



Statement Regarding Covid, Summer 2022

As we prepare for a new academic year, I wanted to remind everyone about IBS's existing covid policies and procedures. Even though vaccines and treatments are more available, the pandemic has not ended. We are committed to the health and safety of our community, and this includes not only faculty and students, but the broader community of residents and tenants at the Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC) here in Berkeley. As city and county regulations have shifted and changed over the months, the IBS's and BCA's policies have remained consistent and [can be found on our website](#). In sum:

- Anyone entering an IBS facility (including both the IBS dorm and the JSC) is required to be fully vaccinated. Proof of vaccination should be sent directly to your supervisor or IBS Registrar, Helen Tagawa.
- Despite loosening indoor masking requirements in Alameda County, the BCA requires masks inside the JSC where IBS classes will be held. Additionally, students and faculty are required to sign in upon entrance to the JSC to aid in contact tracing in the event of an outbreak.
- If you have any signs of illness or have come into contact with someone who has tested positive, you should not come to IBS but remain home, get rest, and get tested.

Whereas most of [our courses](#) during the fall semester will be offered online to accommodate those students enrolled in distance programs, a handful of courses will be offered on site here in Berkeley. Some of these courses will have a hybrid option allowing distance students to join via Zoom. Whether or not a class has a hybrid option is at the discretion of the faculty of record. Please reach out to individual faculty directly via email with questions about how their courses will be offered. And please note that if a class is offered in a hybrid format, distance students will still be expected to join the class at its scheduled time here in Berkeley. *Hybrid courses will not have an asynchronous option.*

All degree and certificate program students will have access to the GTU Library and its digital resources. Please contact Helen Tagawa for more information on how to get library access, and then contact the GTU librarians for additional support.

IBS will be hosting a hybrid orientation on August 31, 2022 to welcome all students to the start of a new academic year. We're looking forward to meeting everyone in person or virtually. Please feel free to reach out to me or Ms. Tagawa with any questions or concerns about IBS's covid policies.

Scott Mitchell, Dean