



Protocols for January Return to Campus

Revised on 1-1-2022

Given the continued rise of COVID cases across the US and the proliferation of the Omicron variant, the University is instituting *immediate, but temporary*, steps to help protect University of Redlands communities, to include the Marin campus and our regional sites. These will be in effect when the University reopens following winter break on January 3, 2022.

What We Know About Omicron

As always, we will continue to use science and data from authoritative sources to guide our decision making.

- Both scientific studies and real-world data has added to the evidence that Omicron is more (highly) contagious than any previous version of the COVID-19 virus.
- One reason that Omicron seems to spread so quickly is that it causes more cases among the vaccinated than earlier variants, although they are likely to be mild. “There will be a lot of breakthrough cases,” Dr. Jennifer Lighter, an epidemiologist at N.Y.U. Langone Health.
- Unvaccinated adults are at even greater risk than they were a few weeks ago.
- Omicron presents only a very small risk of serious illness to most vaccinated people.
- Omicron can evade antibodies produced either by vaccination or by infection with previous variants.
- Booster doses of both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines offer a substantial increase in protection against Omicron in early studies.
- Omicron does not appear to cause more severe illness than earlier versions of the virus.
- While Omicron is spreading rapidly, the Delta variant is still widespread, too.

Enhanced Safety Protocols Effective Jan 3. – Jan. 21, 2022

Dates subject to change dependent on case positivity rate and CDC guidance

The following temporary protocols are based on the fact that Omicron is highly contagious and spreads quickly, including among those who are fully vaccinated. The mitigation strategies below are known to reduce spread and acknowledge that Omicron is behaving differently than any variant before it. Therefore, we have included items such as restrictions on eating in public spaces when we did not do so previously.

GENERAL PROTOCOLS – FOR ALL EMPLOYEES AND STUDENTS

Employees & Students -

- Following the winter break and prior to working/accessing campus at any University location, all individuals (***regardless of vaccination status***) are required to complete a post-holiday COVID-19 test. Students in the College of Arts and Sciences are required to complete a second test after arriving to campus.
- After complying with the applicable return to campus testing protocol, ***unvaccinated*** individuals and ***vaccinated individuals who have not yet received a booster dose*** are required to:
 - Complete a **weekly** COVID-19 test.
 - ***Exempt, unvaccinated individuals*** must continue to complete the daily health assessment on the UR Ready app.
- Limit your close contacts to the extent possible.
- Residential students on the Redlands campus may have additional protocols as determined by Residence Life and Housing.

Campus Guest/Visitor Protocols

- Guests and visitors are allowed on campus and must follow the enhanced safety protocols.
- Overnight guests/visitors are **not** permitted in residential communities. This includes students who are residing off-campus.

IN PERSON CLASSES – ALL PROGRAMS, ALL SCHOOLS

- Faculty have discretion to manage classrooms to ensure health and safety.
- Proper face coverings are required at all times regardless of vaccination status. Given the highly contagious nature of the Omicron variant, guidance encourages KN95 masks, three-ply disposable surgical masks, or double-masking if using cloth masks.
- Green or Golden ID badge required to attend in-person classes; faculty to check badges at start of class.
- Eating in classrooms is generally prohibited, except for those with accommodations or exceptional circumstances.

- Face coverings should only be removed by individuals when actively drinking.
- External guests must have proof of vaccination (to be confirmed by faculty member) and be symptom-free upon their arrival.

EATING, DRINKING, AND DINING ON CAMPUSES

Redlands Campus Harvest Table Venues (All venues will be open)

- Indoor dining will be permitted however, seating in each venue will be limited to 50% of total capacity.
- Additional outdoor seating will be provided.
- Additional grab-and-go options will be provided.
- Proper face coverings must be worn except when actively eating or drinking indoors.
- Only those with a valid University of Redlands ID, displaying green or golden features will be permitted to dine in on-campus venues. Grub-Hub orders will be accepted and available for outdoor pick-up.

Food and Beverage Consumption in Non-Dining Communal Spaces – All Campuses

- Eating in communal spaces such as lounges, meeting rooms, lobbies, and other shared spaces is permitted if a face covering is worn **except** when actively drinking (taking a bite). Individuals are asked to avoid doing so in groups of three or more and to physically distance while eating.
- Drinking in communal spaces is permitted if a face covering is worn **except** when actively drinking (taking a sip). Face covering must be worn in-between sips.

INDOOR MEETINGS, EVENTS, & GATHERINGS - EMPLOYEES AND STUDENTS

- Meet virtually as your primary meeting modality.
- Limit in-person meetings, events, and gatherings to the size and, when applicable, the posted capacity of the selected location; select spaces that allow for distancing of attendees.
- Assure all attendees wear proper face coverings at all times regardless of vaccination status. Given the highly contagious nature of the Omicron variant, guidance encourages KN95 masks, three-ply disposable surgical masks, or double-masking if using cloth masks. This includes events taking place at off-campus locations and when travelling to offsite locations.
- The consumption of a beverage is permitted only when an individual is actively drinking (taking a sip). Face coverings must be worn in between sips.
- Unless necessitated by the length of a meeting/event, no eating or sharing of food is permitted while indoors except for those with accommodations/medical conditions that necessitate eating.
- Consider alternative outdoor spaces when applicable.

TRAVEL

- Employees - Minimize University business travel (domestic and international) unless for an essential business/academic purpose and provided CDC travel restrictions are followed.
- Students - University-sponsored travel (domestic and international) is at the discretion of each student (i.e., athletics, outdoor programs, field work, study away, etc.) provided CDC travel restrictions are followed. Face coverings must be worn if traveling with others. Pre- and post-travel COVID-19 testing is required and checking test results will be the responsibility of the program organizer/sponsoring department.
- Personal travel (domestic and international) is at the discretion of each employee/student. COVID-19 test required upon return.

EXTERNAL CLIENT MEETINGS AND EVENTS (NON-EMPLOYEE/NON-STUDENT EVENTS AT REDLANDS AND MARIN CAMPUSES)

- Permit indoor and outdoor events with modifications and adherence to the Enhanced Health and Safety guidelines.
- Follow County guidance for what is permitted inside and outside.
- Limited food and drink for indoor events when possible.
- Face coverings must be worn at all times while indoors, unless individuals are actively eating and/or drinking.