

August 11, 2021

Students, Faculty and Staff:

At this time, the state of Illinois remains in Phase 5 of its COVID-19 response protocols. However, in response to the recent increase in Delta variant cases, the Illinois Department of Public Health has adopted the CDC's interim public health recommendations for fully vaccinated people.

As a result, Concordia University Chicago will **REQUIRE** that facemasks be worn indoors, on campus by all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, **effective Thursday, August 12.**

The University acknowledges the uncertainty and challenges that the pandemic continues to create in each of our lives. At the same time, we continue to view each change as a moment of learning and leadership for the members of the university community.

Students and employees must wear face coverings over their nose and mouth when within six feet of others, and/or in the following situations:

- In all academic settings including classrooms and labs.
- When moving around all common internal areas of the campus.
- In all meeting/conference rooms.
- At all campus events, including indoor athletic games.
- In all shared office spaces, where two or more individuals are present.

This temporary mitigation measure will be in place through Tuesday, September 7, at which point the University will review the current COVID-19 best practices and statistics to determine continuation or cessation.

There are no restrictions on event capacity at this time, and physical distancing is not currently in effect. However, the ERT is closely following developments related to the Delta variant and continues proactive planning should the situation evolve further and additional mitigation measures be necessary.

CUC's response to this situation, as always, is grounded in our mission, vision and values. In this instance we are willing to adjust our understanding of freedom and require facemask because it demonstrates our integrity and our commitment to care for each person who is part of our university community

It is each individual's responsibility to follow the face masking requirement, and we trust that all members of the University community will be respectful of one another in their actions.

- CUC Emergency Response Team