

Dear Perkins Families:

Below please find this week's COVID-19 Update. As you will see, staff questions in this update are largely reflective of the ever-changing guidance, gains made through reduced cases, and increasing vaccination rates state-wide. Despite the weather forecast, I hope you are able to enjoy the long holiday weekend.

With Gratitude,

Ed

Dear Perkins Community,

It's hard to believe we're about to celebrate Memorial Day weekend, which also means our students will be graduating soon! Along with these two pieces of good news, COVID-19 protocols are loosening up across Massachusetts and on the Perkins campus. However, we must still remain vigilant, we're not out of the woods yet. This update, similar to the previous one, provides answers to specific questions you submitted, but there are still several issues we're working on, so we appreciate your patience as we adapt to the ever-changing environment.

As always, thank you for your questions and comments. Please contact any member of the COVID-19 Task Force (listed below) via email to submit your questions. (Please note, the Spanish translation of this email follows the English version.)

Thank you so much for all you do to keep Perkins safe; and please enjoy the long weekend.

COVID-19 Response Leaders
Ed Bosso and Brenna Child

COVID-19 UPDATE, May 28, 2021

We continue to receive a lot of questions related to COVID-19 protocols and how Perkins is adapting to updated guidance. Some answers are provided here, however, as we await further guidance from public health and other authorities, decisions on a few of your questions will be made at a later date.

Decisions will be made later on the following campus-related questions

- Our Secondary adult living class typically offers a CPR course for a handful of appropriate students. Is this something we can offer to our students again?

- Pre-Covid, the Perkins gym/weight room was open for staff use during off hours. Can we consider reopening it for this purpose?

Campus Updates

- What percentage of our staff is vaccinated?
 - Currently, approximately 80% of our Educational Programs staff is vaccinated.
- How long will the Perkins campus remain closed to the public?
 - Our campus will stay closed to the public for the foreseeable future.
- Will we offer students the option to be fully remote in the fall?
 - In the fall, we will only offer a fully remote option if medically necessary.
- Can we use the campus water parks this year?
 - We plan to start using the campus water parks soon, however, we are working on the process and will communicate details as soon as possible.

COVID-19 Protocols

In response to recent changes to regulatory guidance, Perkins is amending some of our COVID-19 protocols. Others, however, remain in place. See below.

- Are we still required to complete the Daily Attestation?
 - Yes, the Daily Attestation will continue for the foreseeable future.
- Can we stop wearing masks outside?
 - In accordance with regulatory guidance, students can stop wearing masks outdoors, even if distance cannot be maintained, however, staff still must wear masks outdoors when social distancing cannot be maintained.
 - Children and adults should continue to wear masks indoors.
- Can we stop wearing face shields?
 - Face shields are optional for staff, however, please wear one when at risk for exposure to airborne particles (from coughing, sneezing, etc.) or other bodily fluids that may come in contact with your face. Face masks are still required.
- Since COVID-19 is spread through the air and many staff are vaccinated, how frequently do we have to clean surfaces?
 - Based on regulatory guidance and updated information on the low likelihood of surface transmission, high touch surfaces (door handles, etc.) and shared objects only need to be cleaned once per day.
 - Please note: We are not changing our vehicle protocols at this time, which means vehicles must be wiped down between uses.
- Are staff still required to participate in our bi-weekly surveillance testing?
 - The state recently amended its surveillance testing guidance and removed the requirement that staff who are fully vaccinated (14 days or more from receiving the final dose in the series) undergo surveillance testing. So, **if you are fully**

vaccinated, you are no longer required to undergo surveillance testing. If you are not fully vaccinated, you are still required to participate.

- Note: If you are fully vaccinated and would like to continue with surveillance testing, you must do so on your own, not through Perkins.
- Are staff and students still required to have their temperatures taken daily?
 - Taking daily temperatures is no longer required for staff or students. Temperature stations will remain in place, so feel free to use them, however, it is not required. Health Services is available to assist, if necessary, and thermometers will be provided in the coming days to each classroom in Lower School and Deafblind for convenience.
 - Visitors are no longer required to have their temperature taken, but they are still required to complete the Daily Attestation.

COVID-19 Vaccines in Massachusetts

To find a vaccination location, go to [VaxFinder on mass.gov](#) to pre-register for an appointment and receive status updates; other options include [CVS](#), [Walgreens](#) and health care providers.

Important reminder: Once you are fully vaccinated, send your vaccination documentation to [Linda Christensen](#) via email.

Helpful Links: COVID-19 General

- [State of Massachusetts Restrictions](#)
- [CIC Health testing site \(fee-based testing\)](#)
- [Find a COVID-19 Test](#)

Helpful Links: COVID-19 Vaccine

- [Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People \(CDC\)](#)
- [Facts about the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine \(CDC\)](#)
- [Learn about the different COVID-19 vaccines \(CDC\)](#)
- [Getting ready for your COVID-19 Vaccine \(CDC\)](#)
- [Myths and Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines \(CDC\)](#)
- [Key Things to Know about the U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Program \(CDC\)](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about the COVID-19 Vaccination \(CDC\)](#)
- [Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccination Program \(Mass.gov\)](#)
- [Other Vaccination Sites \(Mass.gov\)](#)

COVID-19 Task Force Members

- Communications, Perrin McCormick, Sheryl Bird
- Educational Programs
 - Grace Cohen Pratt (ELC/LS)
 - Sue Shannon (Sec)
 - Kristian Coderre (Sec)

- Megan Schmittel (DB)
 - Cristy Lonardo (DB)
 - Patrick Ryan (Sec)
 - Facilities, Jose Fabian-Taveras
 - Health Services, Kate Maher
 - Human Resources, Michele Crews
 - Legal, Louise McCarthy
 - Perkins International, Lisa Jacobs
 - Perkins Solutions, Mary-Gayle Sweeney
 - Project Support and Coordination, Scott MacDowell
 - Security, David Apprille
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