COVID-19 Monitoring Framework for Fall 2021

- Columbia University Framework for COVID-19 Risk Assessment and Management is developed to provide guidance for Fall 2021
- A single approach will guide the University’s approach
- Careful consideration will be given to contextualizing of the observed trends, keeping in mind the change in knowledge about the epidemic, and the need for flexibility in analyzing and acting upon the criteria set forth
- The University will continue to prioritize activities relating directly to the University’s instructional, research and service mission.
- All actions will be informed by national, state and local guidance
Description of Framework

• Select metrics reflecting the COVID-19 status in NYC, as well as the situation on campus, will be monitored carefully to determine the COVID-19 risk level.

• Key thresholds for each metric were set to signal COVID-19 risk and for re-institution or lifting of certain measures. Measures include:
  • Masking
  • Distancing
  • Gatherings
  • Travel

• In the context of COVID-19 vaccine availability and CU vaccination mandate, hospitalizations, deaths, and vaccine coverage become the metrics of particular importance, rather than number of cases or PCR positivity.
Types of Gatherings

**CU Affiliates* Only**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Gatherings (only CU affiliates)</th>
<th>Administrative and Team Gatherings (only CU affiliates)</th>
<th>Extra-curricular and Social gatherings (only CU affiliates)</th>
<th>Other Gatherings (Include non-CU affiliates)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Activities involving student instruction of course curriculum (e.g. classes, seminars)</td>
<td>- Business meetings</td>
<td>- Events for faculty, staff or students</td>
<td>- Conferences</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Activities related to orientation</td>
<td>- Research meetings</td>
<td>- Events organized by student groups</td>
<td>- Sporting events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Dining services for students</td>
<td>- Program/project meetings</td>
<td>- Athletic activities</td>
<td>- Performances (e.g. theater, sports)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Graduation and commencement</td>
<td>- Faculty meetings</td>
<td>- Religious activities</td>
<td>- Events that include families of affiliates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Activities related to test-taking</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Performances (e.g. sports, theater)</td>
<td>- Alumni events</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* CU faculty, researchers, staff and students
Columbia University Framework for COVID-19 Risk Assessment & Management
Fall 2021

Priority Metrics to Monitor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New York City</th>
<th>Columbia University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NYC vaccination coverage</td>
<td>Columbia vaccination coverage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 hospitalizations in NYC</td>
<td>PCR positivity rate in random sample</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 deaths in NYC</td>
<td>PCR positive individuals (non-random sample and external testing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 cases NYC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Risk Levels

- Lower Risk
- Low Risk
- Moderate Risk
- Higher Risk
Columbia University COVID-19 Risk Levels (Fall 2021)

### Lower Risk

**Metrics:**
- Columbia affiliate vaccination coverage >95%
- Number of COVID-19 hospitalizations/day in NYC <180 (7-day rolling average)
- Number of COVID-19 deaths/day in NYC <10 (7-day rolling average)
- PCR positivity in NYC <5% (7-day rolling average)
- Number of COVID-19 cases/day in NYC <550 (7-day rolling average)*

*Metric will be interpreted in context of hospitalization and death data

### What to anticipate:

**Testing**
- Weekly mandatory testing of unvaccinated affiliates
- Random sampling of all vaccinated affiliates
- Wastewater surveillance, targeted testing if spike detected

**Face Covering and Physical Distancing**
- Vaccinated persons*:
  - No masking
  - No distancing
- Unvaccinated persons*:
  - Masking (indoor and outdoor)

**Gatherings**
- Academic, Administrative and Other Teams, Social or Extra-curricular: No capacity thresholds
- Other Gatherings (Conferences and Other Events): Limited, requiring approval

**Travel Restrictions**
- **CU travel policy** in place

*For CUIMC facilities, indoor masking remains in place for all patient-facing contexts
Columbia University COVID-19 Risk Levels (Fall 2021)

Low Risk

Metrics:
- Columbia affiliate vaccination coverage >95%
- Number of COVID-19 hospitalizations/day in NYC >180 (7-day rolling average)
- Number of COVID-19 deaths/day in NYC >10 (7-day rolling average)
- PCR positivity in NYC >5% (7-day rolling average)
- Number of COVID-19 cases/day in NYC >550 (7-day rolling average)*

*Metric will be interpreted in context of hospitalization and death data

What to anticipate:

Testing
- Weekly mandatory testing of unvaccinated affiliates
- Random sample for testing of vaccinated affiliates increased
- Wastewater surveillance, targeted testing if spike detected

Face Covering and Physical Distancing
- Indoor: Masking by all; vaccinated not required to distance
- Outdoor:
  - Vaccinated persons not required to mask nor to distance
  - Unvaccinated persons required to mask and distance

Gatherings
- Academic: No capacity thresholds
- Administrative and Other Teams:
  - Indoor: 250
  - Outdoor: 500
- Social or Extra-curricular (indoor or outdoor):
  - Indoor: 25
  - Outdoor: 50
- Other Gatherings (Conferences and Other Events): Restricted

Travel Restrictions
- CU travel policy in place
Columbia University COVID-19 Risk Levels (Fall 2021)

Moderate Risk

Metrics:
- Columbia affiliate vaccination coverage >95%
- Number of COVID-19 hospitalizations/day in NYC >360 (7-day rolling average)
- Number of COVID-19 deaths/day in NYC >50 (7-day rolling average)
- Number of COVID-19 cases/day in NYC >1000 (7-day rolling average)*
- Ongoing transmission on campus (multiple campus related clusters or cases)

*Metric will be interpreted in context of hospitalization and death data

What to anticipate:

Testing
- Weekly mandatory testing of unvaccinated affiliates
- Random sample for testing of vaccinated affiliates increased
- Wastewater surveillance, targeted testing if spikes detected

Face Covering and Physical Distancing
- Indoor masking and distancing by all, may necessitate hybrid instruction and staggered workspace
- Outdoor:
  - Vaccinated individuals not required to mask and distance
  - Unvaccinated individuals required to mask and distance

Gatherings
- Academic gatherings: Capacity thresholds limited by distancing
- Administrative and Other Teams, Social or Extra-curricular: Limited
- Other Gatherings (inclusive of non-affiliates) e.g. Conferences: Restricted

Travel Restrictions
- CU travel policy in place
Columbia University COVID-19 Risk Levels (Fall 2021)

**Higher Risk**

**Metrics:**
- Thresholds for metrics in Moderate Risk (Orange) Level reached or exceeded for extended period of time

**What to anticipate:**
- For a high risk situation, a specific response strategy will be developed based upon a range of measures that reflect the epidemic situation in the city and on campus at the time.