



# The Universities

AT SHADY GROVE

Date: August 6, 2021  
To: USG Community  
From: USG Health and Safety Committee  
Subject: Requirement for Indoor Mask Wearing

Yesterday, the Montgomery County Council – acting in its capacity as the **County Board of Health** – approved a [new regulation to require that face coverings \(masks\) be worn indoors](#) in public when Montgomery County is deemed an area of “substantial transmission” of COVID-19.

As defined under CDC guidelines announced this week, a community reaches the “substantial transmission” level when its number of cases ranges between 50 and 99 per 100,000 residents for seven days. Virus transmission data within the county shows that this is currently the case.

**To comply with the Montgomery County order, which will take effect on Saturday, August 7, we must require now that everyone on campus wears a mask while indoors.** Masks will not be required when working alone in an office or classroom, when eating or drinking, or if a person has a physician-approved medical reason for not wearing one.

We understand that there will be some confusion over this change, as we had recently only required masks indoors on campus for persons who were not fully vaccinated. However, this newly approved regulation makes it a mandate for everyone to wear a mask, whether vaccinated or not.

We also want to remind everyone that [COVID-19 vaccinations are required](#) for all students, faculty and staff on campus. And please be aware that if we need to make additional policy changes regarding COVID-19 testing or masking, due to changing conditions in our region, we will announce them and provide updates on the [USG Onward web page](#).

Thank you to all of you for your continued cooperation as we work together to protect the health and safety of everyone within the USG community.