

From: [Elizabeth Watkins](#)
To: [Jason Stajich](#); [Lucille Chia](#); [Philip L Brisk](#); [Theodore Garland](#); [Joseph E Kahne](#); [Declan F McCole](#); [Richard M Carpiano](#); [Subramanian Balachander](#)
Cc: [AssociateProvost](#); [Cherysa P Cortez](#); [krobinson@enr.ucr.edu](#); [Gabrielle Brewer](#); [Michelle Butler](#); [Ana Kafie](#); [Andrea.Morales@medsch.ucr.edu](#); [Jennifer Kelsheimer](#); [Vpdue](#); [Steven Mandeville-Gamble](#); [Deborah Deas](#)
Subject: Re: Request for recommendation on masking in classrooms
Date: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 11:19:29 AM
Attachments: [Provost to Senate re masking in classrooms \[1\].pdf](#)

Dear Colleagues,

I wanted to let you know that the campus [covid management workgroup](#), chaired by SOM Dean Deborah Deas, has recommended universal masking in classrooms. Your recommendation will be very important as we make decisions closer to the start of fall quarter. University Librarian Steve Mandeville-Gamble will be advising on masking in the libraries, and I've also asked VP and Dean Jennifer Brown to bring together a group of student advisers and other student-facing staff to advise on masking requirements elsewhere on campus. All of these recommendations will go to the covid management workgroup, which is coordinating the return-to-campus plan. I appreciate your careful consideration of the ever-changing circumstances in which we are living, and I will continue to send you relevant information as I receive it, so that the campus can come to a consensus by September. Thanks again for representing the faculty in this important matter.

Liz

From: Elizabeth Watkins <elizabeth.watkins@ucr.edu>
Date: Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 5:10 PM
To: Jason Stajich <jason.stajich@ucr.edu>, Lucille Chia <lucille.chia@ucr.edu>, Philip L Brisk <philip.brisk@ucr.edu>, Theodore Garland <theodore.garland@ucr.edu>, Joseph E Kahne <joseph.kahne@ucr.edu>, Declan F McCole <declan.mccole@ucr.edu>, Richard M Carpiano <richard.carpiano@ucr.edu>, Subramanian Balachander <subramanian.balachander@ucr.edu>
Cc: AssociateProvost <associateprovost@ucr.edu>, Cherysa P Cortez <cherysa.cortez@ucr.edu>, "krobinson@enr.ucr.edu" <krobinson@enr.ucr.edu>, Gabrielle Brewer <gabrielle.brewer@ucr.edu>, Michelle Butler <michelle.butler@ucr.edu>, Ana Kafie <ana.kafie@ucr.edu>, "Andrea.Morales@medsch.ucr.edu" <Andrea.Morales@medsch.ucr.edu>, Jennifer Kelsheimer <jennifer.kelsheimer@ucr.edu>
Subject: Request for recommendation on masking in classrooms

Dear Senate and School/Executive Committee colleagues,

Please see attached.

Sincerely,

Liz

Elizabeth Watkins, PhD (she/her/hers)
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor
UC Riverside

July 8, 2021

To: Jason Stajich, Chair of the Riverside Division
Chairs of the Faculty Executive Committees for the Schools and Colleges

Cc: Cherysa Cortez, Executive Director

From: Elizabeth Watkins, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

Dear Colleagues:

On June 23, the Chancellor communicated new Cal/OSHA guidance to campus, including the following:

- Fully vaccinated employees and students may work indoors without face coverings, except for staff in health care settings and programs with children under 12 years of age, per Cal/OSHA requirements.
- Unvaccinated employees and students must continue to wear masks indoors, unless alone in a room or a vehicle, and must remain at least six feet from others when eating or drinking indoors.

Based on these guidelines, there is no state requirement for the campus to implement a universal mask mandate (i.e. a requirement to wear a face covering regardless of vaccination status) for Fall quarter.

However, I would like to invite the faculty to opine on the question of universal masking in classrooms and other indoor instructional spaces (e.g. class labs and studios). Relevant information to consider includes the following:

- Physical distancing and barriers between workers are no longer required, regardless of vaccination status.
- There will be no occupancy limits beyond those required by fire code. This means that all worksites, including labs, can now operate at 100%. However, classes that have been assigned to larger-than-normal classrooms will remain in those rooms and faculty can manage the additional seating at their discretion (including increasing enrollment, if desired).
- Universal masking is not anticipated for campus offices/work spaces, research labs/studios, housing/dining facilities, libraries, or other indoor gathering sites.
- Increased transmission levels may require a return to masking and distancing, so increasing vaccination rates is critical.

I would be grateful to receive your recommendation before September 1.