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Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

As you have seen in the news, COVID-19 rates are increasing around the country, including here in Missouri. The University's Emergency Response Team continues to meet frequently to monitor this situation. As indicated in my Oct. 14, 2021 letter to campus, I write today to provide you with the following information as you prepare for the spring semester:

- Wearing face coverings in indoor instructional spaces during class or labs, in the University School for Young Children, in the Campus Health Clinic and on campus shuttles will continue while we are experiencing high COVID-19 transmission rates locally. Additionally, please continue to be respectful of everyone's personal decisions and situations. Those who prefer wearing a face covering in areas where they are not required should continue that practice.
- Dearmont Hall will continue to operate as an isolation housing option for students who live in on-campus housing.
- On Dec. 7, Missouri Local Public Health Agencies were notified by the Attorney General of Missouri to stop enforcing or publicizing mask mandates, quarantine orders and other public health orders. Consequently, public health agencies no longer perform contact tracing and they do not notify the University of positive cases in our community. Testing sites do continue to report positive cases to the state. The Southeast COVID-19 dashboard has been removed from the website.
- The state of Missouri's COVID-19 related State of Emergency expired on Dec. 31. **As a result, if you test positive or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19, you are still encouraged to isolate from others. If you are sick, stay home and do not attend class or work.** The Dean of Students Office will no longer be providing notification to faculty of students that have tested positive for COVID. Students should always notify their instructor as soon as they know they will be absent from class. Faculty will follow the policies related to class attendance. Faculty

are also encouraged to be flexible with students who are unable to physically attend classes due to illness so that they can complete the course requirements.

- All students, faculty and staff may obtain a COVID-19 vaccine or booster at on-campus clinics again this semester. The vaccination clinic schedule can be found in the [Protect the Nest Plan \(PTN\)](#). **Achieving high rates of vaccination continues to be the most important step we can take as a community to reduce the spread and risks associated with COVID-19.**
- Lastly, all of us should continue to follow the most recent COVID-19 guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

More detailed guidance can be found in the [PTN](#). We will continue to update you as new information becomes available. Guidance related to face covering requirements will be revisited no later than Feb. 18, 2022.

Sincerely,

Carlos



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