



PACIFICA  
GRADUATE INSTITUTE

## **SPRING QUARTER – COVID-19 POLICY UPDATES**

*Please make note of the below policy changes for spring quarter sessions*

Dear Pacifica Learners and Colleagues,

As we enter this spring season and witness much of this new life beginning to sprout after the rejuvenating rains in our area, we write today with updates on the evolution of Pacifica's COVID-19 policies for the upcoming spring quarter residential sessions. We recognize that our model continues to remain unique with many learners traveling from out of the area for their session, and also that there are many within our community who are at higher risk due to various medical conditions that make them more susceptible to illness, such as COVID-19. Observance to our policies since the return to campus has been appreciated and helped in successfully navigating through uncertainties and moments of societal COVID surges. With this in mind, as we update policies based on current conditions, it is important that we continue to maintain a strong focus on cultivating a culture of care, safety, and respect for our peers, and we ask that everyone do their part to help protect themselves.

The below policy updates were devised with input and support from faculty and staff leadership, as well as data from the student questionnaire, to help meet our community's needs and preferences, as well as maintain alignment with society and latest health/safety guidelines. While some requirements have been lifted, it is imperative that we all remain vigilant and respectful as individuals and a community of caring.

**Please note the following changes in our COVID-19 policies become effective today:**

### ***Masks***

Masking will be strongly encouraged in classrooms and inside areas but will no longer be required. Learners and employees are still encouraged to wear masks, and they are still available for free from reception.

### ***COVID-19 Tests***

COVID-19 tests are highly recommended to be taken prior to coming to campus. **We promote this as the best practice and expectation for everyone before coming to campus.** These tests have proven to be effective multiple times in the past year, in notifying learners that they do indeed have COVID-19 prior to coming to campus. In the

past year, we've had only two individuals that became ill with COVID-19 while on campus, and had to isolate on campus for an extended period of time. Due to self-reporting, we know that testing just prior to coming to campus has been highly effective in preventing the transmission of COVID-19 from unknown, asymptomatic, or pre-symptomatic individuals. We strongly encourage you to continue to test just prior to coming to campus (24 hours if Antigen, within 3 days if PCR).

### ***Daily Check-In***

We will no longer be using the OptimumHQ daily check-in process, and you will no longer be required to obtain a wristband. Please continue to self-assess; if you are feeling sick, and/or testing positive for COVID-19, please do not come to session, but rather reach out to your Program Chair(s) and instructor(s) regarding attendance options. If you begin feeling ill or developing symptoms while you are on campus, please pick up a free COVID-19 test from Reception. If you do test positive for COVID-19 while you are on campus for session, please immediately notify your Program Chair(s) and the Safety Team ([safety@pacific.edu](mailto:safety@pacific.edu)).

### ***Notifications***

Notifications of reported COVID-19 cases will go out by email to those that had a close contact, or the entire track of learners and/or staff, based on interview with the positive individual. Email notification will only be sent if the report of the COVID-19 case was received by the Safety Team in a timely enough manner and/or the details provided suggest that a notification would still be useful.

### ***Ethics of Care***

Though we are lifting policies that required masking, testing, and daily check-ins, we are transitioning the responsibility to the individual to help in serving a collective climate of safety and care. We ask that you please continue to maintain self-awareness to not put others at risk unnecessarily, even if it were to mean the loss of some class time. Please continue to...

- ***Test and self-assess your health both prior to and during your time on campus***
- ***Wear a mask if you feel at-risk, or if you may have been exposed to someone else that is sick or has COVID-19***
- ***Report if you learn you have contracted COVID-19***
- ***Keep air filtration systems on while inside classrooms, especially if windows are closed, and try to maintain as much distance from others as reasonable***
- ***Respect the needs, preferences, comfort levels, and requests of individuals and classrooms***

We understand that these changes may bring a sense of relief to some, yet also a sense of anxiety to others. For those who may have significant health/safety concerns as a result of these policy updates, please reach out to [safety@pacific.edu](mailto:safety@pacific.edu).

The priority remains to stay vigilant in collective efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, as well as other illnesses. This includes continuing to practice good hygiene, such as washing your hands, continuing to voluntarily test, stay home if you are sick, and continuing to wear masks. We also ask that you continue to be respectful of others' safety and comfort levels as we make this significant transition in required policies.

As we move forward into this new quarter of sessions on campus, let us remember the importance of community and how we can all contribute to creating a safe and respectful environment for everyone. If you have questions or concerns, or need to report confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Safety Team at [safety@pacific.edu](mailto:safety@pacific.edu).

Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you at upcoming spring sessions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lee  
President & CEO

Adam Brown  
Director of Campus Operations & Safety