

## Updates for Spring 2021: COVID-19 Training - Safe Research at Columbia University

- **COVID-19 Resource Guide for the Columbia Community:** The University's response to the pandemic adjusts to changing conditions. Critical real-time updates are posted on the [COVID-19 Resource Guide for the Columbia Community](#). Please check it regularly for the most current information and additional details.
  - **COVID-19 Vaccine:** After you are vaccinated, you must continue to follow required health and safety protocols. COVID-19 vaccine availability and/or receipt of a vaccine will not mean an early end to the Enhanced Health and Safety Policy requirements. Please refer to the COVID-19 website for regular updates and information: [COVID-19 Vaccination Information](#)
  - **Get Tested:** Faculty, staff and students who are eligible to return to campus are required to obtain an initial "Gateway" COVID-19 PCR diagnostic test and participate in ongoing surveillance testing. A COVID-19 PCR gateway test is required by Jan. 25 for individuals returning to campus in January, and prior to return thereafter, **regardless of whether gateway testing was completed in summer or fall 2020 or whether they have been accessing campus previously.** Campus access will be allowed while awaiting results of the gateway test only until January 25. Gateway testing must be completed through a University testing site; outside tests will not qualify for access to campus. Please refer to [COVID-19 Testing Program](#) for additional detail.
  - **Physical Distancing and Contact Tracing:** When contact tracing is initiated for someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, you will be deemed a close contact if you have been:
    - Within 6 feet for over 10 minutes in a single instance or
    - Within 6 feet for a cumulative time of 15 minutes or more within a 24 hour period
    - You will then be notified and given instructions on quarantine (for up to 10 days) and testing.
- Note:** If there is a positive case of COVID-19, if you have maintained physical distance and wearing a face covering from that person, you will not be required to quarantine. For additional details, refer to [Columbia Contact Tracing Program](#).
- **Actions to Avoid, throughout the Workday:** Through Columbia's contact tracing program and other observations on campus, the University has identified common situations with a high risk for virus transmission. Some include:
    - Not staying home if you have symptoms or a known exposure
    - Failure to observe appropriate physical distancing (at least 6 feet) in breakrooms or lunchrooms (with removal of face coverings/masks for eating/drinking)
    - Situating desks, chairs or workstations without observing required physical distancing (at least 6 feet) and lack of consistent and appropriate wearing of face covering/masking
    - Failure to maintain physical distance and use of face coverings outdoors
  - **Return to Campus after COVID-19 Symptoms or Positive Test:** For additional details, refer to the [ReopenCU COVID-19 Symptom Self-check App – Red Screen Policy](#).
  - **Considerations for Laboratories: Remain "Ramp-Down" Ready**
    - Laboratories *must be prepared* in the event that there is a resurgence of active cases.
    - Have [a plan in place](#) to accomplish this safely and quickly.
  - **Where to Go with a Concern and Additional Resources:** For general questions or comments about University COVID-19 policies, and to receive guidance on testing, contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine, email [covidresource@columbia.edu](mailto:covidresource@columbia.edu). For additional resources, please refer to: [Where to With a Concern](#).
  - **Key Actions To Stop the Spread of COVID-19:**
    - Stay home if you are sick or think you may be sick, or if you know that you have been exposed to COVID-19
    - Wear a face covering at all times on campus including outdoors
    - Make smart choices when commuting
    - Follow the required protocols when taking breaks or eating
    - Maintain physical distance both indoors and outdoors
    - Socialize safely, but not while you eat
    - Cooperate with Contact Tracing
    - Get tested when asked for ongoing surveillance
    - Adhere to local travel restrictions