



Fall 2022 Semester COVID-19 FAQs

Design Institute is committed to the health, safety and wellbeing of our campus and community. We continue to monitor CDC and county guidelines. These FAQs provide valuable COVID-19 information, procedures, and safety measures that DI has put in place. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any additional questions or concerns at campus.wellness@disd.edu.

Health and Safety

Is receiving the vaccine mandatory for enrollment at DI?

Beginning fall 2022, DI has suspended the vaccine requirement until further notice. DI strongly recommends students be vaccinated to protect against the Coronavirus as data analyzed by the CDC shows fully vaccinated and boosted individuals are less likely to contract COVID-19 and far less likely to suffer fatal illness. We request students who are vaccinated voluntarily provide a copy of their vaccine records should the need arise to reinstitute the vaccine requirement. Vaccination information should be provided to the Director of Student Services.

What about confidentiality?

Please remember vaccination and positivity status are confidential, other than reporting a positive case to [Campus Wellness](#), and should not be discussed among students, faculty or staff unless expressly consented to by the individual.

Do I have to wear a face covering when entering DI?

Yes. Regardless of your vaccination status, you must wear an approved face covering at all times while in common areas inside any DI building until further notice.

What kind of face covering can I wear?

Please wear a mask that has been approved by the CDC. This includes surgical masks, breathable fabric masks, and masks with inner filter pockets. Masks that are not approved to wear on campus include masks with exhalation valves or vents, gaiters or ski masks, or face shields.

The most effective masks are the N or KN-95 five-layer disposable model. Three-ply surgical masks are also considered highly effective. If these are not options for you, we suggest double masking. When double masking, the well-fitted disposable mask should be worn first with the additional mask being worn second on the outside.

DI has a very limited supply of masks available for use, if you need an extra mask or if the mask you have is not on the approved list. Students, faculty and staff are expected to come to campus prepared with their own, approved face covering.

What happens if someone is not wearing a mask indoors?

In many cases, when an individual is not wearing a mask indoors it is simply because they forgot to put it on. Anyone who is not wearing a mask indoors will be asked to kindly wear a mask. If they refuse, they will be asked to leave the classroom and/or campus and disciplinary measures may be taken, including being counted as absent for the class period. For anyone who has left their mask at home, DI has masks available for use.

Can I eat and drink inside DI buildings?

We ask that you eat in the outdoor lounge area while socially distancing, where you may remove your masks. We have set up tables and chairs for your use and enjoyment. Please feel free to use the snack machine, refrigerator, microwave, and/or sink when preparing your meal inside. Snacking and drinking indoors should be done with caution and we recommend that you replace your mask when not actively snacking or drinking.

Can my instructor change the modality of my class from in-person to virtual?

Your professor may not change the modality published in the class schedule unless there is a critical reason and it has been discussed and approved by the [Director of Academics](#) (in which case, students will be notified by DI administration as soon as possible). Please note that we ask for flexibility should there be a need to alter modality due to COVID-19 or other related reasons.

If you have any concerns, please contact [Campus Wellness](#).

If I feel sick, what should I do?

We ask that if you have **ANY** COVID-19 symptoms, you refrain from coming to the DI campus, and we recommend getting tested as soon as possible and quarantining until you receive your test results, regardless of your vaccination status. Student Services has a limited number of rapid tests on hand if you start to feel sick while on campus.

If I am exposed to, or test positive for, COVID-19 when should I quarantine and when should I isolate?

Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19, regardless of their vaccination status, should isolate. The isolation period is five (5) days from symptom onset or positive test date, and continue to wear a mask around others for five (5) additional days. If you were severely ill with COVID-19, you should isolate for at least 10 days and consult your doctor before ending isolation.

If you were exposed to COVID-19 and are fully vaccinated, or have had a confirmed COVID-19 case within the past 90 days, you do not need to quarantine unless you develop symptoms. If you develop symptoms, isolate immediately, get tested, and stay at home until you know the results. Even though people who are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have had symptoms, fully vaccinated people should be tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they do not have symptoms, and wear a mask indoors in public for 10 days following exposure.

If you were exposed to COVID-19 and are not fully vaccinated, you must quarantine for at least five (5) days regardless of whether you are symptomatic or asymptomatic. It is advised to get tested at least five (5) days after your exposure even if you do not develop symptoms and the CDC recommends wearing a mask whenever in public for 10 days following exposure. DI requires everyone to wear a mask while indoors at all times regardless of status.

What happens if I test positive for COVID-19?

If you test positive for COVID-19 *and* have been on campus in the two (2) days prior to having symptoms, please report your positive case to [Campus Wellness](#) immediately. Regardless of your vaccination status, anyone who tests positive is required to isolate for at least five (5) days.

DI will conduct contact tracing should we become aware of a positive case. Close contacts will be notified of potential exposure. A close contact is defined by the CDC as someone who was within six (6) feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes within a 24-hour period starting from two (2) days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic cases, two (2) days prior to positive specimen collected). *We also encourage members of the DI community to download and utilize [CA Notify](#) to assist with contact tracing.*

If I am vaccinated but have been exposed to COVID-19, should I continue to go to class?

Fully vaccinated asymptomatic people who are exposed to the virus and do not test positive do not need to self-quarantine and can continue to go to class. Unvaccinated individuals must quarantine for at least five (5) days after exposure.

How will I get support or make up my classwork if I cannot attend classes due to illness or positive COVID test?

Students should contact their faculty and student.wellness@disd.edu immediately in the event of illness, isolation, or quarantine for assistance with missed coursework. All students will be supported individually.

What happens if there is a COVID-19 cluster on campus?

A cluster is defined as three (3) or more positive cases associated with the same location, group, or event around the same time within a 14-day period. If it is determined that there is a cluster on the DI campus, DI will assess the situation and act accordingly. All individuals who may have been affected will be notified about next steps to be taken, which may include quarantining, maintaining social distancing, and/or required testing.

What has DI done to ensure the safety of students, faculty and staff while on campus?

DI has contracted with **JAN-PRO CLEANING SYSTEMS, INC.**, a cleaning and sanitation provider (Jan-Pro). Jan-Pro will provide all daily cleaning and sanitation of the school, including on-going comprehensive disinfecting of the entire campus, on-site day-porter services scheduled throughout the day, and a full evening crew. Jan-Pro is experienced with disinfection, rapid response, and COVID-19 cleaning technology. DI facilities will be cleaned when needed utilizing electromagnetic fogging with the Sniper chemical for Enviroshield. All cleaning products and processes meet or exceed the CDC guidelines.

During the fall semester, are the Materials Lab, CAD Labs, student workrooms, and other facilities fully open?

All campus facilities are fully open Monday through Thursday. This includes the Materials Lab, CAD Labs, student workrooms and Library. No appointments are required to access the facilities.

*Please note that the administrative staff work remotely on Fridays. Consult the Student Success Center in Canvas for the most up-to-date campus hours.

All students must follow the safety guidelines outlined above in order to use these spaces.