

Dear members of the North Park University campus community:

The Pandemic Response Team is closely monitoring a range of coronavirus data and remains in constant communication with each other, with President Surridge and her senior leadership team, with other universities, and with public health care professionals. We are following guidelines put forth by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Chicago Department of Public Health.

Our highest priorities for decision-making remain the protection of the overall health, safety and wellness of the campus community, and ensuring the educational progress of our students.

Using our Campus Alert System Dashboard we are tracking eight key indicators to gauge the effect of the pandemic on the North Park campus community and the City of Chicago. We use these metrics to monitor campus and city trends, to react to any growing concerns, and to determine what actions need to be taken throughout the academic year. To see the dashboard visit the [pandemic response planning web page](#) and click on the “Campus Alert System Dashboard” button.

Today the metrics tell us to move our dashboard status to Level 3 – High Alert.

Here are the risk mitigation protocols now in place, consistent with this designation, as we resume in-person classes as scheduled on Tuesday, January 18, 2022:

Vaccinations

- As in the fall semester, all North Parkers *who have not already done so* must submit documentation of Covid-19 vaccination, or request an exemption, on the [immunization upload form](#).
- We are encouraged by our campus community’s extremely high vaccination rate – 88.5 percent of employees and 88.4 percent of students who are residential or registered for in-person classes are fully vaccinated.
- We urge all students, faculty and staff to **get a booster shot** as soon as eligible. When you do, please upload documentation to [the same form](#).

Testing

- All unvaccinated North Parkers participate in weekly testing. Please review our [on-campus testing](#) page to learn more about the weekly testing program.
- We are strongly encouraging all North Parkers to **get tested for Covid-19** within 48 hours before arrival back on campus for the start of the Spring semester.

- Anyone in the campus community can get tested in Hamming Hall, Monday-Wednesday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and Thursday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. (No testing on MLK Day, Monday, January 17). [Schedule your visit](#).
- We are expanding our Covid-19 surveillance testing program, in partnership with SHIELD Illinois. If you are a student or employee who is fully vaccinated against Covid-19, with or without a booster, and you are interested in participating, please see the [Surveillance Testing Program Registration Form](#) for more information and to sign up. This expanded testing program will help us know how the pandemic is behaving on our campus so that we can adjust accordingly.

Wellness Protocols

- Masks are required indoors. Masks should cover your nose, mouth and chin with no gaps.
- North Park is implementing the revised isolation and quarantine guidance provided by the CDC and IDPH which reduces the **minimum** isolation and quarantine time to 5 days from 10 days. Full details of this new policy can be found on our [Quarantine and Isolation Procedures](#) page.
- For the Spring 2022 semester, North Park will make one free KN95 mask available to students at the Student Engagement front desk, and to employees at the Human Resources office. Surgical masks will also be available at those locations and at the Helwig front desk, Old Main front desk and Health Services. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has more information on [correct and consistent mask use](#).
- For the first two weeks of the semester, the Dining Hall will provide **Grab & Go meals only**. The Pandemic Response Team will re-assess the situation at that time.
- The **Bickner Bistro** and the **Viking Café** will remain open with limited seating to accommodate commuter students who study there.
- **Residents will only be allowed guests from within the NPU community.** Other than the scheduled move in times, all guests must be part of the NPU community. A member of the NPU community will have a current ID card and this will need to be used in order check in your guest/s. All students and guests must strictly follow the face covering, social distancing, and hygiene guidelines. There will be no overnight visitation.
- The City of Chicago is requiring proof of vaccination for entry into restaurants, bars, gyms, and sports and entertainment venues. This policy applies to public events on our campus, such as indoor athletic contests, concerts and other gatherings that are open to the public. **All North Park University students and employees are already either vaccinated or being tested weekly, and so your student or employee ID card will suffice for entry.** Others will need to provide proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test taken within 48 hours of the beginning of the event. North Park will match vaccination records and negative tests against IDs.

We are grateful for everyone's faithful observance of our wellness protocols, and we will remain alert to our circumstances throughout the semester to tighten or loosen our protocols as needed.

For the Pandemic Response Team:

Scott Stenmark, Vice President for Finance and Administration/CFO

Francisco Gaytan, Vice President for Student Engagement

Michael Carr, Provost

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