



December 16, 2021

To the Pace Community:

We are raising the COVID-19 [alert level](#) from Yellow to Orange on all three campuses, effective today. This is a precautionary measure: As positivity rates are increasing in our region, we are seeing an increase in cases at Pace, which is straining isolation capacity in our residence halls.

As a result of this shift, we will implement additional safety protocols. **The following measures will be in effect through the end of the Fall 2021 semester:**

- **Where possible and practical, we encourage faculty to shift final exams to remote formats, beginning Friday, December 17.** None of the positive cases within the Pace Community have been tied to in-classroom transmission, but we are encouraging this change as a precaution. Instructors should update their students on the status of their final exams. Please remember that masks are required in all indoor spaces on campus, including classrooms, and food is not permitted in classroom spaces. Students in isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19 must contact their instructors directly about academic accommodations, especially regarding exams.
- **All in-person events, formal or informal, must shift to a virtual format.** This applies to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. For members of our faculty or staff, we encourage you to limit in-person meetings and shift to Zoom whenever possible.
- **On-campus food service will transition to grab-and-go only.** When eating in public, please try to observe social distancing protocols and avoid lingering unnecessarily. Be sure to put your mask back on as soon as you are done eating or drinking. As a reminder, University Dining will close on Wednesday, December 22.
- **Residential students will not be permitted guests or visitors now through the end of the fall semester.** Even within residence halls, students may not visit each other's rooms. No outside visitors, including non-residential students within the Pace Community, will be permitted in any residence hall.
- **Consistent with our existing Visitor Policy, all visitors to campus must provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19** or provide the negative results of a COVID-19 PCR test administered no more than 72 hours prior to their arrival on campus if they have a medical condition or religious beliefs that prevent vaccination.

We've been fortunate that the positivity rate in the Pace Community has remained low during the Fall 2021 semester. But cases are again rising in the country and in our region. We are making this move now out of an abundance of caution.

There have been no documented cases of classroom transmission at Pace, where we require vaccines and masks are worn in the classroom.

Contact tracing has identified social interactions with minimal or no masking as the main source of transmission in our community. Because they are vaccinated, those who have tested positive are experiencing minimal symptoms and we expect them to make a full and speedy recovery.

As the Omicron variant continues to spread, we all must continue our efforts to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. Here are a few reminders as we begin to wind down for winter break:

- **Get boosted if eligible.** New reports are showing that boosters for the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are likely offering good protection against the Omicron variant. If you are able and eligible, please [schedule your booster](#) as soon as possible.
- **Wear your mask** in all indoor public settings and outdoors when distancing is not possible.
- **Practice social distancing when possible.** When combined with masking, social distancing is an effective way to reduce exposure and transmission.
- **Isolate yourself and get tested** if you are experiencing [symptoms](#) of COVID-19. Pay attention to how you are feeling and stay home if you are not feeling 100%. [Get tested at a location near you.](#)
- **Wash and sanitize your hands.** Wash your hands frequently with warm soapy water and take advantage of hand sanitizers made widely available on campus.

Stay tuned to your Pace email for more information about the Spring 2022 semester and updates related to COVID-19. I wish you all a very safe and healthy holiday season. For more information, please visit our [Return to Campus website](#) or email covidcoordinator@pace.edu.

Sincerely,



Brian Anderson, MPH, CSP
Director, Emergency Management
and Environmental Health and Safety

See our [Return to Campus website](#) for additional communications from Pace University. For the most current information for the Haub Law School community, click [here](#).