



**Dear members of the North Park University campus community:**

Covid-19 community-level metrics nationally and for Chicago continue trending in a healthy direction, and two weeks after North Park went Mask Optional in most locations, our campus pandemic alert system status remains in the green, at New Normal Alert Level 1.

**Consistent with CDC guidelines**, therefore, and beginning on Monday, March 21, 2022, ***masks will be optional in classrooms and labs.***

Masks will still be required at SHIELD Illinois testing in Hamming Hall, in the office of Health & Counseling Support Services, and in Athletic Training treatment and therapy facilities. The campus will be Mask Optional in all other locations.

**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.)**

North Park remains “mask friendly.” Even as we transition to a Mask Optional policy, many North Parkers will continue to wear masks for a variety of reasons.

North Park strongly encourages people who are not [up-to-date on their Covid-19 vaccinations](#) to wear masks indoors. 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 masks to protect themselves and others.

As always, the Pandemic Response Team will remain alert to changing circumstances and review our protocols weekly.

Please continue faithfully to observe our other wellness protocols, including mandatory weekly testing for unvaccinated community members, staying home when sick, and reporting symptoms to [covidcare@northpark.edu](mailto:covidcare@northpark.edu).

Thank you. Have a wonderful and safe Spring Break!

**The Pandemic Response Team**