



To: USG Community  
From: USG Health and Safety Committee  
RE: Enhanced Masking Requirement on USG Campus  
Date: September 22, 2021

Although our campus vaccination rates are high and the occurrence of positive cases at USG remains very low, we must continue to follow best-practice advice from the CDC and Montgomery County when it comes to preventative measures against the spread of COVID-19 and its variants.

First, a reminder about two important measures that have already been in place. 1) All students, faculty and staff on the USG campus must be vaccinated against COVID-19, unless they have been granted an exemption for medical or religious reasons. 2) All individuals -- regardless of vaccination status -- must wear a face mask when indoors in public spaces on campus.

Second, two of our university partners -- UMB and UMCP -- have now announced enhanced requirements regarding masks on their campuses, calling for increased use of KN95 masks.

Consistent with this modification, effective Monday, September 27, we will be updating our own masking requirements on the USG campus, as follows:

- *If you are not fully vaccinated, you are expected to wear a KN95 mask.*
- *If you are fully vaccinated, we strongly recommend you also wear a KN95 mask when around large groups, including in classroom settings.*

Some home campuses are now distributing KN95 masks to their students and staff. If you do not receive one through your home campus, KN95 masks may be picked up at the USG COVID-19 testing clinic (open Mondays from 7:30am-3:00pm and Thursdays from noon-7:00pm in G318 of the Biomedical Sciences and Engineering building), as well as at the security desks in Buildings III and IV, during campus operating hours. *(Please note that a KN95 mask can be reused as long as it is not broken or soiled, and provides a good fit over the face.)*

We are implementing this measure because we expect COVID-19 will continue to be circulating in our broader community for the foreseeable future and our goal is to follow guidelines that support our in-person environment. Thank you for your continued cooperation and for doing your part to help ensure the health and safety of everyone on our campus.

Links to USG partner university COVID-19 resources and additional details on USG Health and Safety Guidelines and Protocols can be found on the [USG Onward website](#).