



# HEALTH AND SAFETY

## Peer Review Visits to Campuses During the COVID-19 Pandemic

HLC prioritizes the health and safety of peer reviewers, institutional representatives and staff during the global pandemic. The following framework has been developed to guide institutional representatives and peer reviewers participating in HLC evaluations.

### PEER REVIEWERS ARE VOLUNTEERS

As always, reviewers may cancel their participation in a visit at any time. During this public health crisis, reviewers are responsible for making informed and responsible decisions about their own health and safety. Should a peer reviewer not feel well or have a concern for their safety, HLC asks that you ask to be removed from the evaluation activity entirely or from the onsite visit portion of the evaluation.

Reviewers that have volunteered to visit a campus are expected to participate as responsible citizens.

Reviewers are asked to follow their own personal safety guidelines, as well as the guidelines established by the institution they are visiting.

HLC recommends that peer reviewers follow current [CDC guidelines](#) and any requirements set forth by local public health authorities with respect to issues such as social distancing and facial coverings while traveling on HLC activities. Where possible, reviewers are encouraged to drive by car for a visit and to limit air travel. Reviewers may avoid overnight stays if the reviewer can complete the on-campus verification

in a few hours or a single day. The reviewer is not required to be on campus for the total visit time, but rather the minimum period of time needed to verify the team's findings.

HLC recommends that peer reviewers engage in a dialog with institutional representatives regarding safety in their preparation for the visit. Safety guidelines should be transparent between the team members and the institution they are visiting.

HLC recommends that peer reviewers be aware of:

- Public health authority recommendations and rules in the place they are visiting; and
- Travel restrictions and their ability to comply with those restrictions.



#### Positive COVID-19 Tests

If a peer reviewer tests positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of visiting an HLC member campus, please inform HLC immediately at [peerreview@hlcommission.org](mailto:peerreview@hlcommission.org). HLC will coordinate communication between the reviewer and the hosting institution.