



Harvard Chan NEW STUDENT Guide on COVID Testing Procedures

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health is excited to welcome students back to campus for the fall semester. The health and safety of our community—students, staff, and faculty—is our paramount concern as we start the new semester. Our return to campus has been planned based on detailed guidance from Harvard University, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and other local, state, and federal officials. As conditions change, it is possible that Harvard University could adjust its health and safety requirements. It is important to recognize this uncertainty and prepare to adjust for possible changes ahead.

As part of our health and safety plan, you must complete several requirements before you come to campus for the first time, including submitting a School-provided COVID-19 test. Additionally, you must also follow a range of health and safety practices while you are on campus. This guide outlines these requirements in detail.

Questions and Concerns

We ask you to read this document in full and visit the [University COVID-19 site](#) before contacting us with any questions. If you have questions, please reach out to Sarah Stillman in the Office of Educational Programs at stillman@hsph.harvard.edu.

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Summary Checklist

- ✓ View your vaccination status through [Crimson Clear](#) (additional set-up steps may be required).
- ✓ If you have not been vaccinated or fully vaccinated, plan to be vaccinated as soon as possible after your arrival in the Boston area. Instructions for scheduling a vaccine are on page 3.
- ✓ If you have not submitted verification of your COVID-19 vaccination status, please follow instructions on page 3.
- ✓ Review the University's required COVID guidance document on the [Harvard Training Portal](#).
- ✓ [Set up your Color account](#) between August 10th and August 20th (this is required to administer your COVID-19 tests)
 - [You can create your Color account as of August 10th](#).
- ✓ Update your physical (Massachusetts) address in [my.harvard](#).
- ✓ Pick up, complete, and drop off your first COVID test at the School in the FXB Lobby on Friday, August 20th OR Saturday, August 21st between 9am–4pm ET.
- ✓ Note: If you will not arrive in the Boston area in time to complete this first COVID test, please see instructions on page 4.
- ✓ Complete and drop off your second test on August 23rd (Day 1 of Orientation).
- ✓ Complete and drop off your third test (August 25th or August 26th).
- ✓ Complete and drop off your fourth test (First Day of Classes – August 30th or August 31st).
- ✓ Continue onto your ongoing testing cadence as outlined in your [Crimson Clear](#) account.

COVID-19 Vaccination Information

Harvard requires full vaccination for all students, staff and faculty who will be on campus this fall.

The University considers you to be fully vaccinated if:

- Two weeks or more have passed since your second dose in a two-dose series such as Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, **or**
- Two weeks or more have passed after a single-dose vaccine such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine, **or**
- Two weeks have passed after all required doses of [WHO-approved vaccines](#), such as Astra Zeneca/Oxford.

Every student should make their best effort to be fully vaccinated before coming to campus for the Fall semester. You can read more about the vaccination requirement and how to submit documentation on the [Harvard University Health Services \(HUHS\) website](#).

International Students and Any Others Unable to Access an FDA- or WHO-Authorized Vaccine Before Coming to Campus

There are many vaccination options available, all of which are outlined below. Please note, however, that these students will be subject to additional requirements—such as more frequent COVID-19 testing—until they are considered fully protected by a vaccine.

Exceptions to Vaccination Requirement

As with existing student requirements for other vaccines, exceptions will be provided only for medical or religious reasons. Please contact [HUHS](#) with questions.

Verify Your Vaccination with HUHS

After you get vaccinated, please remember to verify your vaccination with HUHS. See instructions here: <https://www.harvard.edu/coronavirus/verify-your-vaccination>. You can confirm your vaccination status by logging in to [Crimson Clear](#).

HUHS keeps this information secure and confidential and does not share student vaccination status with Harvard Chan School or any other school.

Where to Obtain COVID-19 Vaccination

See below for a list of locations where you can get the free COVID-19 vaccine:

- HUHS is offering vaccine clinics throughout the month of August and September. [Visit their website](#) for clinic dates, instructions on how to schedule an appointment, and FAQs.
- Local pharmacies, including [CVS](#) or [Walgreens](#), are offering vaccines. Click the link to schedule an appointment.
- The State of Massachusetts has appointments available at various locations across the state: [Visit their website](#) to browse openings and schedule your vaccination.

COVID-19 Testing at Harvard Chan

Regular testing is a key part of the University's COVID health and safety protocols. The School will provide you with needed test kits. The Harvard Chan School does not allow for outside vendor test kits to be submitted. Students will receive their test results through their Color account approximately 24 hours after submission.

Testing Requirements for New Students

New students must complete four tests by Tuesday, August 31st:

- Test #1: Before coming to campus for orientation week, you must submit a test on Friday, August 20th or Saturday, August 21st between 9am – 4pm ET.
- Test #2: Must be completed on the first day of orientation, on Monday, August 23rd by 5pm ET.
- Test #3: Must be completed on Wednesday, August 25th or Thursday, August 26th by 5pm ET.
- Test #4: Must be completed on Monday, August 30th or Tuesday, August 31st by 5pm ET, depending on the first day of your on-campus classes.
 - Note: If you do not have on-campus classes on either day, you still must complete a COVID-19 test on Monday, August 30th or Tuesday, August 31st.

Ongoing testing: After these initial four tests, you must be tested on an ongoing basis (see below).

Special Student Testing Protocol Exceptions

The initial testing requirements are different for new students in the following three categories:

Special Exception #1: If you live in Shattuck House or other Harvard University housing

Your testing schedule may be slightly different, depending on your move-in date. Please consult the testing table on page 7 for more information.

Special Exception #2: If you have tested positive for COVID-19 within 90 days of coming to campus

You are not required to be tested until a date determined by HUHS. For more information, see page 7.

