

March 2022

The past two years will stand out as one of the most challenging periods in Mayo Clinic's history. The coming weeks promise to bring positive changes, however, as Mayo Clinic looks forward to safely easing pandemic-related restrictions with a phased approach.

Here's a look at the phased approach:

Phase 1

In this phase, which is effective immediately:

- In patient care buildings, face-to-face meetings will be allowed if all participants are masked and vaccinated for COVID-19. There will not be a limit on the number of in-person participants or any distancing requirements. There should not be food or beverages at these meetings, and virtual attendance options should be provided.
- In buildings without patient care activities, staff who are vaccinated can meet unmasked, provided all participants complete COVID-19 antigen testing on the day of the event. Food and beverages will be allowed at these meetings. There will not be a limit on the number of in-person participants or any distancing requirements. Options for virtual attendance should be provided.
- Continuous professional development conferences at Mayo Clinic will no longer require participants to be vaccinated for COVID-19 to attend. Testing, social distancing and masking will continue to be required.

While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has eased mask requirements in many indoor environments, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services continues to require masking in health care facilities.

Visitor restrictions will be eased on a site-by-site basis, with changes communicated as they occur.

Phase 2

Mayo Clinic expects the positive trajectory will continue with lower numbers of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths. As a result, the institution anticipates easing restrictions further over the coming weeks.

Additional changes expected to be announced over the weeks ahead include:

- Reducing masking and social distancing requirements in more areas, including patient care buildings.
- Reducing testing requirements for in-person meetings.

About the phased approach

Mayo Clinic leaders are mindful that these restrictions will be welcomed by some and met with unease by others. In easing these restrictions, leaders are guided first and foremost by the needs of Mayo's patients and the safety of staff, visitors and communities.

Mayo Clinic will continue to meet all public health and regulatory requirements, and restrictions may need to be revisited if circumstances change.