

Update: Summary of VUMC COVID-19 Safety Guidelines

With the increasing number of COVID-19 cases, VUMC is updating and reinforcing COVID-19 safety guidelines. The most significant update is that masking is now required, regardless of vaccination status, in indoor areas of VUMC, including non-clinical locations.

This is a summary of all current guidelines as of Aug. 4:

Visitation

No changes at this time. Hospital visitation policies are kept updated on the COVID website: <https://www.vumc.org/coronavirus/updated-covid-19-restricted-visitor-policy>. Please communicate these policies to all visitors and ask them to limit waiting around when not able to visit with patients.

Screening

- All staff and visitors screened upon entrance for temperature and masking.
- Staff monitored for wearing VUMC ID badges.
- COVID-19 symptom Health Alert signage is posted. Individuals are expected to self-monitor for symptoms and either report upon entrance or not come to VUMC's facilities if experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.
- The symptoms for COVID-19 are: fever or chills, new cough, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, cold or flu-like symptoms (including fatigue/muscle aches), nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.

Masking

- Masks, when worn, must be over both the mouth and nose.
- Masking is now required for **all persons, regardless of vaccination status**, in all indoor areas of VUMC that are public, including non-clinical locations and corridors.
- Surgical masks must be worn in clinical areas, defined as areas where patients and visitors are present.
- Cloth masks can still be worn in non-clinical areas.
- Masking is still **not** required in outdoor spaces, regardless of vaccination status.
- Masking is required when riding on a VUMC shuttle, regardless of vaccination status.
- For non-public meetings and gatherings, discretion about masking can be used for persons who are vaccinated and having a V sticker on their badge.
- Masks may be removed/not worn in public areas for the following reasons:
 - When alone.
 - When eating and drinking. (Note: Unvaccinated individuals should avoid eating and drinking with others indoors.)
 - When wearing a respirator as a part of isolation precautions/personal protective equipment.

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- When a person is unable to wear a facemask due to a medical necessity, medical condition or disability, a face shield should be worn.
- For hearing impaired persons or persons who rely on reading lips to communicate, a clear mask may be worn except when entering a COVID-19 isolation room.

Travel

- Work travel is permissible, but travelers need to understand and follow travel restrictions for their destination.

Work from Home

- No changes at this time. All workforce members who have been working from home should continue to do so. Decisions about returning to work should be made by one up leaders.

In person meetings & gatherings

- In person meetings and gatherings are permitted and discretion about masking can be used for persons who are vaccinated and having a V sticker on their badge. Also advise limiting eating together.

Vaccination

- Leaders are required to be fully vaccinated or have exemption by September 15th
- Vaccinations are strongly encouraged for all workforce members. A deadline for requiring all VUMC employees (non-identified leader) to be vaccinated or have an approved exemption is under consideration.

Exposure guidelines and Return to Work

- Follow these guidelines from Occupational Health on when to quarantine and return to work. [Workforce Exposure Guidelines](#)

Symptomatic Testing

- If you have COVID symptoms testing should occur even if you are fully vaccinated.