

## Protocols for Institutes of Higher Education

**Recent updates:** (Changes highlighted in yellow)

**2/22/21:**

- Updated to allow limited additional activities to resume on IHE campuses with safety modifications as described below.

**2/9/21:**

- Updated to reflect a change to the process for reporting cases and clusters to DPH with the preferred method being a secure online submission tool.
- All employees must wear a face covering at all times except when they are alone in a closed office or when they are eating and drinking during designated break times.

The requirements below are specific to IHE. In addition to the conditions imposed on IHE by the State Public Health Officer, Institutes of Higher Education in Los Angeles County must also be in compliance with this Checklist for Institutes of Higher Education.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health ([LACDPH](#)) is adhering to guidance from the California Department of Public Health, which recommends that counties with high levels of community transmission of COVID-19 limit the reopening of colleges and universities.

As the rate of community transmission of COVID-19 continues to slowly decline in Los Angeles County, colleges and universities may resume some limited in-person on-campus activities. These activities include:

- Opening of art, design and theater art studios and music practice rooms for individual or very small group (4 or fewer people including the instructor) activities that fulfill academic requirements;
- Offering access to film equipment, film editing and other post-production facilities for individual students or a very small group (4 or fewer people including an instructor) for the purpose of fulfilling academic requirements.
- Offering outdoor study and support sessions for students who need additional academic or social supports with a limit of 10 people per group;
- Opening libraries for in-person services to registered students, faculty and staff, limited to 25% capacity and in compliance with the LACDPH [Protocol for Libraries](#);
- Offering use of **outdoor** recreational sports courts, fields, and facilities for permitted recreational sports activities and physical conditioning in compliance with all relevant LACDPH protocols, including [Protocols for Youth and Adult Recreational Sports](#), [Reopening Protocol for Gyms and Fitness Establishments](#), and [Protocols for Reopening of Public Swimming Pools](#).

Colleges and universities in Los Angeles County will not be able to **fully** resume in-person academic instruction at this time. **In addition to the activities listed above, institutions** may continue to offer in person training and instruction for essential workforce for required activities that cannot be accomplished through virtual learning. All other academic instruction must continue to be done via distance-learning.

Faculty and other staff may come to campus for the purpose of providing distance learning, and other activities related to the purposes above, as well as maintaining minimum basic operations. The institution must comply with all relevant portions of this protocol to maximize safety for all employees.

Colleges and universities should also limit their on-campus student residency but may continue to provide housing for students who have no alternative housing options. For students enrolled in programs providing training and instruction for essential workforce, on campus housing should be offered only to students who must participate in in-person instruction in order to complete their training and who do not have alternative local housing options. For student athletes who are participating in on campus sports, campus housing should be offered in the small training cohorts as recommended by the state guidance.

As noted in the summary box above, permitted activities are the following:

- On campus housing for students with no alternative residential option;
- Education, training, and other support for essential workforce activities;
- Activities required for faculty to carry out distance-learning and other remote activities;
- Activities required for faculty and staff to carry out essential research projects;
- Activities required to maintain minimum basic operations;
- Any activities carried out as part of State or County COVID-19 response;
- Collegiate sports in compliance with CDPH guidance (see link above).

Note that IHEs may additionally be expected to comply with other DPH or CDPH protocols, including but not limited to:

- ☐ DPH protocols for retail establishments
- ☐ DPH protocols for gyms and fitness centers
- ☐ DPH protocols for restaurants
- ☐ DPH protocols for office-based worksites
- ☐ DPH protocols for places of worship
- ☐ DPH protocols for libraries
- ☐ DPH protocols for recreational sports
- ☐ DPH protocols for music, television and film production
- ☐ CDPH guidance for collegiate athletics.

Note that on-campus events remain prohibited with the exception of events related to constitutionally protected freedoms such as public protests and in-person faith-based services conducted by places of worship.

Please note: This document may be updated as additional information and resources become available so be sure to check the LA County website <http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/> regularly for any updates to this document.

This checklist covers:

- (1) Workplace policies and practices to protect employee health
- (2) Policies to protect the health of students
- (3) Measures to ensure physical distancing
- (4) Measures to ensure infection control
- (5) Communication with employees and the public
- (6) Measures to ensure equitable access to critical services

These five key areas must be addressed as your facility develops any reopening protocols.

Institutes of Higher Education must implement all applicable measures listed below and be prepared to explain why any measure that is not implemented is not applicable to the institution.

Institution name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**A. WORKPLACE POLICIES AND PRACTICES TO PROTECT EMPLOYEES (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)**