Special Exception #3: If you will not arrive in the Boston area in time to complete a COVID test by Saturday, August 21st at 4pm ET

Please [complete this survey](#) as soon as possible, but no later than Thursday, August 12th. After you complete the survey, a Harvard Chan staff member will be in touch within 48 business hours to give you alternative instructions.

Additional Details on First Four (4) Tests

Prepare to Pick up Your Test Kits

Before you come to the School to pick up your four test kits:

1. You are required to set up a [Color account](#) to submit your test kit. You can create your Color account starting on Tuesday, August 10th. It will not be possible to create a Color account before this date.
2. If you plan to self-administer the first test when you pick it up, please bring a smart phone or other device so that you can activate the test kit in the Color system. You must activate your test kit in Color BEFORE placing it into a drop box. The School will have 1 computer available in the FXB lobby if you do not have a device that you can bring to campus.
3. **Face Coverings:** The University requires everyone—regardless of vaccination status—to wear a face covering when inside University buildings. Only unvaccinated individuals must continue to wear a face covering when within a campus outdoor space. You will be required to wear a Harvard Chan approved mask provided by the School once you arrive on campus, but you are allowed to wear another face covering over the School-approved mask.

Test #1: Friday, August 20th or Saturday, August 21st

Students will pick up test kits at the School's designated FXB student COVID-19 test pick up area. This can be accessed within the lobby of the FXB building, 651 Huntington Avenue, from 9am–4pm ET on either day. At this time, you will receive four (4) test kits to meet your testing requirements. The test kits contain detailed instructions for how to self-administer the test. However, staff will be available to answer any additional questions.

We encourage you to do the first self-administered test at the School and drop the test kit in a marked gray drop-box for processing. You will complete this test outdoors if submitting while at the School. You can also complete the test elsewhere and drop it off at the School or other Harvard drop box location. **You must submit this first test no later than Saturday, August 21st by 4pm ET.**

A map of all Harvard drop-boxes can be found here: <http://hsph.me/covidtestdropboxes>. Please note that all locations are not accessible to all members of the Harvard community, so please plan accordingly.

Tests #2, 3 and 4 (August 23rd, August 25th/26th, and August 30th/31st)

You should self-administer these tests on the specified days and drop them at the school in the FXB lobby, or at another drop-box location. We recommend completing these tests at home before coming to campus to drop off the tests.

- Test #2: Complete and drop off your test on first day of orientation, on Monday, August 23rd by 5pm ET
- Test #3: Complete and drop off your test on Wednesday, August 25th or Thursday, August 26th by 5pm ET
- Test #4: Complete and drop off your test on your first day of classes, Monday, August 30th or Tuesday, August 31st by 5pm ET, depending on your class schedule.

If You Test Positive on Any of These Tests

If you receive a positive test result, you will be contacted via phone and supported by Harvard University Health Services (HUHS), including assistance in obtaining medical care, understanding quarantine requirements, and conducting [contact tracing](#). You will also receive this result through your Color account. For the safety of the community, you must stay home until HUHS contacts you. The Harvard Chan COVID safety officer will also be notified of any positive test result, and a staff member from the Office for Student Affairs will reach out to see how the School can support you.

On-Going Testing During the Academic Year

After these initial four tests, you will move to your regular testing cadence based on your vaccination status. HUHS will review each student's vaccination status and assign a testing cadence. Students can view their testing cadence through Crimson Clear.

Ongoing Testing for Fully Vaccinated Individuals

After the initial four tests, an individual who is considered fully vaccinated will test once per week.

Students can select the weekday on which they submit their test. To help you remember this requirement, we recommend that you test on the same day of the week.

Ongoing Testing for Unvaccinated/Not Fully Vaccinated Individuals

An individual is considered not fully vaccinated if they have not received any or all needed doses and/or met the 2-week period after all required doses. Unvaccinated individuals will test two times per week.

Students can choose the days during the week that they submit their tests. These tests need to be spaced 2-3 days apart. To help you remember this requirement, we recommend that you test on the same days each week.

Additional Details for Special Student Testing Protocol Exceptions

For Students Who Have Tested POSITIVE for COVID-19 in the Past 90 Days

If you have tested positive for COVID within the 90 days prior to arriving to campus, you are required to submit documentation of a positive test result with the test date to healthservices@huhs.harvard.edu before Monday, August 16. If you have tested positive within the past 90 days, you will not complete University-required COVID testing until 90 days after your positive test. HUHS will work with you to determine the day for official testing to begin.

Testing Schedule for Students Moving into Shattuck House or Other University Housing

As outlined below, students in this category may be required to complete additional tests depending on their arrival date prior starting their testing cadence. Test kits for students moving in before August 20th can be picked up from the FXB Lobby at the Security Desk.

If you have moved into other Harvard Housing (i.e., Vanderbilt Hall) prior to August 14, please [complete this survey](#) and Sarah Stillman from the Office of Education will contact you with additional testing guidance.

Move-in Date	Move-in Test A	Move-in Test B	Additional Testing
Saturday, August 14	Within 24 hours of arrival to Harvard Housing	Thursday, August 19	Then follow testing protocol for tests #2-4 before moving to formal ongoing testing cadence
Sunday, August 15	Within 24 hours of arrival to Harvard Housing	Thursday, August 19	Then follow testing Protocol for tests #2-4 before moving to formal ongoing testing cadence
Monday, August 16	Within 24 hours of arrival to Harvard Housing	N/A	Then follow testing protocol for tests #1-4 before moving to formal ongoing testing cadence
Tuesday, August 17	Within 24 hours of arrival to Harvard Housing	N/A	Then follow testing protocol for tests #1-4 before moving to formal ongoing testing cadence
Wednesday, August 18	Within 24 hours of arrival to Harvard Housing	N/A	Then follow testing protocol for tests #2-4 before moving to formal ongoing testing cadence