

Pandemic Wellness Protocols for the 2022-2023 Academic Year

Greetings, North Parkers!

We write today to share the University's **updated wellness protocols for the 2022–2023 academic year**. The Pandemic Response Team will be alert to changing circumstances and will adjust these procedures as necessary to protect the health and safety of our community and to ensure the educational progress of our students.

Reporting

All North Parkers—students, faculty, and staff—who experience symptoms should report to covidcare@northpark.edu and schedule a test. And all North Parkers who test positive for COVID-19, whether on campus or elsewhere, should report that positive result to covidcare@northpark.edu.

This reporting protocol will help us protect ourselves and each other throughout the coming year.

Campus Dashboard

North Park's [Campus COVID-19 Dashboard](#) will mirror the Chicago Department of Public Health [Community Risk Level](#) which is established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)). In addition, our [Campus COVID Dashboard](#) website will report all cases of COVID-19 on campus that are reported to us.

Testing on Campus

North Park University will no longer conduct SHIELD testing on campus and will no longer have a surveillance testing program. However, rapid antigen and PCR tests will be available for any

campus community members who have symptoms or feel they may have been exposed to COVID-19. If you need testing, please reach out to covidcare@northpark.edu. All on-campus testing is free of charge to community members.

Contact Tracing

The COVID Care Team will discontinue formal contact tracing. However, community members who test positive for COVID-19 are expected to notify everyone they have been in close contact with starting two days before their symptoms began, or two days before their positive test if they have no symptoms. The COVID Care Team will still consider especially high-risk close contacts, such as roommates, as having been [exposed](#). The COVID Care Team will use EARS to notify professors and Student Engagement staff of students that have tested positive for COVID. Please contact covidcare@northpark.edu with any questions or concerns.

Quarantine

In line with recent updates to [CDC COVID-19 guidelines](#), North Park will no longer require exposed community members to quarantine if they remain asymptomatic. However, these individuals are required to test for COVID-19 five days after last exposure and wear a well-fitting mask indoors for 10 days while monitoring for symptoms. Any exposed student or employee who develops symptoms should get tested as soon as possible and isolate from others until results are available. Community members are still encouraged to report exposures and/or symptoms to covidcare@northpark.edu to arrange for the appropriate testing or other support they may need.

Isolation for Residential Students

Students who live in an on-campus apartment or house, and who have their own room, will no longer be required to isolate themselves in North Park's official isolation apartments if they test positive for COVID-19. However, students who live in residence hall rooms and test positive will need to relocate to an official isolation apartment until they have recovered. This is to protect against viral spread in the residence halls, which are a form of congregate living.

Isolation Exit Testing

Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 must remain in isolation for at least five days. North Park highly recommends but will no longer require a negative rapid antigen test for people without symptoms to exit isolation after five days. However, anyone who does test positive after five days should complete a 10-day isolation.

Masking

North Park's recommendations for masking on campus will be based on the current [Community Risk Level in Chicago](#).

Masking will remain required in certain circumstances:

- Community members who have been identified as close contacts or who have exited isolation after five days are required to mask for 10 full days.
- Masking is always required in the Office of Health & Counseling Support Services.

If the City of Chicago returns to a mask mandate – or if North Park experiences high levels of transmission -- the campus may need to reinstate an indoor mask requirement for all community members.

Submitting Vaccination Status to North Park

North Park strongly encourages students and employees to [submit COVID-19 vaccine records](#) to the University. This helps us calculate our vaccination rates, which can be shared with the campus community, and allows the Pandemic Response Team to adapt quickly to any new testing or vaccine requirements.

However, [since Gov. Pritzker rescinded the vaccine and testing requirement](#) for institutions of higher education in Illinois, North Park is no longer *requiring* students or employees to submit vaccination records.

Please refer to [the updated Isolation and Quarantine Protocol](#) for Students and Employees.

Thank you for your faithful observance of our wellness protocols!

The Pandemic Response Team