

**Subject: Week 4 Updates CORRECTED: backup plans, vaccination requirements, mask mandate  
October 11 2021**

Dear Autumn Quarter Instructors,

**Update: the original version of this message contained incorrect information about travel over Thanksgiving. The policy has been modified and the correct version is below.** Fully vaccinated students and instructors who travel internationally are allowed to be in the classroom following a negative test on Day 0 of their return. It is worth noting that, depending on the Color turnaround time,

As we begin week 4, positive student case rates remain extremely low on campus. Employee cases are also low and are sporadic, meaning that there are no links between the cases and that there remains no spread of COVID in classrooms. This reflects a strong commitment of our community to complying with safety measures that are in place, and we are very grateful.

We are writing to share some reminders, and **we encourage you to share these and all messages with your TAs and other teaching team members.** Archived instructor messages can be found on [teachanywhere](#).

**Thanksgiving travel:** As discussed in our [week 3 letter](#), instructors who travel internationally over Thanksgiving break will need to quarantine for at least 5 days and receive a negative COVID-19 test before being able to return to the classroom. If you or anyone in your teaching team is planning international travel, you will need to make alternative arrangements for someone to teach your class in person.

**Classroom backup plans.** It is important that you have a backup plan in case you or a member of your teaching team gets sick. Students are also communicating to us their anxiety about keeping up with in-person class activities if they have to be in isolation with a COVID diagnosis or quarantine because of a high-risk contact with a positive case. We strongly encourage you to plan for this scenario, if you have not already done so, and to communicate to students the resources that will be available to them. You can find resources to help you plan for these circumstances [here](#).

**Update to vaccination requirements.** We also want to remind you that, as outlined in the [letter from the Provost on Oct. 6th](#), all Stanford faculty, staff and postdoctoral scholars will be required to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and upload proof of their vaccination status on Health Check by Dec. 8, 2021, unless they have a medical or religious accommodation. If you have already uploaded your vaccination status, no further action is required on your part. You can find more information on this policy in the Provost's letter.

**Duration of the mask mandate.** Bay Area health officers have released [new criteria](#) for when county indoor mask mandates will be lifted. Based on current health metrics, there are not likely to be changes for several weeks in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. Stanford is continuing to monitor the issue closely and to plan for adjustments in face covering requirements when they become possible and where appropriate. **Instructors and students should continue to wear face coverings in the classroom until any changes are made to Stanford's classroom policies.** Classroom health and safety policies continue to prioritize creating a low-risk environment for teaching and learning.

Thank you all for your dedication to ensuring a successful Autumn quarter.

We are deeply appreciative.

Sarah, Mary Beth, and Suzi

Sarah Church - Freeman-Thornton Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education

Mary Beth Mudgett - Senior Associate Dean for Educational Initiatives, H&S

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Links to additional resources:

- The [Teach Anywhere](#) website offers guidance on safety in the classroom; a rule of thumb is to design course materials so they can be shared easily with students if the need arises.
- The [Center for Teaching and Learning](#) is available for [consultations](#).
- The [Teaching Commons](#) website is a central source of information and resources on teaching and pedagogy.
- [Learning Technology & Spaces](#) can help with questions about teaching technologies and classroom spaces. Loans for voice amplification can be found [here](#).