

Vaccinations and Masks

Do I need to wear a mask in Minnesota State college and university buildings, or the system office?

Masks must be worn in campus buildings and in the Minnesota State system office if located in a county where the CDC has indicated covid transmission levels are “substantial” or “high.” Masks can be temporarily removed in indoor spaces on campuses or the system office when testifying or speaking in situations or settings such as news conferences, legal proceedings, governmental meetings subject to the Open Meeting Law (MS 13D), presentations, or lectures, provided that social distancing is always maintained. Face shields should be considered as an alternative in these situations.

Who must submit proof of vaccination or participate in regular testing?

Beginning September 8, 2021, all Minnesota State employees on all campuses and in the system office are required to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination status or participate in weekly testing for COVID-19 if the employee:

- Is assigned to the workplace (campus, system office, etc.), or
- Wishes to access the workplace (campus, system office, etc.) for more than 10 minutes, or
- Otherwise provides Minnesota State college and university services outside the staff member’s home

This includes telework-only employees traveling, either in-state or out-of-state, on Minnesota State business.

In addition, no later than October 4, 2021, students who live in a college- or university-owned or managed residence facilities and students who participate in intercollegiate athletics must provide vaccination attestation or participate in weekly testing. Students may also be required to be vaccinated as directed by clinical or internships sites. Additionally, individual colleges and universities may choose to require students who participate in extra-curricular group activities where social distancing is not possible to provide vaccination attestation or participate in weekly testing.

Who are considered “employees, contractors, vendors, volunteers, and interns?”

All Minnesota State faculty and staff, including student workers, those on work study assignments, graduate assistants, contractors, and vendors serving as an extension of campus or system office staff and providing services on behalf of Minnesota State (including but not limited to food service contractors, bookstore contractors, and security contractors) and Foundation employees.

The following are NOT subject to the policy: construction contractors, referees and officials, contractors who do not have a long-term engagement on campus such as guest speakers/presenters, specific project or training consultants, individuals providing repair or technical services, etc. In addition, those non-Minnesota State entities leasing space on Minnesota State campuses (Workforce Centers, Libraries, Independent School District [ISD] employees and students), etc.) are also not included.

Does this policy apply to work-study students, student workers, and/or graduate assistants?

Yes. Students employed in these categories are covered under this policy consistent with Minn. Stat. 43A.08. This is consistent with how student workers are treated under broad state mandates such as the wage notice law and unemployment insurance.

Are there social distancing requirements on campus?

No. With the ending of the peacetime emergency on July 1, 2021, social distancing measures for higher education are no longer required. The Minnesota Department of Health continues to recommend mitigation measures for higher education

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/guideihe.pdf>).

Where can I find more information about COVID-19 vaccines?

There are several resources:

- Visit the [Minnesota Department of Health website](#)
- Contact your supervisor or HR office
- Review [CDC Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination](#)