- ☐ For the purposes of this protocol, the term “employees” includes but is not limited to paid, full-time and part-time faculty and staff, employees of companies that contract with the IHE for purposes of activities permitted above, student employees, interns, and volunteers.
- ☐ Vulnerable employees (those above age 65, those who are pregnant, and those with chronic health conditions) should discuss any concerns with their healthcare provider or occupational health services to make appropriate decisions on returning to the workplace and if requested, should be assigned work that can be done from home whenever feasible.
- ☐ Work processes are reconfigured to the extent feasible to increase opportunities for employees to work from home.
- ☐ In compliance with wage and hour regulations, alternate, staggered or shift schedules have been instituted to maximize physical distancing.
- ☐ All employees continuing to work on campus during this period, have been told not to come to work if sick, or if they are exposed to a person who has COVID-19. Employees understand to follow DPH guidance for self-isolation and quarantine, if applicable. Workplace leave policies have been reviewed and modified to ensure that employees are not penalized when they stay home due to illness.
- ☐ Employees are provided information on employer or government-sponsored leave benefits the employee may be entitled to receive that would make it financially easier to stay at home. See additional information on government [programs](#) supporting sick leave and worker’s compensation for COVID-19, including employee’s sick leave rights under the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) and employee’s rights to workers’ compensation benefits and presumption of the work-relatedness of COVID-19 pursuant to the Governor’s Executive [Order](#) N-62-20.
- ☐ The IHE has a **COVID-19 Containment, Response and Control Plan** that describes the IHE’s comprehensive approach to preventing and containing the spread of COVID-19 on campus. The Plan includes, but is not limited to the following elements:
  - A designated COVID-19 Compliance Task Force that is responsible for establishing and enforcing all COVID-19 safety protocols and ensuring that staff and students receive education about COVID-19. A designated COVID-19 Compliance Officer who serves as a liaison to DPH in the event of an outbreak on campus.
  - An [IHE Exposure Management Plan](#) consistent with DPH guidance that outlines the process for IHE instruction to known COVID-19 case(s) to [isolate themselves at home](#); identification of persons that had an exposure to the case(s) on campus; requiring the immediate [self-quarantine](#) of all employees or students that had an exposure; and, for all quarantined individuals to have access to or be tested for COVID-19 to understand the extent of spread on campus to inform additional COVID-19 control measures. See public health guidance on [responding to COVID-19 in the workplace](#).

- Notifying DPH of (1) employees and students with confirmed COVID-19 who were on campus at any point within the 14 days prior to the illness onset date and (2) persons at the IHE who were exposed to the infected person during the infectious period. The illness onset date is the first date of COVID-19 symptoms or the COVID-19 test date, whichever is earlier. If the IHE is reporting cases among students or staff who were not on campus but live nearby in off-campus residences, reporting should be limited to students or staff who had interacted with other students or staff from the IHE within the 14 days prior to the illness onset date. Secure online reporting is the preferred method for notifying DPH of COVID-19 exposures and can be done on a computer or mobile device with access to the secure REDCap web application: <http://www.redcap.link/lacdph.educationsector.covidreport>. If online reporting is not possible, reporting can be done manually by downloading and completing the [COVID-19 Case and Contact Line List for the Education Sector](#) and sending it securely to [ACDC-Education@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:ACDC-Education@ph.lacounty.gov). All case notifications should be submitted within 1 business day of being notified of the case.
- In the event that 3 or more cases are identified within a span of 14 days are identified the IHE must report this cluster immediately to the Department of Public Health using the same method described above. The Department of Public Health will work with the site to determine whether the cluster is an outbreak that will require a public health outbreak response.
- The identification of an adequate supply of housing for students and/or staff who reside in on-campus congregate housing for purposes of isolation and quarantine.
- A plan to ensure support for quarantined students, including meals, remote coursework, health services, transportation and monitoring/tracking affected students to promote compliance.
- A plan to provide options for remote online education, including asynchronous delivery to accommodate ill or quarantined students, as well as those with technology or travel constraints.
- A robust communication plan and associated communication tools to ensure timely and accurate delivery of information to employees, students, and as appropriate, students' families and the broader community.
- ❑ **Entry screenings must be** conducted before employees may enter the workspace. Screening must include a check-in concerning cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing and fever or chills and whether the employee is currently under isolation or quarantine orders. These checks can be done remotely or in person upon the employees' arrival. A temperature check should also be done at the worksite if feasible. **Employees who screen positive may not enter the worksite.**
- ❑ Employees who have contact with others in the course of their employment (e.g., the public, students, or other employees) are offered, at no cost, an appropriate face **mask** that covers the nose and mouth, unless Cal/OSHA standards require further respiratory protection. The **mask** must be worn by the employee at all times while on campus when in contact or likely to come into contact with others. Employees who are faculty members, teachers or lecturers may wear face shields with a cloth drape attached to the bottom of the shield and tucked into the shirt, instead of face **masks** when lecturing, provided that such employees remain 10 feet from the nearest student or other employee. All employees must wear face **masks** at all times except when working alone in private offices with closed doors or when eating or drinking. The exception made previously for employees working in cubicles with solid partitions exceeding the height of the employee while standing is overridden.
- ❑ To ensure that masks are worn consistently and correctly, employees are discouraged from eating or drinking except during their breaks when they are able to safely remove their masks and physically distance from others. At all times when eating or drinking, employees must maintain at least a six-foot distance from others. When eating or drinking, it is preferred to do so outdoors and away from others, if possible. Eating or drinking at a cubicle or workstation is preferred to eating in a breakroom if eating in a cubicle or workstation provides greater distance from and barriers between workers.
- ❑ Occupancy is reduced and space between employees is maximized in any room or area used employees for meals and/or breaks. This has been achieved by:

