

## 1. Standards for COVID-19 Student Health and Safety

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## 2. Purpose

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To set forth behavioral expectations for the student body, in order to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in, and protect the health and safety of, the USC community.

## 3. Scope and Application

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These standards apply to USC students who have physical presence in, or contact with, the University community (including the off-campus community), even if these students have received the COVID-19 vaccine and/or recovered from COVID-10.

## 4. Standards

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The University requires all students who have physical presence in, or contact with, the University community (including the off-campus community) to follow these health and safety standards:

- Participate in COVID-19 testing as required by the University.
- Wear an effective face mask when you are interacting with others who are not members of your household, whether in public or private, except when eating or when wearing a face mask is otherwise impracticable (e.g., while showering, brushing teeth, etc.).
- Follow University signage regarding health and safety requirements on campus.
- Honor physical distancing requirements within your residence.
- Do not host guests or host or attend in-person gatherings or events of any size with those outside your household.
- Complete Trojan Check truthfully before visiting on-campus spaces.
- Keep personal spaces sanitary and regularly wash hands.
- Avoid non-essential travel to any other country, state, or part of California more than 120 miles from your residence.
- Self-quarantine for 10 days after returning from travel more than 120 miles from your residence.
- Self-quarantine for 10 days in the event of exposure to COVID-19 or as directed by a public health or medical professional.
- Self-isolate as directed by a public health or medical professional, and alert the University upon receiving a positive result from a COVID-19 test.
- Cooperate with the University and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health for contact tracing purposes.
- Remain aware of evolving University and government COVID-19 health and safety requirements by checking [policy.usc.edu/student](https://policy.usc.edu/student), and comply with those requirements.

The University's health and safety standards may be more restrictive than the guidance issued by Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and other health authorities. Students who have physical presence in, or contact with, the University community, will be held to the University's standards. These standards apply even if students have received the vaccine, and/or recovered from COVID-19.

Students who fail to comply with these standards may be subject to the risk-mitigation process detailed below.

### **Risk-Mitigation Process**

The University has an obligation to limit the spread of COVID-19 within its community, and as such, students who are non-compliant with the University's COVID-19 health and safety standards may be subject to reminders, warnings, and/or restrictions. These reminders, warnings, and restrictions will be implemented on a sliding scale; behavior that is deemed to be lower risk will be treated differently than behavior that is deemed to be higher risk, given the ultimate goal of preventing the spread of disease within the USC community.

This process is designed to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 spreading in the University community and is not governed by the procedures for addressing potential violations of the Student Conduct Code set forth in the USC Student Handbook (SCampus). Higher risk behavior and violations of campus restrictions issued under this process may also result in a conduct report to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards and lead to Interim Protective Measures and disciplinary sanctions such as probation, suspension, or expulsion, or loss of recognition for student organizations, in accordance with Part B of SCampus. In addition, violations of the health and safety requirements may be addressed by other University offices (e.g., USC Athletics may impose restrictions on a student-athlete's participation in training, practice, and/or competition).

Examples of lower risk behavior include first-time incidents of: forgetting to wear a face covering in public spaces; forgetting to observe physical distancing requirements; failing to follow sanitizing standards; failing to adhere to University signage or written instructions; and failing to complete Trojan Check.

Examples of medium risk behavior include second-time incidents of lower risk behavior as well as first-time incidents that involve greater risk, including traveling for a non-essential purpose and attending an unauthorized gathering.

Examples of higher risk behavior include: three or more lower risk incidents; two or more medium risk incidents; knowingly violating public health practices; and failing to adhere to instructions from a University official, such as an instruction to isolate after receiving a positive result from a COVID-19 test, an instruction to self-quarantine after a known COVID-19 exposure, or an instruction to participate in contact tracing. Other examples of high risk behaviors include: hosting in-person gatherings with individuals in other households; failing to self-isolate after answering affirmatively in Trojan Check or providing false information in Trojan Check; or hosting guests from outside your household.

These lists of examples are non-exhaustive, but provided for illustrative purposes.

The Student COVID-19 Response Team (SCRT) will review each written report of a student's noncompliance with the Health and Safety Standards. Such report should set forth the date(s), time(s), and description of the noncompliant behavior that was observed and the basis by which the student was identified. Written reports in which a University official recounts first-hand observations of noncompliant student behavior will be presumed by SCRT to be valid.

