

Good afternoon faculty, staff, and students,

I am sharing with you an update on Covid-19 health guidelines for our community as we prepare to begin the academic year.

Face Covering Policy

As always, we are closely monitoring changing public health conditions and guidance. Recently, the CDC updated guidance to recommend face coverings in indoor public settings, regardless of vaccination status.

In accordance with that guidance and effective tomorrow, Friday, Aug. 6, Longwood is reinstating our indoor face coverings policy, applying to classrooms and indoor public spaces, for all faculty, students, staff and visitors.

General exceptions to this indoor face covering policy are:

- Your personal room in your residence hall or Longwood-managed apartment. You are not required to wear a face covering while in your room.
- The private offices of faculty and staff. Employees may require that anyone who enters their office wear a face covering; however, they are not required to wear a face covering while alone in their office.
- Specific areas of campus may have different policies. You can find information about those specific cases at [longwood.edu/covid19](https://www.longwood.edu/covid19).

For those who are vaccinated, we intend to step back from some or all of the indoor face covering requirements as soon as conditions allow. We will continue to work closely with state and local health officials to review our community health guidelines and will revise them as we are able.

Those who are unvaccinated, or students who have otherwise not confirmed their vaccination status via the student form at <https://www.longwood.edu/covid19/vaccinestatus/>, should expect to be required to wear face coverings indoors potentially for the rest of the academic year.

Vaccination Reporting

Most students have completed the vaccination verification form. If you have not, please do so promptly at <https://www.longwood.edu/covid19/vaccinestatus/>.

Additional campus guidelines

This year will be more normal than last in important ways, with most community members vaccinated, and campus guidelines will reflect that, even if we have to make adjustments such as today's face covering announcement. If you are not yet vaccinated, there is still time. Please consider the advantages -- beyond, of course, your own health and that of the Longwood community:

- Students who have not confirmed they are vaccinated may be required to be regularly tested
- Students will need to quarantine, likely in ARC Hall or at home, if contact exposed.

- Students who have not confirmed they are vaccinated will face restrictions on participation in club sports, including mandatory testing. You can find a complete list of club sports and intramural restrictions at www.longwood.edu/Covid19.

As we were last year, we will continue to be in touch. Our current policies have been updated at www.longwood.edu/Covid19, which also includes links to information on local vaccine providers, all of which are free of charge. There is still time to get vaccinated before classes begin.

State Employee Vaccination Requirement

Today, Gov. Northam announced that all state employees are required to be vaccinated by Sept. 1. More information will be communicated as it is available by Human Resources.

If you have questions about these guidelines, please email questions@longwood.edu.

Thanks,

Matthew McWilliams
AVP, Communications
Longwood University