

Subject: Updates to COVID-19 Safety Guidelines
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From: CFAES Office of the Vice President and Dean
To: CFAES Office of the Vice President and Dean via Cfaes-all, uagr@lists.osu.edu, uati@lists.osu.edu, faes-grd@lists.osu.edu, uenr@lists.osu.edu
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png

CFAES Community,

Last week, Governor Mike DeWine [announced](#) that the state of Ohio's public health orders will be lifted, effective June 2. The university will continue to closely monitor guidance and adjust our safe and healthy protocols as needed.

Ohio State will be making the following adjustments to our mask requirements:

- **Outdoor masking:** Effective immediately, fully vaccinated people do not need to wear a mask outdoors on Ohio State campuses (including our statewide county offices, research stations and field labs). The university continues to strongly recommend that unvaccinated people wear masks when they cannot maintain safe distancing. Note that individuals are fully vaccinated 14 days after their final dose of vaccine.
- **Indoor masking:** Masks are still required indoors, with an exception for cases where individuals are working alone in their own office (not a shared work space). The university will continue to closely monitor conditions with hopes to lift the indoor mask requirement in the fall, if the vaccination rate among the university community is sufficiently high.

Please note we are continuing to seek guidance around some Statewide campus considerations, including Extension specific considerations (e.g., camps, fairs, and statewide office spaces), and will update you as information becomes available.

These changes are consistent with our approach throughout the pandemic to rely on science and the guidance of national, state, local and our own university public health and medical experts to determine safeguards for our community — given the residential nature of our university and the fact that many of our students live in congregate settings.

During summer term, students living in university housing or who are enrolled in courses on the Columbus campus will need to complete **weekly testing** at the Jesse Owens North testing facility. Students can [schedule testing appointments](#) in advance.

Take-home saliva test kits are available for faculty, staff and students on all campuses to complete each week. Click [here](#) for more information based on campus location. We are encouraging you to engage in regular at-home testing to keep yourself and those around you safe and healthy. Kits are also available at [various locations](#) around the state – including at local libraries.

The university has also revised **guidelines for passenger vehicles** (i.e., cars, vans, trucks). Guidance is as follows:

- Operate vehicle climate control fan in the “on” position set at outdoor air circulation with maximum flow rate.
- Keep all windows open enough for natural ventilation with constant air inflow and outflow.
- Occupants wear an appropriate face mask worn properly (extending snugly from bridge of nose to below chin)
- Limit passenger density per vehicle to less than capacity to ensure that there is minimum of one empty

passenger space between each passenger.

To date, CFAES has required an exemption assessment when more than one individual was planning to travel in a vehicle. Given this update, we will no longer require the assessment process be utilized by CFAES personnel when the University guidelines above are followed. An assessment by CFAES Safety and Compliance will still be required when travel plans would require exceeding the listed guidelines. Should you have any questions regarding the guidance or the revised exemption process, please reach out to Seth Walker (walker.439) or 330-263-3665.

Please note that the university is not planning to send email updates for all guidance changes to the Safe and Healthy Buckeyes website. As a result, it is a good idea to periodically check <https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu/> for updates.

Be well.

Dean Cathann Kress and Associate Dean Graham Cochran

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