



## JABSOM COVID-19 Safety Updates

August 22, 2021

Changes since July 30, 2021 are highlighted below

\*MD Program and 'Imi Ho'ōla program items are at the end of this document

Aloha everyone. For more than a month, we have seen triple digit cases which include mild SARS-CoV-2 infections in those fully vaccinated. The Delta variant shows that an unvaccinated infected person can carry 1000 times more virus than the original SARS-CoV-2 strain. Additionally, we know the Delta is about 225% more easily transmissible by those unvaccinated. We also now know that once a fully vaccinated individual gets infected with the Delta variant, they can transmit it as well as an unvaccinated person. Since March 2021, JABSOM has required COVID-19 vaccination of all students in the 'Imi Ho'ōla and MD programs and those groups are 100% fully vaccinated. More than 95% of faculty and staff who come into regular contact with those students are fully vaccinated. However, because the cases are rising exponentially, we are making some safety updates.

Effective August 23, 2021, [the UH COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Policy](#) goes into effect. This is relevant for all students, employees, visitors, and contractors. This applies to UH, RCUH, and to our UHF and UHP colleagues who come to the Kaka'ako campus. All entering the campus should show their green LumiSight UH clearance page to security. Faculty, supervisors, and librarians may also ask to see your clearance if there are any concerns. Please refer to the JABSOM LumiSight UH Reminders as of August 21, 2021 for additional clarifications.



Aug 20, 2021 at 10:14 AM

**You may report to campus / Anyone in Quarantine MUST continue to adhere to location restrictions**

Vaccination	Approved
Test Result	Not Completed
Health Symptom	Clear

### Safety precautions currently in effect:

- 100% mask wearing indoors and in crowded outdoors areas, regardless of vaccination status.
- Café seating reduced and spaced. **You are encouraged to only take out food and eat it outside or in an individual setting.**
- You should maintain a 6 feet physical distance between each person (regardless of vaccination status) when eating or drinking.
- 'Imi Ho'ōla and MD program learners, faculty, and staff should wear surgical masks or KN95s in group learning settings. **Certain activities may require N95 masks. Read your emails for details.**
- POST-EXPOSURE TESTING: Medical students and clinician faculty will require day **3-5** post-exposure testing even if you are fully vaccinated (see below)

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- TRAVEL: Medical students and clinician faculty will be required to have a negative RT-PCR test within 72 hours prior to arrival in Hawai'i from a domestic (not interisland) or international location AND will also need to test again on day 3-5 after arrival. If a clinician is also working in a clinical facility that has a travel testing policy in place, those facility policies should be followed. Otherwise, JABSOM policy prevails if the facility does not have one or is less strict.

[UH Interim COVID-19 Guidelines](#) apply, which includes 3 feet physical distancing indoors and universal masking, regardless of vaccination status, unless you are in a private office, working in isolation or more than 6 feet from others. UH as a whole is an [Institute of Higher Education \(IHE\) where not everyone is fully vaccinated](#). All of these guidelines are fluid as the prevalence of COVID-19 and vaccination rates continue to evolve. \*\*As stated above, if you are eating or drinking with another person(s), there must be at least 6 feet physical distancing between everyone. Given how infectious the Delta variant is, people should not be eating in groups of more than 4.

Also note that unvaccinated students in health professional programs may have restrictions or may not participate in required classes, rotations, or practicums where the site requires COVID-19 vaccination for the safety of patients, other staff, and the public. Missing required coursework would impede the attainment of their degree or certification. Weekly PCR testing is required of all unvaccinated persons coming onto a UH campus, per UH policy.

### [Situational awareness and context for decision-making](#)

Risks: The number of laboratory-confirmed COVID cases are steadily increasing, with the more contagious Delta variant (and P.1) currently comprising about 93%. Rising case counts and [clusters](#) occur overwhelmingly in unvaccinated individuals are due to large social gatherings, inconsistent mask use indoors (especially in social gatherings, places of worship), and in Hawai'i residents returning home from mainland travel. The great majority of hospitalized patients are unvaccinated.

Mitigating factors: High vaccination rates, high adherence to mask-wearing, physical distancing, and conducting activities outdoors or in well-ventilated areas are the best way to stay safe. In Spring 2021, JABSOM required vaccination for all medical students. All medical students and 'Imi students are [fully vaccinated](#), along with more than 95% of core faculty in OME & clinical departments and OME staff who support the MD educational programs are fully vaccinated. A recent UH system-wide survey of UH/RCUH/UH Foundation employees and staff, with an approximately 60% response rate, showed >96% already vaccinated on the Mānoa campus. Because many of our `ohana are health professionals, in health care settings and/or who work with highly vulnerable populations, we are adopting a higher safety standard. There remain

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specific situations that continue to require eye protection (i.e., any experience with patients (i.e., HOME, clinical sites).

We continue to strongly encourage vaccination for all members of the JABSOM Ohana. However, not everyone is fully vaccinated. Additionally, many fully vaccinated individuals live with individuals who are at high-risk for getting moderate-severe COVID disease. Therefore, we need to continue to reinforce masking and physical distancing in situations where there may be unvaccinated individuals. Please remember that COVID-19 vaccinations are an individual choice for employees and non-medical students. Thus, we should not be asking “why not” or creating situations where people may be made to feel uncomfortable or pressured into disclosing their immunization status, personal circumstances, or why they are wearing a mask.

