Update on the Policy for the Safety and Protection of Minors on Campus

In a typical year, thousands of minors visit our campus for academic enrichment and other programs. They enjoy our public venues like the Harvard Art Museum and the Arnold Arboretum. They participate in summer athletic programs. They conduct valuable work and learn in our research facilities. They are also part of our growing community in Allston with programs at the Harvard Ed Portal.

Nothing about the past 18 months has been typical and this will continue to be the case as we address the evolving impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic while prioritizing the safe in-person return of more community members back to campus this fall to resume academics, research, and work. The University’s current COVID-19 testing protocols will prevent many minors from being on campus and curtail in-person programming, for now. Our current self-tests can only be administered by people 18 years of age or older. Please see the Keep Harvard Healthy site for exact details.

As a reminder, specific restrictions currently in effect regarding minors on campus include:

1) A minor, for purposes of this guidance, is anyone under the age of 18 who is not an enrolled Harvard student.
2) Accompanied minors are permitted on campus in public spaces and must have constant adult supervision.
3) Persons on campus more than 7 days/year must enroll in the COVID viral testing program. Due to conditions of the test collection and analysis, only adults and matriculated Harvard students can self-test and adhere to the University’s current testing and reporting protocols.
4) Minors participating in allowed, in-person activities (must be under 7 days/year) must adhere to the University’s masking, vaccination and other public health requirements. Minors, other than matriculated Harvard students, are not permitted to work on campus at this time.

Additionally, minors are not permitted in the workplace as an alternative to childcare. The University recognizes that staff continue to face challenges balancing school, work, parenting, and other daily obligations. Parents/Guardians may consider some of the Harvard programs to support employees with children. For more information on flexwork at Harvard, please visit Harvard’s Flexwork Resources. Employees with family-care responsibilities may also explore back-up dependent care and distance-learning support resources. Questions about this policy limiting minors on campus should be directed to local manager and corresponding Human Resources Representative or Dean.

To review the Minors Policy please visit the Youth Protection website.