From: <u>McWilliams, Matthew</u>

To: All Faculty, Staff & Contract Employees

Subject: Covid-19 Campus Update

Date: Thursday, April 14, 2022 11:05:12 AM

Campus community,

A few quick notes as we look ahead to the final few weeks of classes this spring. I want to touch base regarding the current Covid-19 guidelines and what we expect for the rest of this semester and beyond.

Face Coverings

The mandatory face coverings policy currently in place for indoor classrooms will remain in place through the final two weeks of classes and final exams. We have made this decision in light of the importance of a consistent policy across campus. Also, while conditions are much improved overall, there has been some increase lately in cases in Virginia and nationwide.

However, after final exams this Spring, we expect Longwood's policy to be mask-optional in all indoor spaces (including classrooms) going forward. That will include summer terms and next Fall Semester.

Of course we will continue to monitor public health conditions and consult with local and state health officials, and will adjust our policies if necessary. But our hope and expectation is to be fully mask-optional going forward.

Undergraduate commencement will take place outdoors in the traditional setting and format on Wheeler Mall. The graduate ceremony will again take place this year outdoors on Stubbs Mall.

There is no face covering requirement for the ceremonies.

Curative Testing Facility

The Curative testing facility at Longwood Landings will close after Friday, April 15. They have been a helpful resource for the community and university when tests were scarce earlier this semester and case rates were much higher, but demand has fallen and tests are again widely available, including at the University Health Center.

Vaccines

The University Health Center will stop offering Covid-19 vaccinations at the end of the semester. There are ample places in Farmville and the surrounding communities where both initial shots and boosters are available on a walk-in basis. If conditions change, the UHC is prepared to again become a provider of vaccination and/or booster shots.

On a final note, I'd like to thank our community for navigating the challenges of the past several

semesters with grace and cooperation. We have made it to this point because of your vigilance and commitment to each other, which has been remarkable. Thank you and enjoy the beautiful spring weather.

Thank you,

Matthew McWilliams
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