SCRT has the authority to issue reminders, warnings, and/or restrictions based on each written report it reviews and its conclusion regarding the risk level of the behavior. Each of the reminders, warnings, and/or restrictions are not intended to be punishment or discipline; rather, they are the remedial measures deemed necessary to promote and maintain the health and safety of the campus community given the risks associated with the behavior. In some situations, campus access restrictions will be issued because the student's higher risk behavior leads SCRT to the conclusion that USC cannot rely on the student's compliance on a going forward-basis, thereby putting at risk campus safety.

Lower risk behavior will result in a reminder letter sent by SCRT to the student, that reiterates the University's Health and Safety Standards.

Medium risk behavior will result in a temporary suspension of the student's campus access pending their completion of mandatory remedial COVID-19 training and acknowledgement of a written warning that any further violations may lead to a campus access restriction; students living in University Housing will be placed on Housing Disciplinary Probation, and provided a warning about removal from Housing. Students who are assigned mandatory remedial training will be required to complete that training prior to having their campus access restored. These measures are necessary to reduce the ongoing risk to health and safety that the student might present without these measures.

Students who are assigned mandatory remedial training and written warning from SCRT following medium risk behavior may address the basis for these measures by submitting a written request for reconsideration to SCRT within 3 business days. Students are encouraged to submit written submissions that are clear and concise, not to exceed 2 pages. Following receipt of a request for reconsideration, SCRT will give students up to 2 calendar days to review the documentation that served as the basis for the risk mitigation measures and to submit written materials disputing that basis. A final decision will be made by SCRT and shared with the student within 7 business days upon receipt of documentation. That decision may not be appealed. The student's campus access restriction will remain in effect pending the outcome of the request for reconsideration.

High risk behavior will result in a restriction on the student's access to campus spaces, including University Housing, on-campus buildings and facilities, the University Village, and the Coliseum, the duration of which will be assigned based on the circumstances. Exceptions to campus access restrictions will only be made for essential activities authorized in advance by SCRT, such as coursework that cannot be completed remotely or visiting USC Student Health for an in-person appointment. Before a student's campus access will be restored, they will be required to submit a reflective paper to SCRT in which they demonstrate readiness to behave responsibly in the campus community and take mandatory remedial COVID-19 training.

Students who are restricted from accessing campus as a result of higher risk behavior may address the basis for the decision by submitting a written request for reconsideration to SCRT within 3 business days. Students are encouraged to submit written submissions that are clear and concise, not to exceed 2 pages. Following receipt of a request for reconsideration, SCRT will give students up to 2 calendar days to review the documentation that served as the basis for the risk mitigation measures and to submit written materials disputing that basis. A decision will be made by SCRT and shared with the student within 7 business days upon receipt of documentation. That decision may be appealed by the student to the Vice President for Student Affairs and Chief Health Officer for USC Student Health within 2 business days. Students will receive a final decision on their appeal within 7 business days, unless

circumstances mandate additional time. The student’s campus access restriction will remain in effect pending the outcome of the request for reconsideration/appeal.

## 5. Definitions

Term	Definition
Effective face mask	A face covering made with a tightly woven fabric (fabrics that do not let light pass through when held up to a light source), or a medical procedure mask (sometimes referred to as surgical masks or disposable face masks). Mask should fit snugly around the nose and chin with no large gaps around the sides of the face. Masks with multiple layers or inner filter pockets are also effective. Does not include masks made with loosely woven or knitted fabric, masks with only a single-layer, masks with exhalation valves, or scarves or ski masks.
Household	A household includes anyone who lives in and shares common spaces in your housing unit. While a single household can include family members and roommates, it does not include group living situations such as dormitories, fraternities or sororities.
University Community	The <a href="#">neighborhood surrounding both the University Park campus and the Health Science campus</a> . It also includes properties and facilities operated by USC outside these footprints.

## 6. Relevant Forms and Tools

Frequently-asked questions: <https://we-are.usc.edu/faqs/health-and-safety-faqs/>

## 7. Contacts

Please direct any questions regarding these standards to:

OFFICE	PHONE	EMAIL
Student Health	213-740-6291	covid19@usc.edu