- ☐ Posting a maximum occupancy that is consistent with enabling a distance of at least six feet between individuals in rooms or areas used for breaks; and
- ☐ Staggering break or mealtimes to reduce occupancy in rooms or areas used for meals and breaks; and
- ☐ Placing tables **eight** feet apart and assuring six feet between seats, removing or taping seats to reduce occupancy, placing markings on floors to assure distancing, and arranging seating in a way that minimizes face-to-face contact. Use of partitions is encouraged to further prevent spread but should not be considered a substitute for reducing occupancy and maintaining physical distancing.
- ☐ Employees are instructed to wear their face **masks** properly and to properly wash, replace, or sanitize their face **mask** frequently.
- ☐ All individual workstations, or individuals working in the same areas as part of a team are separated by at least six feet.
- ☐ All employees, vendors and delivery personnel have been provided instructions regarding maintaining physical distancing and the use face **masks** when around others.
- ☐ The IHE shall require or strongly recommend that all staff be immunized each autumn against influenza unless contraindicated by personal medical conditions.
- ☐ Break rooms, restrooms, classrooms, and other common areas are disinfected frequently, on the following schedule:
  - ☐ Break rooms \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ Restrooms \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ Classrooms \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Disinfectant and related supplies are available to employees at the following location(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Hand sanitizer effective against COVID-19 is available to all employees at the following location(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Soap and water are available to all employees at the following location(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Employees are allowed frequent breaks to wash their hands.
- ☐ Each employee is assigned their own tools, equipment, and defined workspace consistent with health and safety standards. Sharing of workspaces and held items is minimized or eliminated, consistent with health and safety standards.
- ☐ Employees are provided time during their shifts to implement cleaning practices. Cleaning assignments should be assigned during working hours as part of the employee's job duties.
- ☐ All policies described in this checklist other than those related to terms of employment are applied to staff of delivery and any other companies who may be on the premises as third parties.
- ☐ This Protocol has been made available to all employees.
- ☐ Optional—Describe other measures:  
\_\_\_\_\_



## B. POLICIES TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF STUDENTS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

The provisions below apply for the limited activities permitted on campus.

- ☐ All students who have reason to be on campus to conduct one of the permitted activities listed above are required to wear a face **mask** anywhere on campus or participating in any IHE sponsored activity where there are or may be other people. They are not required to wear the face **mask** when on campus in their own personal living space.
- ☐ Vulnerable students (those above age 65, those who are pregnant, and those with chronic health conditions) are able to complete their classwork from home whenever feasible and should discuss any concerns with their healthcare provider to make appropriate decisions about returning to campus
- ☐ All students who have reason to be on campus to conduct one of the permitted activities listed above have been told to remain home or in their campus residence if they are feeling sick and to report their illness to the appropriate contact (e.g., student health services) within the IHE.
- ☐ [Entry Screenings](#) are conducted before any permitted activity that may require students to be on campus. Students living in on-campus housing have been instructed to carry out daily screening, including a check-in concerning cough, shortness of breath or fever, any other symptoms the student may be experiencing, and whether the student is currently under isolation or quarantine orders. A temperature check should be done if feasible.
- ☐ The IHE has instructed all students who have reason to be on campus to conduct a permitted activity that immunization against influenza is required.
- ☐ The IHE has provided students with educational materials about the IHE's approach to preventing transmission of COVID-19 on campus, including, but not limited to:
  - Proper respiratory etiquette;
  - Hand hygiene;
  - Required use of **face masks** unless Cal/OSHA standards require respiratory protection when in contact with other students or employees on campus;
  - Appropriate use of **face masks**, including the need to **clean or replace face masks** regularly;
  - What to do if they are feeling sick; and
  - How to access health care services on campus.
- ☐ IHEs provide students with easily accessible alcohol-based hand sanitizer, tissues, and, if feasible, contactless trash cans in all common areas.
- ☐ The IHE maintains a supply of face **masks** to provide to students who are required to be on campus to conduct a permitted activity and are unable to obtain their own.

## C. MEASURES TO ENSURE PHYSICAL DISTANCING (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ☐ The number of people in any indoor room on campus (e.g., labs or other specialized classrooms, staff meeting rooms, offices) is limited at any given time, such that all people in the room can easily maintain at least a six-foot distance from one another at all practicable times.
- ☐ On-campus housing (e.g., residence halls, dormitory style housing, on-campus apartments):
  - Occupancy of on-campus housing is limited to students who have no other feasible residential option.
  - Total occupancy of on-campus housing is limited to no more than one student per bedroom.
  - To the extent feasible, the number of students sharing a given bathroom facility is reduced. Impermeable barriers (such as Plexiglas) are installed between sinks and other fixtures if it is not possible to maintain at least six feet distance during use. When sinks are closer than six feet, disable

every other sink to create more distance. Students are educated about the infection risk associated with bathrooms and are discouraged from placing toothbrushes or other personal care items directly on the bathroom sink or counter. Encourage students to consistently use the same bathroom and shower facilities to contain any possible transmission to within that cohort.

