

Institute of Technology Salem Campus COVID-19 Plan

Updated September 30, 2023

Change Effective Immediately

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recently announced changes related to COVID-19.

Face Coverings

As of April 3, 2023, the Oregon Health Authority does not have masking requirements for any settings. **Therefore, IOT will discontinue the required use of face coverings in all lab classrooms during any lab or clinical course.**

You can read the announcement [here](#).

The federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) declaration ended on May 11, 2023.

You can read the announcement [here](#).

IOT will continue to promote health and safety by:

1. Continuing to be guided by federal, state and local health authority guidelines and recommendations, including guidance for specific sectors or programs;
2. Supporting the continued use of masks by all that wish to do so;

What you can do to support your personal health and safety:

1. OHA highly recommends that people who are at higher-risk, including if you are vaccinated, immunocompromised, have underlying health conditions, are 65 or older, or live with someone in one of these categories, continue to wear a well-fitting mask to help protect yourself and others, particular while in indoor public settings and higher-density outdoor locations;
2. Respect others' personal choice to wear a mask;
3. Stay home if you are not feeling well or are experiencing any [COVID-19 symptoms](#). Get tested for COVID-19 if you exhibit viral symptoms;
4. Review [OHA guidelines](#) for if you test positive and CDC guidance for [steps to take when sick with COVID-19](#).

As always, IOT will be ready to adjust its measures and operations when doing so could yield improved outcomes. Thank you for your vigilance and commitment to our shared public health.

Sincerely,
Patrick Wong, Ph.D.
Campus President

Timeline

May 26, 2020

- Institute of Technology will reopen for business; lobby will be open. Admissions and Financial Aid will resume in- person appointments.
- IOT Staff and Faculty will be invited to resume working from campus to finish out the current module and/or term. This time will also be used to prepare for the return of students. Current 4th term PN students (scheduled to complete their program on May 28, 2020) will continue skills work and/or ATI work on campus in small controlled groups (as outlined by [HECC](#)).

June 1, 2020

- Professional Medical Assistant (PMA) and Medical Office Administration Billing and Coding (MOABC) students will begin and/or resume their program online.
- Select staff and faculty will be invited to return to the campus (if applicable, individuals will be notified by the Campus President, Human Resources and/or their Supervisor).

June 8, 2020

- Practical Nursing (PN) students will begin and/or resume their program online.

June 15, 2020

- It was anticipated that students would return to campus however an announcing was made mid-day indicating that a new/updated Executive Order would be released. All on-campus instruction (outside of 4th term) was cancelled pending additional information regarding the order.

June 22, 2020

- Per [Executive Order 20-28](#) (an update to [Executive Order 20-17](#)), students will return to campus and resume classes with a modified schedule; schedules are outlined in this plan and will be communicated via email. Modified schedules previously shared with students will be executed – as they will allow for at least one on-campus day, with the remaining of the coursework remaining online to accommodate skills lab availability, social distancing and the transition back to campus.

September 14, 2020

- Institute of Technology is not defined as a business but as a private college. As such, the College has decided to implement additional requirements as recommended by the [Oregon Health Authority](#) and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). These requirements will apply to all staff, faculty, students, and visitors to the campus.

October 19, 2020

- Per revised [Oregon Health Authority](#) guidance, individuals are required to wear face coverings in all private and public workspaces, including classrooms, offices, meeting rooms and workspaces, unless someone is alone in the space. It also requires people to wear face coverings in outdoor and indoor markets, street fairs,

private career schools and public and private colleges and universities. Additionally, the guidance also recommends wearing a face covering such as a mask instead of a face shield, except where a face shield is needed to communicate with someone who is deaf or hearing impaired.

October 22, 2020

- Communicable Disease Management Plan for the College has been updated to indicate the following: Any confirmed case of a student, staff or faculty member will be reported by the college to the Marion County Health Department.

November 16, 2020

- All students will be required to complete a COVID-19 questionnaire prior to class commencement.
- All employees will be required to subject to an Exposure Risk Assessment per OSHA.

December 7, 2020 to June 29, 2021

- All guests (including students w/ scheduled appointments) will be required to complete a COVID-19 questionnaire upon arrival.
- The campus will close (as applicable) to the public (does not include classes or appointments w/ students) in compliance with county risk levels.

June 30, 2021

- Physical distancing and occupancy limits are no longer required on-campus.
- Full vaccinated employees and students, and those with acquired immunity, are no longer required to wear masks in most settings, consistent with OHA guidance.
- Students working in externships, clinical settings, and campus laboratories designed as a practice setting (similar to those performed in the healthcare field) will follow mask protocol for those settings (i.e. if demonstrating a blood pressure, practicing bedside care, practicing injections, etc. masks are required).

August 13, 2021

- Face coverings will now be required in all public indoor settings at Institute of Technology.
- For purposes of this face covering requirement, “public indoor settings” at IOT include indoor environments in which are owned and/or controlled by IOT (a private college), or are open to the public in which guests may frequent.
- Public indoor settings include classrooms, front desks, and offices with frequent engagement with IOT community members or the public.
- Public indoor settings do not include IOT workspaces (e.g., offices or cubicles) and spaces that do not have high frequency or recurring visitations by the public.
- IOT will continue to require face coverings at all times for all unvaccinated faculty, staff, and students.

August 16, 2021

- Updated COVID-19 Plan to align with OAR 333-019-1025.
- Face coverings will now be required in all indoor settings as Institute of Technology as outlined on the first page of this document for staff, faculty, students and visitors.

January 7, 2022

- Created separate Student/Visitor and Staff/Faculty COVID-19 plans.
- Updated Staff/Faculty COVID-19 Plan to align with OSHA and the COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS).

January 13, 2022

- The US Supreme Court blocked the implementation of the OSHA regulation for testing or vaccination for employees of businesses of 100 employees or more.
- Updated Staff/Faculty COVID-19 Plan to align with the Oregon Health Authority and CDC.

March 7, 2022

- Updated COVID-19 Plan to align with Oregon Health Authority and announcement on Mask Requirements (updated March 1, 2022).

August 24, 2022

- Updated COVID-19 Plan to align with updated Isolation and Precaution guidance as provided by the Oregon Health Authority and the CDC.

April 3, 2023

- Updated COVID-19 plan to align with updated masking guidance.

September 30, 2023

- Updated COVID-19 plan to align with updated guidance.
- ACCET temporary flexibilities expire, IOT Salem policies and procedures return to standard operating procedures as outlined in the Catalog and Catalog Addendum.

Removed the following flexibilities:

- A signed attestation of high school graduation OR equivalency
- Temporary flexibilities related to LOA
- Temporary flexibilities related to clinical and externship