Topics of interest
1. Can we hold campus meetings and events with food and drink? *If yes, then how?*
2. Can we know when face coverings on campus become optional indoors? *If yes, then when and why?*
MIT Campus Life: V.LateFall21

To facilitate our MIT community research + learning + working life in the context of our full lives, we have layers of risk mitigation:

- Vaccination
- Testing
- Attestation [3 questions]
- New access tools for MIT students, employees, and invited visitors/guests
- Adapted commuting and work practices
- Ventilation updates across campus buildings
- Communication of shared policies, guidance, and news as things continue to change
Can we hold campus meetings and events indoors with food and drink?

YES*

How?

Leader (Organizer, Host, Team Lead)

Invited MIT Colleague

*Right now, we can! Outdoors is preferable, and winter is coming. Let’s just keep it small, short, sweet, and considerate of our MIT colleagues’ varied risk tolerances for Covid transmission.
Perspectives to consider in year-end meetings and gatherings

Leaders:
How can location, timing, and shared expectations help invited attendees feel comfortable meeting in person, appreciating the range of risk tolerances and health backgrounds among colleagues coming to campus for work or study?

Planners:
How can the room setup, food setup, pre-event communications, and signage on site help people get what they need and enjoy the event?

Invited Attendees:
How can I think about my own risk budget for the day or the week, and the different perspectives of my colleagues at the event, so I can participate and communicate effectively?
Approaches to consider, all within current campus guidance

DLC meetings (faculty, staff, and/or student) could be:
- Larger room than seems typical
- Spaced tables
- Short eating period
- Distanced area for those not eating
- Portable air filtration units
- Grab and go food after meeting
- Hybrid

Holiday gatherings could be:
- Multiple, smaller versions
- Held a bit earlier than normal (e.g., 2 weeks before holiday break)
- Food and drink in one area, hanging out in another
- Games instead of food, with takeaway party favors
Can we know when face coverings indoors on campus become optional?

~YES*

How?

Per new federal guidelines:
County Community Transmission (CDC Designation) → not before 2 consecutive weeks below “substantial transmission,” with additional federal workplace and CDC guidance for those not fully vaccinated

State & Local Guidelines

Campus Covid Prevalence, given existing vaccination compliance requirement

*Circumstance-dependent. Depends in part on county transmission prevalence, federal requirements, and state/city requirements, and campus conditions. So far, so good.
Can we know when face coverings indoors on campus become optional?

Per new federal guidelines:
County Community Transmission (CDC Designation) 2 consecutive weeks below “substantial transmission”

Covered contractors must check the CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker County View website for community transmission information in all areas where they have a covered contractor workplace at least weekly to determine proper workplace safety protocols. When the level of community transmission in the area of a covered contractor workplace increases from low or moderate to substantial or high, contractors and subcontractors should put in place more protective workplace safety protocols consistent with published guidelines. However, when the level of community transmission in the area of a covered contractor workplace is reduced from high or substantial to moderate or low, the level of community transmission must remain at that lower level for at least two consecutive weeks before the covered contractor utilizes those protocols recommended for areas of moderate or low community transmission.”

CDC County Data Tracker, updated daily:
https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view

SafeFederalWorkforce.gov guidance (Sept 24, 2021)
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