

INSTITUTE OF BUDDHIST STUDIES  
SEMINARY AND GRADUATE SCHOOL  
INCORPORATED 1969  
2140 DURANT AVENUE, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94704  
TELEPHONE 510.809.1444 FACSIMILE 510.809.1443

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## **IBS REOPENING POLICY**

**July 20, 2021**

Dear Members of the IBS Community,

As everyone knows, the offices and campus of the Institute of Buddhist Studies, located within the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, have been closed since March 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are grateful to everyone in the IBS community – our students, faculty, staff, trustees, supporters and friends – for your cooperation and resilience during the past sixteen months. You quickly and effectively adjusted to lives of remote learning, work-at-home protocols and Zoom meetings. Thanks to you, IBS was able to survive and even thrive during those incredibly challenging times. It is our pleasure to be able to share with you our plans to begin to reopen IBS for many in-person activities as of August 15, 2021.

As COVID-19 vaccination rates continue to increase in the Bay Area and across California, public officials inform us that COVID-19 infection and hospitalization rates have been decreasing. Thus, on June 17, the state adopted revised CAL/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS), and Governor Newsom signed an Executive Order to allow the revisions to take effect immediately throughout the state.

On June 28 Graduate Theological Union President Uriah Kim shared plans to reopen the GTU campus on August 2, and the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) issued a new Mask Wearing Policy for the JSC facility effective July 9.

Consequently, IBS has adopted policies and protocols for the reopening of the IBS offices and campus on August 15, 2021. This relaxation of certain restrictions, while consistent with the revised CAL/OSHA standards, is tempered by our growing concern over the recent spread of the Delta variant among unvaccinated populations. Please be assured that IBS will always be guided by our highest priority of maintaining environments for work, learning, and student life that will be safe and healthy for everyone.

### **Policies and Protocols for Reopening IBS Offices and Campus on August 15, 2021**

#### 1. Participation in IBS Classes

##### A. Fall 2021 Semester Courses

All IBS classes will be offered remotely during the Fall 2021 semester.

##### B. In-person classes on GTU or UCB campus

Some GTU member schools and UC Berkeley will offer on campus, in-person classes in the fall. In those cases, students and faculty wishing to participate in on campus, in-person classes will be required to provide proof of full vaccination. This provision will pertain to all students and faculty across the GTU consortium, as well as UC Berkeley.

## 2. Entry into IBS Offices and Campus

All persons will be required to provide proof of full vaccination prior to entering to IBS offices, classrooms, or facilities. An official vaccination card, an image of an official vaccine card or a health care document showing vaccination status must be presented to the President, Dean, or their delegates. IBS will maintain in trust a copy of that document.

## 3. Mask Requirements

### A. Fully vaccinated persons – indoor settings

Fully vaccinated persons will not be required to wear facial coverings within the IBS offices and campus. Those who would prefer to wear masks are encouraged to do so.

*Note: In light of the recent spread of COVID-19 variants among unvaccinated populations throughout the US, IBS urges everyone, even fully vaccinated persons, to exercise courtesy, caution and consideration for others while at IBS.*

### B. Unvaccinated persons – indoor settings

All non-fully vaccinated individuals will be required to wear double layer masks when present within the IBS offices and campus. Masks will be provided at the Security Guard station located at the JSC entrance.

### C. All persons – outdoor settings

Masks will not be required outdoors regardless of vaccination status.

*Note: Although not required, IBS recommends that masks be worn outdoors by everyone when six (6) ft. physical distancing cannot be maintained.*

## 4. Transition from Remote Work to Onsite Work

IBS remote working protocols will remain in effect while plans for returning to onsite work are being completed. Most staff will be asked to continue to carry out their work responsibilities at home, while doing only essential work at the IBS offices.

IBS wishes to make the transition from remote work to onsite work environments as smooth, flexible and collaborative as possible. All staff will have the opportunity to discuss their individual transition plans with their supervisors.

As we draw closer to reopening the IBS offices and campus, we will provide you with more details about the plans and policies. In the meantime, please let us know if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions.

In Gassho,



David R. Matsumoto  
President



Scott A. Mitchell  
Dean of Students & Faculty Affairs