- To the extent feasible, students have been instructed to stay in their individual rooms while in their on-campus housing.
  - Students have been instructed to maintain at least six feet distance from each other when in on-campus housing; students may momentarily come closer when passing in hallways or stairwells, riding elevators, when in restrooms, or as otherwise necessary.
  - Common areas (e.g., kitchenettes, community rooms, lobbies, lounges, study areas) have been closed.
  - Outdoor areas may be open for use by students residing on campus for academic purposes, such as studying or attending online classes. Use of such spaces is limited to students who are living on-campus and any such designated space must comply with the following requirements:
    - Any space must be entirely outdoors; a canopy, or other sun shelter may be used, but only if all 4 sides are not enclosed, there is sufficient outdoor air movement, and the structure is complies with [State Guidance on Use of Temporary Structures](#);
    - Occupancy is limited such that all students using the space are able to maintain a physical distance of at least 6 feet from one another at all practicable times;
    - Any seating is arranged to enable physical distancing of at least 6 feet between students;
    - All frequently touched surfaces, including tables and chairs, are cleaned regularly; and
    - Signs are posted to remind students to wear face masks, keep a 6 feet distance from others, and not to congregate.
  - Students residing off campus who may be experiencing academic or socioemotional challenges with 100% distance learning may be invited to campus for the purpose of attending scheduled, instructor-led academic and social support groups held outdoors, provided that they adhere to the requirements above and are limited to 10 or fewer individuals, including an instructor. These structured sessions may also include students residing on campus.
  - No social events or activities are permitted as per current local and state health officer orders.
  - Building access is limited to residents only; non-residents, including outside guests, non-residential staff, and others is prohibited, except for essential visitors, such as personal care attendants for students with disabilities.
  - Elevator capacity is limited to the number of people that can be accommodated while maintaining a 6- foot physical distance between riders; this number can be adjusted to a maximum number of 4 riders at a time for any elevator that does not allow for 6-foot physical distance between riders. All riders are required to wear face masks and are directed to refrain from talking. Consider elevator sizes, number of building floors, and daily number of employees and visitors to establish physical distancing guidelines appropriate for elevator riders.
  - To ease elevator traffic, encourage stairwells to be used for “up” and “down” traffic, if feasible, with increased cleaning of stairwells.
- Dining halls: Other directives below notwithstanding, dining hall operations at this time are limited to outdoor dining and takeout activities only.
- IHE dining halls offer meal pick-up for all students that have a meal plan.
  - Self-service buffets are prohibited. To the extent feasible, mealtimes are staggered so as to reduce the number of students and employees in line for meal pick up or waiting to be seated for outside dining. Consider scheduled mealtimes or meal pick-up times.
  - Physical distance between tables/chairs in outdoor dining areas has been increased to support at

least 8 feet of physical distancing. Effective July 3, 2020 and until further notice, indoor dining is prohibited per order of the Los Angeles County Health Officer.

- Steps are taken to limit contact between dining hall staff, employees, and students. Physical barriers such as partitions or Plexiglas are installed at registers, host stands, ordering counters, etc., where maintaining physical distance of six feet is difficult.
- Operations have been redesigned, where feasible, to achieve physical distancing between employees. (e.g., Kitchen and other back of house area's floors are marked to reinforce physical distancing requirements.)
- Additional measures to ensure physical distancing are recommended, including one-way lines for pick-up, entrance, and exit, no self-serve buffets, floor markings, and signage.
- Instructional settings (classrooms, lecture halls, laboratories), in person campus instruction is limited at this time to activities required for training of essential workforce. **Provisions below apply only to training of essential workers that cannot be carried out via distance learning under the terms of current state directives.** Indoor education is only permitted for coursework or training that is essential for completing certification, licensure, or educational requirements for essential workforce which requires specialized indoor settings (e.g. laboratories) and cannot be provided virtually or outdoors specialized.
- In-person classes for essential workers should be held outdoors whenever possible, weather permitting, and IHEs may utilize a canopy, or other sun shelter, but only if the sides of the canopy or sun shelter are not closed and there is sufficient outdoor air movement. Outdoor classroom occupancy is limited to a maximum of 50% of total occupancy for the space, provided 6 feet of distance can be maintained between students at all times.
- To the extent feasible, students who are on campus to conduct permitted activities are cohorted in groups of fewer than 30 to reduce the risk of widespread exposure among students.

☐ Administrative office buildings:

- Employees and students have been instructed to maintain at least six feet distance from each other and anyone else encountered on campus in course of conducting permitted activities; employees may momentarily come closer when necessary to accept deliveries, to accept payments, or as otherwise necessary.
- Elevator capacity is limited to the number of people that can be accommodated while maintaining a 6-foot physical distance between riders; this number can be adjusted to a maximum number of 4 riders at a time for any elevator that does not allow for 6-foot physical distance between riders. All riders are required to wear face masks and are directed to refrain from talking. Consider elevator sizes, number of building floors, and daily number of employees and visitors to establish physical distancing guidelines appropriate for elevator riders.
- To avert elevator crowding above the levels noted above, use of stairs is encouraged. Stairwells are designated to be used for "up" or "down" traffic, if feasible, with increased cleaning of stairwells.
- Measures are implemented to ensure physical distancing of at least six feet between employees and other individuals on campus. This can include use of physical partitions or visual cues (e.g., floor markings, colored tape, or signs to indicate where workers and/or employees should stand.)
- Furniture in areas that may need to be open for public use (e.g., building lobbies, reception areas, or waiting areas) has been eliminated or greatly reduced to support physical distancing. If removal of furniture is not feasible, signage has been added to encourage physical distancing.
- Customer service windows or counters have been closed to the extent feasible. When open, users are required to maintain a distance of 6 feet from service personnel.
- Employees and students are discouraged from congregating in any area, but especially common areas or high traffic areas such as bathrooms, hallways, and stairwells.
- To the extent feasible, flow of traffic within the workplace is modified to minimize contacts (e.g.,



doors for entry or exit only; directional hallways or passageways have been established for foot traffic in a way that prevents employees from passing by one another).

- In-person meetings are strongly discouraged in favor of virtual meetings. If in-person meetings are essential, in the course of conducting permitted activities, they are limited such that all participants in the room can easily maintain at least six-foot distance from one another at all practicable times and all participants must wear face **masks** and meetings are held in rooms large enough to maintain physical distancing.

