



INFORMATIONAL MEMO

August 29, 2022

TO: Companies and Organizations with On-Site Personnel at Argonne

FROM: Tim Knewitz, Chief Financial Officer, Argonne National Laboratory

SUBJECT: Argonne COVID-19 Update – Changes to COVID-19 Safety Measures

Both the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have recently updated their COVID-19 safety measures guidance to reflect the success of existing tools (such as vaccines, boosters, and treatments) that minimize severe outcomes. In both cases, the federal guidance now emphasizes personal responsibility.

Argonne National Laboratory also has updated its COVID-19 Safety Plan to align with that vision of the future of this pandemic. The updates include minimizing our need to adjust safety protocols when the CDC changes COVID-19 Community Levels based on conditions where we operate (DuPage and Cook counties, IL; Washington, DC; Grant County, OK). The changes are summarized below and became effective Wednesday, August 24, 2022.

The following measures follow [COVID-19 Community Levels](#):

- **Face Coverings:** High-quality face coverings (such as KN95/N95 masks) will only be required on site when the COVID-19 Community Level is high and are optional when levels are low (green) or medium (yellow).

Measures that have changed but are *not* connected to COVID-19 Community Levels:

- **Physical Distancing:** Maintaining a six-foot distance is now optional on site, no matter the COVID-19 Community Level.

- **Close Contacts:** People who are exposed to the coronavirus through a close contact will not need to quarantine. They will need to wear a face covering for 10 days and complete COVID-19 testing five days after exposure.
- **Isolation of Infectious People:** Those who feel ill should not come to Argonne's facilities and should self-monitor. Anyone who test positive for COVID-19 will need to isolate for at least five days (extended to 10 days if they continue to be sick or test positive) and must wear an approved face covering for 10 days.
- **Meeting Maximums:** There are no limits to the number of people who may attend a meeting in person. However, events should be planned so that attendees can choose to practice optional social distance from others and avoid crowding.

The relaxed COVID-19 controls offer more options to for our employees, contractors, and visitors to assess their own risk, make choices (including boosters) to protect themselves, and take actions if exposed to the coronavirus or they test positive or become symptomatic. Together our work depends on each person acting with integrity and respect to support safety.

We appreciate your continued attention and flexibility with the transitioning COVID-19 protocols. We will continue to rely on guidance from the CDC and U.S. Department of Energy to maintain the health and safety of all who visit the laboratory. We are committed to keeping you informed on future updates. If you have additional questions, please contact your Argonne Technical Representative.