



SOUTHERN VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
OFFICE *of the* PRESIDENT
ONE UNIVERSITY HILL DRIVE, BUENA VISTA, VA 24416

MASK REQUIREMENT LIFTED FOR FULLY VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS

Dear Campus Community,

Based on recent direction from the [CDC](#), [Governor Northam](#), and our COVID Resource Center, effectively immediately fully vaccinated members of the Southern Virginia University community are no longer required to wear masks on campus—indoors or outdoors—when physical-distancing guidelines can be maintained.

Individuals who are not yet fully vaccinated should continue to mask on campus—indoors and outdoors—when physical distancing guidelines cannot be maintained.

TEACH & TRUST WITH HONOR

To implement this updated masking policy, we will depend on the principle of Teach and Trust. As everyone understands the importance of protecting themselves and others, every member of campus is responsible, on their honor, for their individual compliance with this new policy.

We also recognize that some members of our community may feel more comfortable continuing to mask even after they have been fully vaccinated. Please be respectful of those who make that personal decision and refrain from drawing conclusions about vaccination status based on an individual's choice to continue masking.

MOVING TO MORE NORMAL OPERATIONS

This step forward is possible because many individuals have voluntarily chosen to be vaccinated to protect themselves and others from COVID-19. Vaccination is the path before all of us that will lead to safer conditions and more normal operations in the near future.

We are aligned and join with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in encouraging members of our community whose health conditions allow to be vaccinated in order to protect themselves and others. As The Church recently stated in its [General Handbook](#):

“Vaccinations administered by competent medical professionals protect health and preserve life. Members of the Church are encouraged to safeguard themselves, their children, and their communities through vaccination.”

We recognize that the decision to be vaccinated is a personal choice that should be prayerfully made in consultation with a competent medical professional and guidance from the Holy Ghost.

For those in our area, free COVID-19 vaccinations are regularly available at Buena Vista Family Pharmacy on 2263 Magnolia Avenue. To check availability and schedule an appointment, please call 540-261-2896. Additional vaccination opportunities can be found at vaccineappointments.virginia.gov.

MORE UPDATES TO COME

This is an important first step in returning to more normal campus operations and we expect more updates soon. On Friday, May 28, Governor Northam is expected to make additional announcements including the relaxing of social distancing requirements in Virginia. However, until that time, please continue to follow safe social distancing measures.

After more than a year in which nearly everything about the Southern Virginia University experience has been disrupted by the pandemic, we are eager to get back to the ideal teaching and learning situations and the return of other activities that we love—and we know you are too!

Thank you for continuing to make our campus a refuge from the storm! If you have questions about this policy or our Healthy Campus Plan, please contact the CRC at 540-261-8414 or wellness@svu.edu.

Office of the President
Southern Virginia University