

COVID GUIDANCE

GENERAL INFORMATION

NLEI is committed to the wellbeing of our community. Our institution follows federal, state, and local mandates for vaccination.

This document follows IBHE and ICCB guidance consistent with CDC and IDPH latest recommendations and the requirements under the Governor's Executive Order 2022-16.

Please refer to CDC's [Guidance for Institutions of Higher Education \(IHEs\)](#) for additional detail not covered

GUIDELINES

1. **COVID-19 Vaccination** (Updated July 13, 2022).
 - 1.1. Vaccination against COVID-19 is now widely available. Vaccination is the leading prevention strategy against COVID-19. NLEI strongly recommends its students, staff and stakeholders vaccinate.
 - 1.2. The available scientific evidence backs up our confidence in vaccines.
 - 1.3. NLEI suggest the public in general to avoid vaccine hesitancy.
2. **Use of Masks or Face Coverings** (Updated July 13, 2022).
 - 2.1. NLEI, as a private entity, established their own policies for face coverings recommending that all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, wear a well-fitted mask indoors in public areas.
 - 2.2. Following CDC guidelines, all individuals, including those who are up to date with COVID-19 vaccination, are required to wear face coverings in congregate facilities, in health care settings, and where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations.
 - 2.3. CDC recommends wearing masks in indoor public transportation settings (Updated June 21, 2022).
3. **Diagnostic Testing and Screening of Asymptomatic Persons.**
 - 3.1. NLEI will require test and screening, as follows:
 - 3.1.1. Persons with symptoms of COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status.
 - 3.1.2. Persons who are determined to be close contacts to someone with active COVID-19 infection at least 3 to 5 days after last exposure.
 - 3.1.3. Testing of staff and students/participants with possible exposure in the context of outbreak settings.
 - 3.1.4. Screening of staff and/or students/participants, especially at medium and high COVID-19 Community Levels, after breaks, or during large events
4. **Contact Tracing, Isolation, and Quarantine** (Updated July 13, 2022). NLEI refers to [CDC Guidance on quarantine and isolation](#).
5. **Symptom Screening.** NLEI encourage students, faculty, and staff to monitor themselves for symptoms of infectious illnesses, including COVID-19. Those with signs or symptoms of infectious illness should stay home and use a [COVID-19 self-checker](#) to determine whether to seek testing or medical care.

6. **Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette.** NLEI promotes health behaviors such as hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
7. **Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities.** NLEI will continue to clean high-touch surfaces and shared object in accordance with CDC recommendations.
8. **Ventilation.** NLEI will maintain improved ventilation in accordance with CDC recommendations
9. **Considerations for Students, Faculty, and Staff with Disabilities.** NLEI will make exceptions to any mask requirements for a person with a disability who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.
10. **Gatherings, Events, Visitors, and Sports.**
 - 10.1. NLEI Community may engage in sports-related activities, both indoors and outdoors, without wearing a mask, except where otherwise required by laws, rules, or regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.
 - 10.2. When the COVID-19 community level is high, NLEI will follow CDC recommends that all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, wear a well-fitting mask while indoors in public.
11. **Updates to Guidance.** This guidance remains subject to change pursuant to updated public health guidance and changing public health conditions.