

## **Bigelow COVID-19 policy**

### **4 January 2022**

This policy update replaces the Bigelow COVID policy dated 3 November 2021.

All Bigelow staff, interns, and long-term visitors (present at the lab for more than 1 day) must provide proof of vaccination. Medical exceptions to this policy may be considered on a case-by-case basis. More information on Bigelow's vaccination requirement can be found [here](#).

All individuals must remain masked in shared spaces, hallways, and bathrooms when U.S. CDC identifies Lincoln County as a region of substantial or high COVID-19 community transmission (<https://www.maine.gov/covid19/>).

Masks may be removed when working alone in a lab space or a shared office, if all occupants of the shared office are comfortable with unmasking. Masks may be removed for short periods of time when eating in common spaces.

All staff, students, and visitors are asked to give careful consideration to their health each day and not enter the lab if they are not feeling well or have had close contact with someone who is ill. Breakthrough infections can occur in vaccinated individuals, so assessing your health each day is essential.

Bigelow follows the US CDC quarantine and isolation [policies](#), as [updated](#) on 27 December 2021. Following a positive COVID test (antigen or PCR), vaccinated individuals must isolate for 5 days. At that point, if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are resolving (without fever for 24 hours), vaccinated individuals must remain masked at all times at work another 5 days. Unvaccinated individuals must isolate at home for 10 days following a positive COVID test.

Following a known exposure with a COVID-positive individual, unvaccinated individuals must quarantine for 14 days. Vaccinated individuals are not required to quarantine unless they have symptoms. However, vaccinated individuals must mask for 10 days following the known exposure unless they get a negative PCR test 5-7 days after the exposure. Individuals are encouraged to work remotely, if possible, for 5 days following exposure. If remote work is not possible, exposed individuals should minimize contact with co-workers until a negative PCR test is obtained. This policy replaces Bigelow's previous contact policy.

Everyone should feel comfortable choosing to remain masked or asking others to mask while in a shared space. Meeting organizers are welcome to require masks at meetings.

All individuals staying overnight at a Bigelow residence must provide proof of vaccination. When U.S. CDC identifies Lincoln County as a region of substantial or high COVID-19 community transmission (<https://www.maine.gov/covid19/>), residents are expected to be masked in shared living spaces unless all residents feel comfortable unmasking. All residents should be masked in shared spaces if asked by other residents.

Individuals who are not vaccinated (e.g., short-term visitors or those with vaccination exemptions) must remain masked at all times while inside at Bigelow.

**Questions or concerns regarding this policy should be directed to Ben Twining, Chair of the Safety Committee.**