



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM

COVID-19 Flexible Work Arrangements for Employees

August 2020

The University of Illinois System is committed to ensuring that all employees have flexibility in their work arrangements to the maximum extent possible, within the context of their job duties and the operations of their department/unit. This includes, and is not limited to, remote work arrangements, alternative scheduling, and other adjustments to the work environment.

All departments and units are directed to adopt highly flexible work arrangements for employees. In other words, supervisors will offer flexible work arrangements to employees, who will be able to opt-in to such offered arrangements without having to provide a reason or share any personal or medical information.

In addition, if an employee has a need for flexible work arrangements that exceeds the level of flexibility already granted by their department/unit, the employee may go to their supervisor and request the flexibility they need. Supervisors may grant flexibility requests at their discretion, except to the extent they are due to an employee’s own medical condition, history, or risk factors (see below), and are encouraged to do so when consistent with departmental operations.

The following flowchart will assist in determining where to seek the appropriate guidance and process, as some arrangements need to be vetted through the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) interactive process. Guidance from federal and state public health organizations and university operational needs is subject to change.

Does the employee need flexible work arrangements that <u>exceed</u> the maximum available flexibility offered by the department?	
Individual Employee Medical Request	Employee Request Based on Age or Household
Request is due to the employee’s own medical condition, medical history, or risk factors :	Request is due to other COVID-related needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employee is age 65+ • Employee’s childcare or other caregiver obligations • Employee’s household member has a medical condition, medical history, or risk factors
↓	↓
Employee may request additional flexibility from their supervisor based on medical issues. Employee is not obligated to share medical information including their diagnosis with their supervisor and should not provide medical documentation to their supervisor. For these types of requests, Employee has the right to contact the ADA division in their campus OAE unit to discuss options including the appropriate accommodations process and the possibility of an interim accommodation without medical documentation.	The employee should communicate their request to their supervisor. The unit can work with the employee on these special arrangements. The unit should consult with the appropriate HR office as needed, especially when job duties are not conducive to remote work.

<p>For all employee requests, supervisors should grant maximum available flexibility. If this is not sufficient to meet the employee’s need stemming from medical issues, remind the employee that they can speak confidentially with the ADA Coordinator if there is an underlying medical condition, medical history or risk factor.</p> <p>Supervisors should not discuss medical information or request medical documentation from the employee.</p>	
<p>RESPONSIBLE OFFICE:</p> <p>ADA division of each university Office of Access and Equity/Equal Opportunity or System HR. (See list below.)</p>	<p>RESPONSIBLE OFFICE:</p> <p>Unit and the appropriate HR office. (See list below.)</p>
<p>If the above steps are not successful at reaching a suitable flexible-work arrangement for the employee, the employee can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • apply for Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) for use of emergency benefits (including Emergency FML Expansion Act benefits) as applicable https://www.hr.uillinois.edu/leave/coronavirus_response_act • apply for standard FMLA as applicable https://www.hr.uillinois.edu/leave/fmla • use benefit time • consider unpaid, excused leave if all other options are exhausted 	

Accommodations for Masks and Face Coverings

If an employee has an underlying medical condition that prevents them from wearing a disposable mask or cloth face covering (as required by campus policies), they should contact the ADA division to engage in the interactive accommodations process.

Employees who medically need a N95 mask must work with the ADA division.

Supervisors should direct employees to ADA division if they identify this need.

	ADA Division Contacts	Human Resources Contacts
Urbana	Allison Kushner, J.D. akushner@uillinois.edu 217.300.0355	Labor & Employee Relations ihr-ler@uillinois.edu 217.333.3105
Chicago	Justin O’Sullivan justino@uic.edu 312.996.0512	Michael Ginsburg ginsburg@uic.edu 312.413.9416
Springfield	Deanie Brown, J.D. deaniejd@uis.edu 217.206.6222	Office of Human Resources uishr@uis.edu 217.206.6652
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