**Art, design, and theater studios and music practice rooms:**

- Use of indoor art studios and music practice rooms is permitted for individual or small group (4 or fewer individuals) activities provided that the activities fulfill academic requirements.
- Small groups using indoor art studios or music practice rooms must wear face masks at all times and ensure that all participants maintain a 6-foot physical distance at all times or an 8-foot physical distance if the participants are enunciating (for example, those in a theater workshop) or if the instructor is wearing only a face shield while lecturing (as described above).
- Any activity that requires participants to remove their face masks (e.g., playing brass or wind instruments) must not be done as a group. However, individuals may practice such activities alone in a studio or practice room.
- Rooms must be reserved for use and IHEs must schedule time between reservations to allow for rooms to be aired out and thoroughly cleaned between uses by different individuals or groups.

**On-campus transport vehicles:**

- Use of on-campus transport vehicles (e.g., buses, shuttle vans, etc.) is limited such that all riders are able to maintain a physical distance of at least 6 feet from one another if feasible. Consider removing or spacing seats to support physical distancing or use of colored tape to mark seats that riders are allowed to use. Where possible, additional transport vehicles are available to support excess capacity on busy routes. If it is not feasible to maintain physical distance, then impermeable barriers have been installed to limit contact between riders.
- Where feasible, impermeable barriers have been installed to protect the driver from passengers that are boarding and exiting the vehicle.
- A passenger entry and exit plan has been developed to minimize physical contact and crowding with other passengers during entry and exit of the transport vehicle.
- All riders are required to wear face **masks**.
- Vehicle windows are opened, when practicable, to increase outdoor air flow.

**On-campus film production:**

- Film production may be allowed on-campus for the purposes of sharing academic, instructional, or cultural content that is not otherwise accessible to students or the community.
- **Students may engage in on-campus film production in order to fulfill academic requirements. Use of indoor space and equipment for editing and other post-production activities is limited to individual use or very small group (4 or fewer people including an instructor).**
- Film productions should be limited to 10 or fewer people, including cast and crew members. Any film production that requires staffing of more than 10 people, or involves more than one person on camera without face **masks**, or singing, or playing of wind or brass instruments must comply with [Reopening Protocol for Music, Television and Film Production: Appendix J](#).
- Cast and crew members must be screened before they may participate in the film production. Screening must include a check-in concerning cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing and fever or chills and whether the individuals is currently under isolation or quarantine orders. These checks can be done remotely or in person upon the employees' arrival. A temperature check should also be done at the worksite if feasible.

- All productions should take place outdoors as much as possible.
- All cast and crew must wear face **masks** and maintain a physical distance of at least 6 feet as much as feasible. Appearances on camera without face **masks** must be limited to one person and productions should not include singing or playing of wind or brass instruments. If more than one person is to be on camera at a time, all must be wearing face **masks**.
- No audiences are permitted at any time.

#### **D. MEASURES TO ENSURE INFECTION CONTROL (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO THE FACILITY)**

- ☐ The HVAC system in all campus buildings is in good, working order; to the maximum extent feasible, ventilation has been increased in all buildings, consistent with the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) standards. To the extent feasible, portable high-efficiency air cleaners are installed, the building's air filters are upgraded to the highest efficiency possible, windows and doors are opened, and other modifications have been made to increase the quantity of outside air and ventilation in offices and other spaces. Mechanical ventilation systems in buildings must be operated continuously when persons are in the building.
- ☐ To minimize the risk of Legionnaires' disease and other diseases associated with water, take steps to ensure that all water systems and features are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown.
- ☐ Use of drinking fountains is prohibited. Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to carry their own water and to use water refilling stations where available for personal water bottles. Water refilling stations should be cleaned and disinfected regularly. Post signs at refilling stations that encourage users to wash or sanitize their hands after refilling.
- ☐ Enhanced cleaning of all campus buildings is completed on a regular basis by a professional cleaning service or trained custodial staff.
- ☐ To the extent feasible, doors, light switches, trash cans, etc. are contactless.
- ☐ Common areas and frequently touched objects such as tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, elevator switches and buttons, touch screens, printers/copiers, grab bars, and handrails are disinfected at least daily or more frequently depending on use, using EPA approved disinfectants, and following the manufacturer's instructions for use.
- ☐ Sharing of materials or objects (e.g., staplers, three-hole punches, pens, coffee mugs, etc.) has been eliminated, to the greatest extent feasible. Where items must be shared, they are disinfected between shifts or uses, whichever is more frequent, including the following: shared office equipment such as copiers, fax machines, printers, telephones, keyboards, staplers, surfaces in reception areas, shared work stations, etc. with a cleaner appropriate for the surface.
- ☐ All classroom or meeting room AV equipment that must be shared (computers, projectors, microphones, remotes, clickers) is sanitized between uses.
- ☐ At all times while on campus to conduct permitted activities, employees, students, and visitors to campus are instructed that they must wear face **masks** unless Cal/OSHA standards require respiratory protection. This applies to all adults and to children age of 2 and older. **Employees who have been instructed by their medical provider that they should not wear a face covering must wear a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, to be in compliance with State directives, as long as their condition permits it. A drape that is form fitting under the chin is preferred. Masks with one-way valves must not be used.** Students or employees alone in closed offices, or when students are within their own dormitory rooms, residential suites, and apartments are not required to wear face **masks**. Students may also remove face **masks** when eating in the **outdoor dining areas** or when wearing a face **mask** is otherwise impracticable (e.g., while showering, brushing teeth, etc.).
- ☐ To the greatest extent permitted by law, campus access for non-essential visitors or volunteers is limited. In-person activities or meetings involving external groups, especially with individuals who are not from the

