



Dear Members of the University Community,

As we begin the fall 2022 semester, we wanted to highlight adaptations made to University's Campus Health and Safety protocols related to the pandemic. These changes are informed by U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance [released on August 11](#) to minimize the impact of COVID-19.

Campus Reporting and Communication

The most current and comprehensive information regarding these protocols can be found on the University's [Campus Health and Safety website](#). Links to this page can be found on the University's [About Us page](#) and the [Student Health Services page](#).

Campus health and safety updates will be sent as needed rather than on a weekly basis. Reports of positive cases for students and employees will be tracked with weekly updates posted to the [Reporting and Supplies page](#) of the Campus Health and Safety website.

Contact Tracing and Mandatory Reporting

Following a shift in the CDC's recommended strategy for managing SARS-CoV-2 exposures, which calls for case investigation and contact tracing "...only in health care settings and certain high-risk congregate settings (e.g. long-term care facilities, correctional facilities and homeless shelters)," Student Life and Human Resources will discontinue contact tracing for students and employees, respectively.

Students and employees must report positive cases to Student Health Services and Human Resources, respectively, and will be given guidance when reporting about how best to inform individuals with whom they may have been in close contact. Faculty will continue to be notified of student COVID-related absences through the Provost's Office. Faculty will be notified of all other excused student absences by their Dean's Office.

Isolation and Exposure

Isolation for Positive Cases: Following the CDC's updated guidance, infected persons must isolate if they receive a positive test. Students and employees must isolate at home. They may

end isolation after five days when they are without a fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medication and all other symptoms have improved. They should continue to wear a well-fitted, higher-grade mask around others through day 10.

Exposure to Someone Testing Positive: The CDC no longer recommends quarantine for exposed persons, regardless of vaccination status. Following the CDC's updated guidance, persons who have had recent confirmed or suspected exposure to an infected person should wear a well-fitted, higher-grade mask or double mask for 10 days around others when indoors in public. Individuals should secure a PCR test five days after exposure (or sooner, if they are symptomatic), irrespective of their vaccination status. Students and employees can get PCR testing through a [regional testing outlet](#).

Vaccine Exempted Individuals:

Individuals who have received an exemption from the University's vaccine requirement will no longer be required to participate in weekly campus-based PCR testing and will no longer be required to use the wellness screening application.

Other Portions of Plan Continue

Other portions of the Campus Health and Safety plan remain unchanged for the fall semester. [Vaccine requirements](#) for employees and students attending classes on campus remain in effect, with booster shots highly recommended for individuals following CDC eligibility guidelines. The campus remains [open to the general public](#). [In-person student internships, community service and community-based learning participation](#) are permitted on- and off-campus. Students must follow pandemic safety protocols as required by their internship or volunteer service host site.

[Indoor masking in all campus buildings remains optional](#) for all members of the University community and guests regardless of vaccination status. Please note, **instructors can require that well-fitted, higher-grade masks** or double masks be worn in instructional spaces (e.g. classrooms, laboratories). **Employees and students can also require individuals to wear well-fitted, higher-grade masks** or double masks in their personal workspaces or residence hall rooms, respectively. No explanation is required for these requests. **Individuals are free to continue wearing masks at all times should they wish to do so.**

Higher-grade masks are available for students through the Printing & Mailing Services, at 315 Jefferson Avenue, during the day and at University Police in the Parking Pavilion in the evenings. **Departments can continue to obtain masks and other personal protective equipment** by completing an [online ordering form](#) and emailing it to the Purchasing Department.

[HVAC adjustments made in response to COVID](#) will remain in place and personal air purifiers distributed on campus to residence halls and offices without HVAC systems will continue to be maintained.

The University will continue to monitor developments and will adjust our response accordingly if needed.

We wish you all the best for the upcoming academic year and look forward to your return to campus.

Sincerely,

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

Michelle Maldonado, Ph.D.
Interim Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Patricia L. Tetreault
Vice President for Human Resources