

Subject: Dean's Update
Date: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 2:37:24 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: CFAES Office of the Vice President and Dean
To: CFAES Office of the Vice President and Dean via Cfaes-all
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png

CFAES Community,

As you saw in [President Johnson's email](#) yesterday, Ohio State continues to respond to changes in public health guidance. In accordance with public health guidelines, Ohio State has adjusted its mask requirements:

- **Indoor masking:** Effective August 2, 2021, students, faculty, staff and visitors to all Ohio State campuses and medical facilities are required to wear masks indoors, regardless of their vaccination status.
- **Outdoor masking:** Masks are required outdoors for unvaccinated individuals when they cannot maintain physical distancing. Vaccinated people are not required to mask outdoors.

The guidance outlined below applies to Columbus and Wooster campuses as well as buildings owned by the university on the Statewide campus.

For county-based Extension (including 4-H youth events and club meetings) follow local guidance, (i.e., local health department, local landlord or building requirements, etc.), even when local guidance is more stringent.

Mask Guidelines

LOCATION	FULLY VACCINATED	NOT FULLY VACCINATED
Indoor public spaces – including classrooms, research labs, offices, campus buildings, recreation centers, dining facilities, residence halls, childcare centers, meeting and event space	Masks required	Masks required
Outdoor public spaces	Masks not required	Masks required
Transportation – including CABS and shuttle buses	Masks required	Masks required
Wexner Medical Center clinical facilities (including the Nisonger Childcare Center), Student Health facilities and colleges and units with public facing clinical operations	Masks required	Masks required

We recognize this new requirement raises questions and additional uncertainties, we will continue to clarify guidance and appreciate your continued flexibility as we receive additional information. It is also possible that guidance could change as the semester gets underway or other conditions change, so we should be prepared for future updates. Please continue to visit safeandhealthy.osu.edu for the most up-to-date university guidance.

Be well.
Dean Cathann Kress

Update Includes:

- General CFAES FAQs
- Teaching FAQs
- Vaccination Reporting Deadline is Thursday
- COVID-19 Case Reporting Reminder

General CFAES FAQs

1. Do I have to wear masks in my office when I'm alone?

Guidelines will be the same as before:

- **Mask Use Indoors**

Masks on: Masks are required in both public and common spaces within all university owned buildings.

Masks off: Masks can be removed when you are ALONE in your own personal offices with the door closed.

- **Mask Use Outdoors**

Masks on: All unvaccinated individuals must wear masks outdoors when they cannot maintain 6-foot physical distancing.

Masks off: Vaccinated individuals are not required to wear masks outdoors.

2. What about FSR? Will everyone have to wear masks?

It is too soon to determine any changes to the current plan for Farm Science Review (FSR) on September 21-23 – and at this time, no mask-wearing guidance has been announced for the event. Information will be shared with CFAES employees, as well as exhibitors and attendees, if and when, any new instructions are issued for the use of masks or physical distancing on the FSR grounds or within any of the exhibit areas and educational buildings. Will also consult on local guidance from Madison County Health Department.

3. Are masks required at fairs?

Ohio State Fair 4-H Project Judging

Masks on: All youth and parents who enter the Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center for project judging must wear a mask. All OSU Extension employees who are assisting with project judging at the 4-H Center must wear a mask indoors.

Masks off: Masks are optional for youth and parents who enter the 4-H youth judging area at the

Ohio Expo Center. The Ohio Expo Center is not requiring the use of masks on-site at this time.

County and Independent Fairs

County and independent fairs work closely with Ohio 4-H and The Ohio State University, but they are separate entities and follow different guidance. When 4-H members and volunteers participate in junior fair activities on the fairgrounds, they follow guidance from these local partners, as ag societies have the responsibility for the junior fair. As of August 3, no new mask-wearing or other guidelines for fairs have been announced by the state of Ohio or the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

4. Do we have to wear masks in vehicles?

When you are alone, no mask is required. When you are not alone, masks are required in vehicles for University business. No limits on passengers at this time.

5. What is the guidance on other larger programs scheduled like field days?

At this time, there has not been a limit placed on the number of individuals participating in any indoor or outdoor events.

Teaching FAQs

FAQs on classrooms are available on the [teaching page](#) of the [Safe and Healthy Buckeyes website](#), which is constantly updated to provide up-to-date information about the university's response to COVID-19.

Vaccination Reporting Deadline is Thursday

All students, faculty and staff are required to report whether or not they have been vaccinated to the university by **Thursday, Aug. 5**. The university is collecting this information to inform decisions related to COVID-19 and to further enable contact tracing.

- Faculty and staff must report through the [Employee Vaccination form](#) — even if they were vaccinated through the Wexner Medical Center.
- Students must report through [My BuckMD](#), the health portal operated by Student Health Services.

Individual personal health information will not be shared publicly or directly with instructors, managers or leaders.

COVID-19 Case Reporting Reminder

As COVID-19 cases spike, we are reminding all faculty and staff of the importance to report cases (confirmed and suspected) to your HR Business Partners immediately. This will support efficient contact tracing and ensure employees are provided accurate and timely guidance regarding isolation or quarantine.

Note – to protect the privacy of all employees, this information should be sent directly to Brandi gilbert-hammitt.1@osu.edu and Nicole wakeley.5@osu.edu, CFAES HR Business Partners. They will provide any necessary updates regarding staffing changes needed, work from home and leave options, etc.

- **If you receive a report**, confirmed or unconfirmed, that a member of your team has been exposed to or has contracted COVID-19, please email Brandi gilbert-hammitt.1@osu.edu and Nicole wakeley.5@osu.edu.

- **Please include the following information:**
 - Full Name – if they use a nickname notate that
 - Employee ID
 - Dot number
 - Location of office
 - Location of work if different
 - Is this suspected or confirmed?
 - Timelines (when did they fall ill/when confirmed)
 - If person is hospitalized, where?
- Please also call the Wexner Medical Center’s COVID-19 call center at (614) 293-4000 for guidance. Do not call this line for general COVID-19 information.
 - This call number may give Columbus-centric advice - to that end, the most important thing you can do is report to Brandi and Nicole.
- **If you are personally experiencing signs or symptoms** of respiratory illness consistent with COVID-19, have been exposed to an individual with COVID-19 or have been diagnosed with the virus, you should contact your primary care physician. If you are unable to reach your primary care physician, call the Wexner Medical Center’s COVID-19 call center at (614) 293-4000 for guidance.

FAQ: Do faculty or staff need to report to their supervisor before they report to Nicole or Brandi?

- No, report directly to Brandi and Nicole immediately.

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