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Hello everyone,

This message provides details regarding the manner in which University's Spring semester COVID-19 guidelines will be implemented in the Library. Please see Chancellor Jones' [January 5 Massmail](#) with updated spring 2022 guidelines.

At this time, we are planning for all Library units to be open on the full Spring Semester schedule beginning January 18th, as well as for our usual interim hours.

Based on updated guidance from the CDC, IDPH, and C-UPHD, **campus has reduced the negative test requirement for all faculty, staff, and students) from two tests to a single, negative test result upon return to on-campus work**, regardless of vaccination status. In addition, the campus is encouraging all university personnel to use KN95 masks when possible, as these masks offer greater protection than cloth masks (which are greatly discouraged). The university is exploring options for securing these masks.

Faculty, staff, graduate, and undergraduate student employees must complete a test **on or before your first on-campus work day. In addition, all Library employees who are working on site must have a negative test by January 18th, the first day of (online) classes.** In the case of undergraduate students who may return on or after the 18th, they should not work until they have a negative test result.

The requirement for testing all employees is intended to further enhance the safety of our community, not to restrict building access. Supervisors may ask to check an employee's building access status with the Illinois app but are not required to do so. If they do check employee status, all employees in the unit should be checked--individuals should not be singled out for checking. As always, employees who begin to experience symptoms should test when symptoms appear.

Finally, we would like to note that we are developing contingency plans, which will be put into effect if reduced services are warranted at a later date. For example, we will work with unit heads in cases where staffing shortages develop due to covid isolation needs, inclement weather, or other factors.

In the meantime, we encourage you to stay safe, get vaccinated or boosted, and support each other as we all seek to navigate the Omicron surge.

Thanks,

**CHRIS PROM**

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