Health and Safety FAQ

What is the Student Emergency Relief Fund and how can I apply for it?

The IMSA Fund has established the IMSA Emergency Student Relief Fund to provide financial assistance to our student families who are struggling with essential expenses, as well as access to technology for distance learning. Parents of IMSA students may apply to the IMSA Emergency Relief Fund so long as there are funds available to support the program. Priority will be given to Tier 0, 1 and 2 students, or families who have been impacted by the pandemic.

Will students and staff, including faculty need to provide their own face masks? What if I inadvertently forget to bring it to class/work on a given day?

All students and employees will need to have their own supply of masks. Each student will be provided with a box of 50 disposable masks for emergencies. Additionally, an emergency supply of face masks will be made available in the following locations on campus for those that need a mask: Security Office, Residential Counselor (RC), Office in each Residence Hall, Attendance Office, and the Health Office.

What type of mask is acceptable?

The type of masks that are acceptable will be covered in the pre-repopulation to campus training. Correct mask wearing guidelines and mask selection are further detailed here.

What if I have a condition that prevents me from wearing a mask?

Individuals with a medical condition, disability, or religious belief and/or practice may seek a reasonable accommodation for any health and safety guidelines. Students needing an accommodation should contact the Office of Student Affairs. Staff, including faculty, should contact the Office of Human Resources (hr@imsa.edu).

What should I do if I see a student or employee violate IMSA's COVID-19 rules and regulations?

For student non-compliance, the staff member identifying the violation should immediately speak to the student and correct the behavior. Staff should follow the process that will be covered in more detail in employee pre-population training to include sending an email to the Chief Hearing Officer who will keep a record of all student incidents. Students may report their student peer violations through the LiveSafe App.

Employees who witness other colleagues violating COVID-19 rules and regulations should report it directly to the Office of Human Resources. Alternatively, if they prefer, they can report it through the LiveSafe app. Students can use the LiveSafe app to report (anonymously, if they

wish) any violations they witness among IMSA staff, or they can also report it to the Human Resources Office. Together, all IMSA staff, including faculty, will be responsible for following these same guidelines.

How will students and employees be monitored for symptoms?

The LiveSafe App will be used for daily check ins before the employee leaves home, or the student leaves the residence hall. Use of the app and a review of symptoms will be part of mandatory pre-re-population training for students and staff prior to return to campus. In addition, students' temperatures will be taken at the entrance/exit of the residence halls a minimum of twice a day. It will be required before leaving the hall for the main building in the morning and recommended to be repeated around dinner time, but required again by 7:00 p.m. check.

If I am a student and not feeling well, what should I do?

If the student wakes up in the morning and is not feeling well, the student should not report to the RC office or the main academic building in person. The student will be responsible for calling the Health Office at 630.907.5008. A message should be left on the voicemail for purposes of timed documentation. The student should remain in their residence hall room and wait for further direction from the Health Office.

If the student falls ill during the day and is in the main building, they should report to the Health Office as soon as possible. If the student is not able to get to the Health Office by themselves, the Health Office should be notified to come to the student and escort the student to the Health Office.

If the student develops an illness when the nurse is not in the Health Office (evenings and weekends), the student should call the RC office to report their situation. The student should not report to the RC office in person.

How will COVID-19 testing be done on campus?

IMSA has partnered with the Illinois Department of Public Health, Kane County Health Department, and Rush Copley Medical Center, to provide Abbott BinaxNOW rapid Covid 19 antigen testing on campus. Rapid testing will be conducted on staff, including faculty and students.

This test uses a nasal swab that is collected from the front (anterior) part of both nostrils. The swab is gently rotated inside the nostril 5 times on each side, with insertion of no more than 1 inch in depth.

Testing will take place in Room B101 across from the health office. Staff, including faculty, and students must wait in the testing room until the test is completed. The test takes 15 minutes to process after collection. The nurse will give confidential results to the individual.

Students will be assigned specific days and times for testing that do not conflict with their class schedules. This information will be communicated to students via email and included in PowerSchool. Faculty will be assigned testing days and times by the Principal's Office. Residence Life staff will be assigned by Student Affairs. All other staff will be assigned by Human Resources.

What happens if I test negative for COVID-19?

You may proceed through the Academy following social distance guidelines, mask wearing and frequent handwashing.

What happens if I test positive for COVID-19?

If a student has a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19, the Health Office will advise that the student be relocated to the isolation wing. If the student is in the residence hall room, they will be sent directly to an isolation room and will not be allowed to return to their room. They will need to take all personal items with them. If the student is in the main building, the student will be sent directly to an isolation room from the Health Office.

Per the repopulation plan, parents will be required to pick up their student and will be allowed to go to the student's room to gather all personal belongings in a single trip.

Employees should collect their personal items from their work space and immediately exit the building. Once you get outside, you should call your supervisor to notify of your positive test results. Your supervisor will notify the contact tracing team who will call you within 24 hours with further directions.

Resident Counselors and Area Coordinators should immediately exit the main building and call the administrator on call for reassignment to a room in the isolation wing. Do not return to your hall or go into any other buildings on campus.

If I test positive for COVID-19, what type of contact tracing process should I follow?

HIPPA and FERPA guidelines will be followed unless there is a health or safety risk to the IMSA community. Trained contact tracers from IMSA will contact all students and employees that are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms within 24 hours of notice and continue to communicate with the individual every 36-48 hours during the illness. All personal or confidential information collected for contact tracing will remain confidential. Employees should report symptoms to their supervisor when not reporting to work. Circumstances that need to be reported include:
- Close contact with a positive case defined as within six feet for 15 minutes
- Anyone who lives in the individuals home
- Anyone who had contact with the individual's respiratory secretions (shared food or beverage with individual)

Where can I submit my negative COVID-19 results required for repopulation?
When students arrive on campus to move in, the IMSA School Nurses are able to conduct COVID-19 nasal swab rapid tests for students. Students should arrive 30 minutes prior to their scheduled move in time if they plan to be tested on campus.

If you prefer to be tested prior to traveling to campus for move in, students may also provide a negative test result from a test taken three to five days prior to the scheduled move in date. Proof of a negative test result can be either emailed to IMSA's Student Health Office at nurse@imsa.edu or faxed to 630.907.5938.

Where can I get a Covid-19 test off campus prior to arrival?
IMSA is able to offer COVID-19 tests on campus when students arrive to move in. If you prefer to be tested prior to traveling to campus to move in, you can contact your primary care physician and request testing. You may need to explain that testing is required for moving into a residential school.

Alternatively, there are free IDPH clinics throughout the state of Illinois that have drive thru testing. Please visit https://www.dph.illinois.gov/testing for site locations and details. You will need to provide an email address to have results sent to you.

Our current IMSA Student Handbook recommends sending students home with a temperature of 100.0° F or greater. The CDC guidance says 100.4° F or greater. Which temperature guideline will be used when determining when to send the student home?
The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) defines a fever as a temperature greater than 100.0° F. The IMSA student handbook follows the guidelines from the IDPH. Any student or staff member with a temperature greater than 100.0° F will be sent home until they meet the IDPH guidelines for return to school based on the condition for which they are diagnosed.