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SEMINARY AND GRADUATE SCHOOL
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**POLICIES AND PROTOCOLS FOR REOPENING IBS OFFICES AND CAMPUS
UPDATED - February 1, 2022**

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our lives, with infections from the Omicron variant still occurring throughout the country. Although rates of COVID infections have begun to wane in the Bay Area lately, uncertainty remains. We believe that reasonable caution must still be exercised by everyone. As a result, IBS has updated and will continue to review its Reopening Policy to be in accord with the guidelines of the CDC, CAL OSHA, the departments of public health of the State of California, County of Alameda and City of Berkeley, and the BCA.

Spring 2022 Semester Classes

A. IBS classes

- 1) All IBS will be offered remotely at the outset of the Spring 2022 semester.
- 2) Currently, there are plans to transition certain classes to in-person modalities at the Jodo Shinshu Center during the week of February 21-25, 2022.
- 3) This policy will be subject to review as we continue to monitor the COVID infection rates in the Bay Area, as well as the guidelines of appropriate health agencies and the BCA.

B. In-person classes on GTU or UCB campus

- 1) Students and faculty wishing to participate in on-campus, in-person classes will be required to provide proof of full vaccination. All students and instructors must comply with masking requirements.
- 2) This provision will pertain to all students and faculty across the GTU consortium, as well as UC Berkeley.

Remote Work Environment

A. All IBS faculty, staff, and students are instructed to work remotely, as possible.

- 1) Therefore, the Protocols for IBS Working Environment During the 2020 Covid-19 Crisis, Revised July 17, 2020, will remain in effect until further notice.
- 2) Please ask us for a copy of the protocol if you do not have one.

B. Staff may enter the IBS offices at the Jodo Shinshu Center in order to engage in essential work.

- 1) "Essential work" will be determined by your supervisor, the Dean or the President of IBS.
- 2) Prior to entering IBS facilities, please obtain approval from your supervisor and give notice to JSC management.
- 3) Everyone who wishes to enter IBS facilities must abide by the requirements set forth below.

C. This policy will be subject to review as we continue to monitor the COVID infection rates in the Bay Area, as well as the guidelines of appropriate health agencies and the BCA.

Requirements for Entry into IBS Offices and Campus

- A. All persons (staff, faculty, students, others) who wish to enter IBS facilities must first complete the Sign-in Certification Sheet at the guard's station and pass a temperature check.

- B. IBS will maintain records of the presence of all persons in IBS facilities and classrooms for contact tracing purposes.
- C. Proof of vaccination
- 1) All persons will be required to provide proof of full vaccination and the receipt of a vaccine booster shot prior to entering to IBS offices, classrooms, or facilities.
 - “Full vaccination” means that persons must have completed the primary series of Pfizer, Moderna or J&J vaccine AND have been boosted.
 - 2) Verification of vaccination status shall be made by presenting an official vaccination card, an image of an official vaccine card or a health care document showing vaccination status to the President, Dean, or your supervisor, or in the case of students, to the Registrar.
 - 3) IBS will maintain in trust a copy of those documents.
- D. At this time, the Kitchen and Dining Room facilities will remain closed until further notice.
- E. Mask Requirements
- 1) Masks are required for everyone, regardless of vaccination status, when indoors at IBS offices, classrooms, or facilities.
 - a) Everyone must wear a medical grade, KN95 or N95 grade mask.
 - b) Cloth masks are not acceptable.
 - 2) 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.
 - 3) IBS will provide appropriate masks to staff, instructors, students, and visitors upon request as they enter IBS facilities
 - 4) IBS also encourages everyone to acquire free N95 masks at designed community health centers (<https://bphc.hrsa.gov/emergency-response/covid-19-n95-masks/participants>) or at pharmacies such as CVS or Walgreens. Walmart and Sam’s Club will start distributing free masks in mid-February.

Testing Requirements

- A. Although IBS will not require proof of a negative COVID test result in order to enter an IBS facility at this time, we strongly encourage persons who have tested positive for COVID, regardless of vaccination status and whether symptomatic or not, or anyone who came into contact with a person who had tested positive for COVID within the past ten days to follow CDC guidelines to isolate themselves and take a COVID test.
- B. See: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html> .
- C. IBS encourages everyone to acquire free at-home COVID test kits, which are available from the US government at the following site: <https://www.covidtests.gov> .

In Gassho,



David R. Matsumoto
President



Scott A. Mitchell
Dean of Students & Faculty Affairs