



HEALTH AND SAFETY

Peer Review Visits During the 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 during the pandemic.

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 they contact peerreview@hlcommission.org to discuss options.

Reviewers visiting an institution 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. Mode of travel is up to the peer reviewer's discretion. If using air travel, HLC recommends that peer reviewers follow guidelines set by their chosen airline.

HLC recommends that team chairs engage in a dialogue with institutional representatives regarding safety in their preparation for the team 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 guidelines for 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 or location, please inform HLC immediately at peerreview@hlcommission.org. HLC will coordinate communication between the reviewer and the hosting institution.

VACCINATION STATUS

HLC does not require that peer reviewers obtain a COVID-19 vaccine in order to participate in an in-person evaluation. HLC will not ask peer reviewers about their vaccination status, and will not otherwise track a peer reviewer's vaccination information.