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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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March 11, 2022

Dear UNE Community,

I am pleased to share that we've had a successful first week of our new mask optional policy, and I have a couple of updates to share with respect to the Onward plan, as well as some reminders.

Following a thorough review by the COVID-19 Response Committee, we will no longer require those with an approved exemption to our vaccine mandate to wear a mask indoors. The CDC now designates York and Cumberland Counties as low risk. With transmission being as low as it currently is and our high vaccination rate, our medical experts feel confident that requiring unvaccinated people to mask on campus is not required to maintain the overall health and safety of our community.

Additionally, after further consideration, we will not be requiring individuals to wear masks in UNE vehicles. The CDC is no longer requiring that people wear masks on buses or vans operated by public or private school systems, and we have concluded that those spaces pose no more transmission risk than other spaces where individuals regularly gather.

We will continue to require masks in health care delivery spaces and some clinical skills training labs, as previously outlined. I encourage you to be mindful of signage and to carry a mask with you when you are on campus so that you are prepared in the event that you need to be in one of these areas.

As a reminder, we encourage any individual who seeks additional protection against COVID-19 and/or other respiratory illnesses to wear a high-quality, well-fitting mask. You should also get tested if you have symptoms. Thank you for your continued cooperation as we adapt our policies to the ever-evolving COVID-19 public health data.

Sincerely,

James D. Herbert  
*President*