

Updates regarding Academic Instruction beginning Autumn quarter 2021-22

Election day (no classes)

At its meeting on June 10, 2021, the [Faculty Senate](#) approved a change to the academic calendar to designate Election Day – generally the Tuesday after the first Monday in November – as an academic holiday. This legislation goes into effect this academic year, 2021-22. The [Academic Calendar 2021-22](#) has now been updated, to indicate that Tuesday, November 2, 2021 is an academic holiday with no classes. If you are teaching a class that would have met on November 2, please note that you should not have class on that day. You may schedule *optional* make-up activities on a different day, but given the challenging nature of student class schedules, you should not require students to attend a make-up session. Alternatively, you might record additional content for students to view prior to the next scheduled class.

Vaccination policy and COVID testing

As a reminder, Stanford has instituted [vaccine requirements](#) for all persons living on or coming to campus. Effective August 9, 2021 faculty, staff and postdoctoral scholars who are not fully vaccinated for COVID-19 will be required to test weekly.

[More information about testing](#), including where to pick up and drop off test kits. Testing is available to any employee, vaccinated or not, and there are multiple test pick-up and drop off locations on campus and at Redwood City.

Return to In-person instruction

In the [July 27 campus conversation “Fall Quarter and Return to Onsite Work”](#) the Provost reiterated that we continue to expect fall teaching to be in-person. At that same conversation, Professor Bonnie Maldonado, the Taube Professor of Global Health and Infectious Diseases; Professor of Pediatrics (Infectious Diseases) and of Epidemiology and Population Health (School of Medicine), also answered questions from employees with unvaccinated children concerned about return to work. We recommend viewing that video if you missed the conversation or have concerns that may have been addressed.

All in-person instruction will start on the *first day* of the Autumn quarter, Monday, September 20, 2021, with the exception of the Schools of Medicine and Law who have earlier start dates.

Instructors who wish to request an exemption from in-person teaching due to underlying medical concerns (e.g. immune-compromised) may make a request for approval to their department Chair. Requests approved by the department Chair should be forwarded for final approval by the Dean and the Provost.

Face coverings in classrooms

Effective August 3, Santa Clara county reinstated a masking policy to counter the spread of the Delta COVID-19 variant. Stanford's policy already required face coverings for all individuals in classrooms; this policy will remain in effect until further notice. [Guidance for face coverings on Stanford's campus and facilities](#) will be updated as conditions change. Please note that face coverings are not required for anyone who has been advised by a medical official *not* to wear a face covering. Students in this situation should contact the Office of Accessible Education (OAE), employees should contact their Human Resources manager, and faculty should contact their Dean. In these cases, individuals must maintain physical distancing from others and may be required to complete [COVID-19 testing](#) on a weekly basis. Instructors who are concerned about the pedagogical implications of teaching with the face covered should contact their chair who can seek guidance from their Dean's office.

We know that many of you have questions about whether face coverings will be required for in-person classes in Autumn quarter. Likely, you also have questions about other health and safety precautions (e.g., social distancing requirements) and the possibility that Stanford will return to remote classes. As noted above, the expectation is that courses will be held in person, without social distancing given (i) the vaccination rate among employees and students continues to be extremely high; (ii) vaccines continue to provide an extremely high level of protection against serious disease and death, even in the presence of the Delta COVID-19 variant; (iii) the use of face coverings is the best way to reduce transmission of the virus in classrooms and other settings.

Stanford is closely tracking public health conditions and will be updating this policy as Autumn quarter approaches.