



The Return of the Flock

EMAIL TO THE WASHINGTON COLLEGE COMMUNITY – 4/1/22

To the Washington College Community,

Effective immediately, we are returning to an indoor mask mandate on campus. This means that indoor mask-wearing is once again REQUIRED by all individuals, regardless of vaccination status.

Cases on campus have continued to increase over the past several days, and out of an abundance of caution and in an effort to stop the spread of the virus, we are implementing a return to mask-wearing indoors. Currently, we have 19 positive cases among students.

Other factors that contributed to this decision are our capacity within Quarantine & Isolation housing, which is nearing 50%, and the fact that the positive cases are not isolated to any particular group, residence hall or athletic team. They are random and spread throughout the entire campus community which warrants a broader campus mitigation strategy. The one common denominator we are seeing is that these are all symptomatic cases, meaning the individuals are coming in to be tested because they feel unwell. So if you are experiencing any symptoms at all, please make an appointment to get tested ASAP and wear your mask at all times, from the onset of symptoms.

It is also worth mentioning that other viruses – flu and strep – are circulating and mask-wearing will also help to decrease the spread of those illnesses.

We are heading into a busy and exciting time on campus, with major events like Birthday Ball and Commencement on the horizon. It is in the best interest of campus to re-institute the mask mandate now in an effort to stop the spread and ensure that we can proceed with all spring activities as planned.

One note to facility managers – please take a moment to update your signage by flipping the double-sided sign around to indicate that masks are now required.

If you need a new mask, we have a supply of KN95/N95 masks still available. You can pick one up from any of the following locations:

- Residential Life Office
- LAT
- Writing Center/OAS/Quantitative Skill
- SGA Office
- Student Affairs Office

Most of the Faculty Admins also have supplies of masks for any faculty who would like to have extras on hand. More are available, so any admins who would like a supply can pick them up in Student Affairs.

We are optimistic that reinstating the mask mandate will be effective in nipping this in the bud now. We greatly appreciate your compliance with this policy and remind you that it is required and instances of non-compliance by students will be referred to Student Conduct and non-compliance by employees will be referred to the appropriate supervisor.



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We will continue to monitor the situation daily, and will advise when we feel it is safe to return to the mask-optional policy.