

Health & Safety Update

Subject: Mask Requirements and Access Restrictions Extended through October 4



September 10, 2021

Dear Members of the University Community,

In late August, we announced a requirement that masks be worn indoors regardless of vaccination status and that campus access would be restricted. Since the announcement, we have continued to monitor case activity in Lackawanna and surrounding counties. **Because activity remains high, we have decided to extend the following mask requirement and access restrictions at least through Monday, October 4:**

Mask Requirements

- **Indoors:** Masks are **required** for all indoor spaces **regardless of vaccination status** for students, employees, visitors and guests (e.g. contractors, etc.).
- **Dining on Campus:** Members of the University community are reminded to **put masks on again after eating or drinking on campus.**
- **Study Rooms:** Masks are not required when **students** are alone in study rooms. **Masks must be worn when more than one student is in a study room.**
- **Residence Halls:** Students in University residence halls must follow the guidance provided on the following webpage: [Face Coverings in Residence Halls](#).
- **Offices and Shared Work Spaces:** Employees and work study students do not need to wear a mask if they are **alone in personal office space or work area**. Masks **must be worn** whenever offices or work areas are shared.
- **Outdoors:** Fully vaccinated individuals are not required to wear masks outside. Individuals who are not fully vaccinated must wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.
- Individuals may continue wearing masks at all times if they wish.

- **Guidance on Masks:** Note that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides **specific guidance on selecting and properly wearing masks.**

Public Access to Campus

- Campus is closed to the general public with the following exceptions:
 - Admissions tours and guests;
 - Parents and family members;
 - Spectators at athletic events;
 - Invited speakers or guests for meetings and events;
 - Contractors and other campus service providers;
 - Fully vaccinated guests in University residence halls (registration required).
- Campus buildings are accessed by Royal Card only.

Once again, these provisions will remain in place **at least through Monday, October 4.** We will announce any continuation or change on or before that date.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Davis Jr., Ed.D.
Vice President for Student Life

Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D.
Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Patricia Tetreault
Vice President for Human Resources