local geographic area (for example, community, town, city, or county) are not allowed at this time. Visitors to campus buildings are by appointment only and are pre-registered in a visitor log that includes a visitor's name, phone number and email address. Visitors are instructed to come to their appointments alone. If a visitor must be accompanied by another person (e.g., for translation assistance, or because the visitor is a minor, or has minor children) their information is captured in the visitor log, if feasible. To the extent feasible, movement of any visitors while on campus is limited to designated areas such as the reception or lobby area, customer service area, conference or meeting rooms, and public rest rooms.

- ☐ Disinfectant and related supplies are available to all employees at the following location(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Disinfectant and related supplies are available to students at the following location(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ If feasible, all reception areas where physical distancing is difficult to achieve have barriers (e.g., Plexiglas barriers) installed to limit contact between employees and students or visitors.
- ☐ Visitors to campus buildings are by appointment only and are pre-registered in a visitor log that includes a visitor's name, phone number and email address. Visitors are instructed to come to their appointments alone. If a visitor must be accompanied by another person (e.g., for translation assistance, or because the visitor is a minor, or has minor children) their information is captured in the visitor log, if feasible.
- ☐ Entry [Screening](#) is conducted before visitors may enter campus buildings. Checks must include a check-in concerning fever, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing and fever or chills, and whether the person is currently under isolation or quarantine orders. These checks can be done in person or through alternative methods such as on-line check in systems or through [signage](#) posted at the entrance to the facility stating that visitors with these symptoms **must** not enter the premises.
- ☐ Visitors arriving at the campus with children must ensure that their children stay next to a parent while inside buildings or in courtyards, avoid touching any other person or any item that does not belong to them, and are masked if age permits.
- ☐ Hand sanitizer, soap and water, tissues and trash cans are made conveniently available to the public within all buildings.
- ☐ Restrooms, lobbies, break rooms, and lounges and other common areas are being disinfected frequently, on the following schedule:
  - Restrooms: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Lobbies: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Break rooms: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Waiting areas: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Building infrastructure that supports bike commuting is open and capacity for bike storage increased if feasible.
- ☐ Optional-Describe other measures:  
\_\_\_\_\_

## E. MEASURES THAT COMMUNICATE TO THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY AND THE PUBLIC

- ☐ A copy of this protocol is posted at all public entrances to the facility, provided that for large institutions, a sign with a QR code or link to the IHE's website that posts a copy of the protocol is sufficient to meet this requirement.
- ☐ Signage has been posted to provide clear guidance to the public about how to maintain safety within the facility (e.g., maintaining physical distance, wear face **mask**, etc.).

- ☐ Signage is posted at each primary public entrance of each campus building to inform all employees, students, and visitors that they should: Avoid entering the building if they have a cough or fever.
- ☐ IHE has a communication plan for campus closure that includes outreach to students, employees, and the community.
- ☐ Online outlets of the workplace (website, social media, etc.) provide clear information about required use of face **masks**, policies in regard to making appointments, and other relevant issues.
- ☐ This protocol is shared with any organizations affiliated with the IHE, such as off-campus clubs, Greek organizations, etc., and the IHE ensures that these organizations are in compliance. Develop systems to enforce and hold affiliated organizations accountable for adhering to this protocol.

#### **F. MEASURES THAT ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CRITICAL SERVICES**

- ☐ Measures are instituted to assure access to online or specialized in-person educational services for vulnerable students.
- ☐ Administrative services or operations that can be offered remotely (e.g. class registration, form submission, assignment submission, etc.) have been moved on-line.
- ☐ Measures are instituted to assure access to goods and services for students and visitors who have mobility limitations and/or are at high risk in public spaces.

**Any additional measures not included above should be listed on separate pages, which the business should attach to this document.**

**You may contact the following person with any questions or comments about this protocol:**

<b>Business</b>		<b>Phone</b>	
<b>Contact Name:</b>	_____	<b>number:</b>	_____
<b>Date Last</b>			
<b>Revised:</b>	_____		

## Protocol for COVID-19 Exposure Management in Institutes of Higher Education

**Recent Updates:** (Changes highlighted in yellow)

**2/22/21:**

- Updated to note that vaccinated persons who are a close contact of a confirmed case are not required to quarantine and test if they meet specific criteria as detailed below.

A targeted public health response to contain COVID-19 exposures at a community-level can help maximize the impact of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) COVID-19 response.

IHE are trusted community partners that can help DPH improve the timeliness and impact of the Public Health response through rapid initiation of an IHE COVID-19 Exposure Management Plan (EMP) when notified of COVID-19 cases and clusters on campus. Immediate implementation of an EMP when a single case of COVID-19 is identified at an IHE can accelerate the ability to contain the spread of infection and prevent outbreaks from occurring on campus.

The steps for managing exposures to 1, 2, and 3 or more COVID-19 cases on campus are described below and summarized in Appendix A. Because IHE will vary in the level of resources available for COVID-19 exposure management, *required* steps are the minimum elements that must be included in the EMP. *Recommended* steps include optional elements for exposure management where IHE resources are sufficient.

