

Dear College of Idaho Campus Community,

We are writing to provide an update to the Fall 2021 [Re-Opening Plan](#).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently modified safety [recommendations](#) in response to new findings related to the Delta variant. Among the changes is the recommendation for everyone, even fully vaccinated people, to wear masks in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission.

The Treasure Valley currently meets the [criteria](#) for a high transmission area, and as a result the College presently **requires all students, employees, and visitors to wear masks in all indoor public settings on campus**. This includes all campus buildings.

This policy will remain in place for the beginning of the school year and until transmission rates fall below the current level or guidance from the CDC changes. Specific entailments of the policy follow:

- Masks must be worn inside academic buildings, including hallways en route to and from classes, and inside classrooms; instructors may at times remove their mask to facilitate communication necessary to the teaching endeavor as long as physical distancing can be maintained.
- Masks do *not* need to be worn in private residence hall rooms, private offices, and outdoors (special guidelines apply to outdoor events; see below).
- Participants in outdoor events do not need to wear masks if physical distancing is practiced; when physical distancing is not possible, masks are strongly recommended. Masks are required at indoor events (aside from exceptions noted below).
- Varsity Athletics teams do not need to wear masks during practice and competitions, but are encouraged to do so when not actively working out.
- In the cafeterias, masks may be removed when eating or drinking, but they must be worn upon entry, while selecting food, and after the meal is complete.
- Individuals are encouraged to continue adhering to [precautions](#) recommended by medical authorities, such as physical distancing, frequent hand-washing, disinfecting, etc.

Consistent with CDC recommendations, following [close contact](#) with someone who has COVID-19, unvaccinated people should [self-quarantine](#) for 10 days without testing or 7 days with a negative test result on day 5 or later. Vaccinated people who have had exposure are not required to self-quarantine unless exhibiting symptoms, but should get tested 3-5 days after exposure even in the absence of symptoms. Anyone testing positive needs to [isolate](#) for 10 days. Anyone who has been exposed to COVID-19 or is experiencing symptoms is also asked to [report](#), so we can take steps to address the safety of our community.

Campus leadership will continue to monitor closely the wide range of data and recommendations that inform our policy, including those from the CDC, the WHO, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, and the Southwest Health District. Changes in the metrics directly affecting campus will be communicated along with any policy implications as soon as possible.

Please address any questions to either of our offices.

David Douglass
Provost

Paul R. Bennion
VP for Student Affairs & Dean of Students

8-18-21