If you are going to have food (see below), remember to completely clean up after yourselves and wipe down the area with the provided supplies. We all need to continue with good preventive practices, to keep everyone safe regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Omori and Dr. Buenconsejo-Lum.

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### **Mask/PPE, physical distancing, and food/beverage allowances for mandatory and optional educational activities in the JABSOM MD and 'Imi Ho'ōla Program**

Please note the [current UH COVID-19 Interim Guidelines](#) allow for 3 feet physical distancing in all indoor educational and office spaces with masks on.

JABSOM faculty and staff will also periodically remind the students about distancing and check for mask-wearing (especially during breaks).

#### **MEB educational spaces**

- Larger classrooms, auditorium (301, 304, 314, 315) and PBL rooms: Up to max capacity. However, if the auditorium **or another classroom (to split the class)** is available for large lectures, that is preferred to allow for closer to 3 feet spacing.
- Surgical masks (or KN95s) will be required for all group learning activities (indoors or outdoors). Surgical masks will be available in the LRC near the PBL rooms and in the smaller conference rooms on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

#### **Anatomy Lab**

- Surgical mask. Eye protection is required for the student who wears contact lenses. Depending on the community transmission rates in September, eye protection may be

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required for all students. Other PPE as required by the lab (made available separately to students before MD2 and MD6).

### Clinical Skills (Loui lab or elsewhere) and SimTiki

- Surgical mask WITH eye protection (goggles or face shields). Groupings as makes sense for the activity. Some activities may require N95 masks, which will be provided.

### Longitudinal Clinical Mentoring, Community Medicine, HOME clinic, and all Clinical Experiences

- Surgical mask & eye protection or other PPE requirements specific to that site.
- If a student is unvaccinated, the site may not accept that student.
- Medical students may see PUI or COVID+ patients while wearing proper PPE and following all facility protocols.
- As of this moment, if you are wearing proper PPE and exposed to a PUI or COVID+ individual, that is NOT considered an exposure.
- Do not eat in groups or in breakrooms.
- Protocols and restrictions are changing rapidly, so please ask your rotation supervisor or senior/chief resident if you have any questions.

### Testing (computer lab or other site)

- Mask for everyone, no eye protection
- Reserve 3 computers as spares/back-up, otherwise to capacity

### Food & drink during approved curricular events, including study groups (indoors & outdoors)

- (Indoor) No food in groups.
- Outdoor activities should be physically spaced 6 feet if food is planned.
- Food should be self-contained, individually packaged only. This also applies to snacks made available in the library and in the learning resource area.
- As of August 21, 2021, no food will be allowed during any group educational events. Please contact Drs. Omori or Buenconsejo-Lum if you have questions.

### Outdoor educational activities

- Physically distance as much as possible. Break into smaller groups of 25 or less. Masks required.

Refer to the [JABSOM COVID-19 Safety, Notification and Return to Work or School protocol](#) for additional information related to travel and post-exposure testing of fully vaccinated medical students or clinician faculty.

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### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

(Optional) Shadowing

- Allowed with approval (see non-credit elective form and separate guidance for shadowing (MS1-MS4)). Mask and PPE requirements specific to that site.

(Optional) Interest groups or other educational events (i.e., tours, visiting groups coming to MEB for education)

- Mask, no eye protection. Max 10 inside, 25 outside inclusive of faculty or residents/fellows as applicable. Utilize as much physical distancing as possible.
- No non-MD/DO interest group participants at this time.
- No food.
- Per UH COVID-19 Interim Guidelines, all visitors (and students, employees, or vendors) must complete LumiSight UH (or a paper version), regardless of vaccination status. This required self-check must include contact information should the need arise. Anyone ill needs to stay home. Organizers of group activities should place contact-tracing forms into the shred bin after 14 days. Effective August 23, 2021, visitors also need to either be vaccinated or have a negative PCR test within the past 7 days.
- Please consult the Office of Student Affairs and the JABSOM Special Events team while planning the event to ensure adherence to safety protocols.

(Optional) Volunteering at mass vaccination PODs or mass testing sites

- Requires approval by Dr. Omori and Dr. Buenconsejo-Lum.
- Faculty and student volunteers for mass vaccination PODs should be registered through the [UH Medical Reserve Corps](#) (if you are not already registered through the main Department of Health MRC). This is required even if the POD is not directly operated by the Department of Health. Membership in the MRC provides an additional layer of immunity protection for health care professionals and health professions students as described in Exhibit A of the Governor's [18<sup>th</sup> Emergency Proclamation](#) related to the COVID-19 emergency.
- Faculty supervision is required for all students serving as vaccinators.
- KN95 or surgical masks and eye protection are required. Additional PPE will be required if the students will serve as vaccinators or vaccine preparers or perform nasal swabs.
- Volunteer opportunities for non-vaccinator roles may be offered by the health systems (i.e., by Kaiser) to students whose longitudinal clinical mentor or LIC preceptors volunteer at PODs. All those sites have faculty to serve as supervisors (even if it is not the student's LCM or LIC preceptor). Students may volunteer on their own time, as their schedules allow.
- Vaccine POD or testing activities do not take the place of LCM sessions, LIC clinical experiences, or other required curricular experiences.

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(Optional) Other volunteer activities

- Mask, eye protection, and any other PPE or requirements specific to that site.
- All medical student volunteer activities need to be coordinated through the Office of Student Affairs, in accordance with AAMC guidance.