The term “campus” in this document refers to non-residential settings on the IHE property and residential congregate settings that house or employ large groups of IHE students and employees, both on - and off-campus.

### Exposure Management Planning Prior to Identifying 1 COVID-19 Case at IHE Setting

- ☐ *Required:* A designated IHE COVID-19 Compliance Task Force that is responsible for establishing and enforcing all COVID-19 safety protocols and ensuring that staff and students receive education about COVID-19. A designated COVID-19 Compliance Officer who serves as a liaison to DPH in the event of a COVID-19 cluster or outbreak at an IHE setting.
- ☐ *Required:* Adequate supply of housing for students and faculty to safely isolate or quarantine when needed.
- ☐ *Required:* A plan for all students and employees who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection or are quarantined because of exposure to case(s) on campus to have access to testing or be tested for COVID-19 infection.

### Exposure Management for 1 COVID-19 Case at IHE Setting

- ☐ *Required:* After identifying 1 laboratory confirmed COVID-19 case (student or employee), IHE Compliance Task Force instructs the case to follow Home Isolation Instructions for COVID-19 ([ph.lacounty.gov/covidisolation](https://ph.lacounty.gov/covidisolation)). NOTE: a confirmed COVID-19 case is an individual who has a positive COVID-19 test.
- ☐ *Required:* IHE Compliance Task Force informs the case that DPH will contact the case directly through the DPH Case and Contact Investigation Program to collect additional information and issue the Health Officer Order for Case Isolation.
- ☐ *Required:* IHE Compliance Task Force must notify the DPH of (1) students and staff with confirmed COVID-19 who were on campus at any point within the 14 days prior to the illness onset date and (2) persons at the IHE who were exposed to the infected person during the infectious period. The illness onset date is the first date of COVID-19 symptoms or the COVID-19 test date, whichever is earlier. If the IHE is reporting cases among students or staff who were not on campus but live nearby in off-campus residences, reporting should



be limited to students or staff who had interacted with other students or staff from the IHE within the 14 days prior to the illness onset date.

- A case is considered to be infectious from 2 days before their symptoms first appeared until they are no longer required to be isolated (i.e., no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fever AND other symptoms have improved AND at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared). A person with a positive COVID-19 test but no symptoms is considered to be infectious from 2 days before their test was taken until 10 days after their test.
- A person is considered to have been exposed to a case during the infectious period if at least one of the following criteria are met:
  - Being within 6 feet of the infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period;
  - Having had unprotected contact with the infected person's body fluids and/or secretions of a person with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 (e.g., being coughed or sneezed on, sharing utensils or saliva, or providing care without using appropriate protective equipment).
- Secure online reporting is the preferred method for notifying DPH of COVID-19 exposures and can be done on a computer or mobile device with access to the secure web application: <http://www.redcap.link/lacdpheducationsector.covidreport>. If online reporting is not possible, reporting can be done manually by downloading and completing the [COVID-19 Case and Contact Line List for the Education Sector](#) and sending it to [ACDC-Education@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:ACDC-Education@ph.lacounty.gov). All case notifications should be submitted within 1 business day of being notified of the case.

❑ *Required:* Students and employees that are identified to have had an exposure to the case are notified by the IHE Compliance Task Force through a letter or other communication strategies. A Campus Exposure Notification letter template is available at: [COVID-19 Template Notification Letters for Education Settings](#). The notification of exposure should include the following messages:

- Students and employees with exposure to a campus case should test for COVID-19, whether or not they have symptoms, and inform IHE of test results. This will determine the extent of disease spread on campus and serve as a basis for further control measures. Testing resources include: Employee Health Services or Occupational Health Services, Student Health Center, Personal Healthcare Providers, Community Testing Sites: [covid19.lacounty.gov/testing](https://covid19.lacounty.gov/testing). Individuals who need assistance finding a medical provider can call the LA County Information line 2-1-1, which is available 24/7.
- Exposed students and employees should self-quarantine (stay in their home or another residence, separate from others) and monitor for symptoms for 10 days from their last contact with the case while infectious (as defined above), even if they receive a negative test result during their quarantine period. If they remain asymptomatic, they are released from quarantine after Day 10 but must continue to monitor their health and strictly adhere to COVID-19 prevention precautions through Day 14. Note: a person who tests negative may subsequently develop disease, with or without symptoms, if tested during the incubation period (i.e. time period between exposure and disease onset). Home Quarantine Guidance for COVID-19 is available at: [ph.lacounty.gov/covidquarantine](https://ph.lacounty.gov/covidquarantine).
  - **NOTE: Vaccinated persons who are a close contact to a confirmed case are not required to quarantine and test for COVID-19 if they meet all of the following criteria: (1) are fully vaccinated (i.e., ≥2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or ≥2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine) and (2) are within 3 months following receipt of the last dose in the series and (3) have remained asymptomatic since last contact with the infected person.**
- IHE will assist with identifying housing for students and faculty living on campus to safely isolate or quarantine when needed.
- DPH will contact exposed students and employees **who meet the quarantine requirement** through the Case and Contact Investigation Program to collect additional information and issue the Health Officer Order for Quarantine.

- ☐ *Recommended:* IHE Compliance Task Force will determine whether additional notification is needed to inform the wider campus community about the exposure and precautions being taken to prevent spread of COVID-19. A general notification letter template is available at: [COVID-19 Template Notification Letters for Education Settings](#).

