

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

Academic Gatherings (only CU affiliates)

- Activities involving student instruction of course curriculum (e.g. classes, seminars)
- Activities related to orientation
- Dining services for students
- Graduation and commencement
- Activities related to test-taking

Administrative and Team Gatherings (only CU affiliates)

- Business meetings
- Research meetings
- Program/project meetings
- Faculty meetings

Extra-curricular and Social gatherings (only CU affiliates)

- Events for faculty, staff or students
- Events organized by student groups
- Athletic activities
- Religious activities
- Performances (e.g. sports, theater)

Other Gatherings (Include non-CU affiliates)

- Conferences
- Sporting events
- Performances (e.g. theater, sports)
- Events that include families of affiliates
- Alumni events
- Rental of CU space for events

* CU faculty, researchers, staff and students

Columbia University Framework for COVID-19 Risk Assessment & Management Fall 2021

Priority Metrics to Monitor

New York City

- NYC vaccination coverage
- COVID-19 hospitalizations in NYC
- COVID-19 deaths in NYC
- COVID-19 cases NYC

Columbia University

- Columbia vaccination coverage
- PCR positivity rate in random sample
- PCR positive individuals (non-random sample and external testing)

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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indoor masking and distancing by all, may necessitate hybrid instruction and staggered workspace• Outdoor:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vaccinated individuals not required to mask and distance• Unvaccinated individuals required to mask and distance	Gatherings <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.