and have received a booster:

You do not need to quarantine unless you have symptoms.

Take a rapid or PCR test on day 5.

If you test positive or develop symptoms, stay home and isolate.

Wear a face mask around others for 10 days.

Contact your health care provider if symptoms worsen or persist past 10 days.

If you are fully vaccinated but have not received a booster:

If you are not yet eligible for a booster, you do not need to quarantine unless you have symptoms.

If you are eligible for a booster but have not yet received it, quarantine for 5 days.

Take a rapid or PCR test on day 5.

If you test positive or develop symptoms, stay home and isolate.

Wear a face mask around others for 10 days.

Contact your health care provider if symptoms worsen or persist past 10 days.

If you are partially vaccinated or unvaccinated:

Quarantine for 5 days.

Take a rapid or PCR test on day 5.

Wear a face mask around others for 10 days.

Procedure for providing evidence of COVID-19 vaccination: Students and employees will upload a photograph or scan of their vaccination records to the NEIU Health Portal.

Procedure for providing evidence of COVID-19 testing: Students and employees will follow the [COVID-19 testing process](#) and upload test results to the NEIU Health Portal.

Procedure for reporting positive COVID-19 tests: Students will report positive test results to health-services@neiu.edu. Employees will report positive test results to the Office of Human Resources at HR-Office@neiu.edu.



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04/01/2020 Northeastern Illinois University's [Coronavirus website](#)
06/01/2021 NEIU's Return to Campus Policy is adopted
08/23/2021 COVID-19 Return to Campus Interim Policy is revised
01/18/2022 COVID-19 Return to Campus Interim Policy is revised

[Reasonable Accommodations for](#)