

Dear students, faculty and staff:

Since the COVID-19 pandemic started in the spring of 2020, we have carefully followed CDC, state and local guidelines for mitigating the disease. We have done a good job of keeping our community healthy and infection rates low. This has allowed us to deliver our DelVal education the way we do best: primarily in person and face-to-face.

On February 24, [the CDC issued updated guidance](#). This guidance categorizes communities based on the incidence and impact of COVID-19 and identifies individual and community-level health risk mitigation strategies.

Bucks County moved to the “low” classification on Thursday, March 3, and remains so today. CDC mask guidance for areas classified as low indicate that: *People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.*

Accordingly, as an institution we will be adopting revised and more flexible indoor masking protocols with the provisions below. Effective Monday, March 28th:

- Faculty members may exercise their discretion to require students and/or guests to wear masks in their individual classrooms, or laboratories
- Faculty and staff members who hold meetings in their personal/private offices may request masks continue to be worn
- Students may request friends and visitors in their residence hall rooms to wear masks
- Masks will still be required in University transportation including vans and busses.
- Any and all community members are welcome to continue mask wearing indoors, even if not in a required setting as noted above, for their own personal comfort.

Because there may be certain settings as indicated above where you are asked to continue masking, please keep one with you at all times. The University has an ample supply of KN-95 masks which can be obtained in the Campus Life suite on the second floor of the Student Center.

Finally, consistent with the current CDC guidelines, we are suspending surveillance testing at this time. The Health Center will continue to utilize diagnostic testing when clinically indicated. Established COVID-19 tracing, isolation and quarantine protocols remain in effect.

We are pleased to be able to give our community some respite from mask wearing at this time. We do not know, of course, if another variant might come forward or if conditions change and the CDC again recommends masking. Please maintain your mask supply just in case.

We will continue to update you with any changes.

Best regards,

Benjamin E. Rusiloski, Ph.D.