

Important Pandemic Response Update

Dear Members of the North Park University campus community:

Beginning on Monday, February 28, 2022, the state of Illinois, Cook County, and the city of Chicago are transitioning to a mask optional policy, and lifting the proof of vaccination status for entry into events.

North Park University is transitioning to a mask optional policy *in some locations but not others*, and is also lifting the proof of vaccination status for public events.

In addition, we are moving our [Campus Alert System Dashboard](#) from Moderate Alert Level 2 to **New Normal Alert Level 1**.

In the past week, our campus has had zero Covid-19 cases and a 0% positivity rate after 203 tests. In addition, 100% of our 23 on-campus isolation spaces are available.

Even as we transition to a Mask Optional policy in some locations, many people will continue to wear masks for a variety of reasons even in spaces where they are optional -- and North Park remains "mask friendly."

Please Note:

Masks are still *required* in all classrooms, labs and healthcare settings including at SHIELD Illinois testing in Hamming Hall, the office of Health & Counseling Support Services, and Athletic Training Facilities.

Masks are optional everywhere else beginning Monday, February 28, 2022, including residence halls, dining areas, Helwig Recreation Center, Brandel Library, offices and indoor public areas.

Consistent with CDPH and [CDC guidance](#), **NPU strongly encourages** people who are not [up to date](#) with their COVID-19 vaccines to continue to [wear a mask](#) indoors in public.

The CDC continues to recommend masking in indoor public spaces in areas of substantial or high transmission, which [currently includes Chicago and Cook County](#).

The Chicago Department of Public Health advises that masks are still required in public spaces during days 6-10 after five days of isolation or quarantine.

People who are immunocompromised or have a family member who is immunocompromised are advised to wear masks indoors.

And many North Parkers may simply choose to continue wearing a mask to protect themselves and others.

As always, the Pandemic Response Team will remain alert to changing circumstances and review our protocols weekly. Based on guidance from public health officials and community metrics we may soon consider lifting the mask mandate in classrooms and labs.

The state vaccination mandate remains in place. Accordingly, all unvaccinated North Parkers are still required to enroll in weekly testing. (And everyone is welcome to [schedule a test](#) if desired.)

As we transition to a mask optional policy in some locations, North Parkers are encouraged to continue their faithful observance of other wellness protocols, including mandatory weekly testing for unvaccinated community members, staying home when sick, and reporting symptoms to covidcare@northpark.edu.

As always, you can submit test results and vaccination status, and find answers to your frequently asked questions at our [Pandemic Response Planning](#) page.

Thank you!

—The Pandemic Response Team