### Exposure Management for 2 COVID-19 Cases within a 14-day Period at IHE Setting

- ☐ *Required:* After identifying 2 laboratory confirmed cases (students and/or employees) within a 14-day period, IHE follows *required* steps for 1 confirmed case.
- ☐ *Recommended:* IHE Compliance Task Force assesses whether the 2 cases are epidemiologically linked, meaning that the two affected individuals were both present at some point in the same setting and same time while either or both were infectious.\*

*\*A case is considered to be infectious from 2 days before symptoms first appeared until they are no longer required to be isolated (i.e., no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fever AND other symptoms have improved AND at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared). A person with a positive COVID-19 test but no symptoms is considered to be infectious from 2 days before their test was taken until 10 days after their test.*

- Determination of epidemiological links between cases may require further investigation to understand exposure history and identify all possible locations and persons that may have been exposed to the case while infectious at the site. NOTE: Epidemiologically linked cases include persons with identifiable connections to each other such as sharing a physical space (e.g. in a classroom, office, or gathering), indicating a higher likelihood of linked spread of disease in that setting rather than sporadic transmission from the broader community.
  - If epidemiological links do not exist, IHE continues with routine exposure management.
  - If epidemiological links exist, IHE reinforces messages to students and employees on precautions to take to prevent spread on campuses, including implementation of site-specific interventions.

### Exposure Management for ≥ 3 COVID-19 Cases within a 14-day Period at IHE Setting

- ☐ *Required:* If IHE identifies a cluster of 3 or more confirmed cases (students and/or employees) within a 14-day period, IHE should proceed with the following steps:
  - Report the cluster immediately to DPH. Secure online reporting is the preferred method for notifying DPH and can be done on a computer or mobile device with access to the secure web application: <http://www.redcap.link/lacdph.educationsector.covidreport>. If online reporting is not possible, reporting can be done manually by downloading and completing the [COVID-19 Case and Contact Line List for the Education Sector](#) and sending it to [ACDC-Education@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:ACDC-Education@ph.lacounty.gov).
  - DPH will review the submitted information to determine whether the outbreak criteria have been met and will contact IHE within 1 business day to advise on next steps.
    - If outbreak criteria are not met, IHE continues with routine exposure management.
    - If outbreak criteria are met, DPH outbreak investigation is activated.
    - A public health investigator is assigned to coordinate with the IHE on outbreak management for the duration of the outbreak investigation.

### COVID-19 Outbreak Criteria for Institutes of Higher Education

IHE Non-residential Setting: At least 3 laboratory-confirmed cases with symptomatic or asymptomatic COVID-19 infection within a 14-day period in a group\* with members who are epidemiologically linked, do not share a household, and are not a close contact of each other outside of the campus.

*\*IHE groups include persons that share a common membership (e.g., Greek, or other social organization, athletic teams, sports and recreation clubs, academic cohort, workplace on campus).*

IHE Residential Setting\*: At least 3 laboratory-confirmed cases with symptomatic or asymptomatic COVID-19 infection within a 14-day period within the same or multiple dwellings that share a common area.

*\*IHE Residential Settings include on- and off-campus residential housing facilities where groups of IHE students and/or employees congregate and/or reside (e.g., on-campus residences, on- or off-campus Greek housing).*

**Appendix A: Steps for managing exposures to 1, 2, and  $\geq 3$  confirmed COVID-19 cases in non-residential or residential congregate settings associated with IHE**

1 Case	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <i>Required:</i> IHE instructs the case to follow Home Isolation Instructions.</li> <li>2) <i>Required:</i> IHE informs case that the DPH will contact the case directly to collect additional information and issue Health Officer Order for Isolation.</li> <li>3) <i>Required:</i> IHE works with the case to identify IHE contacts with exposure.</li> <li>4) <i>Required:</i> IHE notifies* identified contacts of exposure and instructs them to quarantine at home and test for COVID-19. <b>NOTE: Vaccinated persons who have an exposure but meet specific criteria outlined in the Exposure Management Plan are not required to quarantine and test for COVID-19.</b></li> <li>5) <i>Required:</i> IHE informs contacts that DPH will contact them directly to collect additional information and issue Health Officer Order for Quarantine (b).</li> <li>6) <i>Required:</i> IHE submits a report to DPH within 1 business day with information on the confirmed case and persons who were exposed to the case at the IHE within 1 business day.</li> <li>7) <i>Recommended:</i> IHE sends general notification* to inform the <b>relevant</b> campus community of the exposure and precautions being taken to prevent spread.</li> </ol> <p>*Templates for exposure notification and general notification are available at: <a href="#">COVID-19 Template Notification Letters for Education Settings</a>.</p>
2 Cases	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <i>Required:</i> Follow steps for 1 confirmed case.</li> <li>2) <i>Recommended:</i> If the 2 cases occurred within 14 days of each other, IHE works with DPH to determine whether the cases have epidemiological (epi) links. If Epi links exist: IHE implements additional infection control measures.</li> </ol>
3+ Cases	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <i>Required:</i> If a cluster of 3 or more cases occurred within 14 days of each other, IHE report this immediately to DPH.</li> <li>2) <i>Required:</i> DPH determines if outbreak criteria have been met. If outbreak criteria are met, a DPH outbreak investigation is activated and a public health investigator will contact the IHE to coordinate the outbreak investigation.</li> <li>3) <i>Required:</i> IHE provides updates to OMB investigator until outbreak is resolved.</li> </ol>