

August 2022 Guidelines

As we prepare for the Fall semester, here are some reminders about COVID mitigation strategies at OU-Tulsa. Numbers are rising across our state and in the Tulsa area. The BA.5 variant is highly contagious and spreads very easily from person to person, likely as contagious as the measles. While those who test positive and have been vaccinated are likely to have less severe, manageable symptoms, they can quickly and easily infect those they are near, even briefly. This can result in a high number of our workforce and student population having to be absent from campus. Tulsa county is in the “High” transmission category, so it is important that we take steps to protect our workforce, students, patients and community members.

Our response:

- Masking remains mandatory in patient care areas and in buildings where patient care is the primary purpose.
- Masks are strongly encouraged in common areas inside OU-Tulsa facilities - in hallways, meeting rooms, classrooms, restrooms, labs, and other settings where others are present.
- Managers may use the [mask request form](#) to obtain masks for their areas.
- Report symptoms and positive COVID tests on the [Online Screening & Reporting Tool](#). This is required of HSC employees and students.
- Remember the common symptoms of the current COVID variants: runny nose, cough, sore throat, fever, headaches, fatigue, and muscle pain.
** If you have any of these symptoms, please do not come to work or class. Complete the [Online Screening & Reporting Tool](#). If you test at home, recall that a single negative home test may not rule out COVID.

Vaccines & Boosters:

- A complete COVID vaccine series remains mandatory for individuals with patient-facing responsibilities (patients include our research participants in clinical protocols).
- CDC currently recommends at least one COVID vaccine booster dose for all ELIGIBLE individuals who are otherwise “fully vaccinated.” Studies clearly show that having had a booster dose reduces your chance of infection and reduces the risks of complications of the disease if you do get infected. You may check your eligibility for booster doses using the [CDC’s Booster Tool](#):
- If you are eligible for a 1st or 2nd COVID booster, click [here](#) to schedule an on-campus vaccine, a [County Health Department location](#), or a neighborhood pharmacy near you for your COVID booster.

On-Campus Events and Meetings Protocol:

- Designated and traditional indoor eating spaces and venues remain open.
- If possible, please host indoor events in spaces larger than your expected attendance.
- Notify attendees that masks are strongly encouraged indoors, and make masks available at the entrances to the event.
- For indoor events where food will be served, please consider offering a “to-go” option.
- Outdoor events may continue as permitted by campus policies.

Class and Work Attendance:

- In-person classes are expected for the fall semester; however, faculty should prepare for flexible attendance and/or temporary hybrid learning options in the event they or their students are COVID positive during the semester.
- Supervisors are reminded to provide flexible work schedules or locations when employees are quarantining at home but are able to work remotely.

For questions or any additional information, please contact Tracy Kennedy (tkennedy@ou.edu) or Josh Davis (Joshua-Davis@ouhsc.edu)