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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

Friday, March 19, 2021

Dear Redhawk Community,

On Monday, the Cape Girardeau County Public Health Center Board of Trustees rescinded the Face Covering Order, but still strongly recommends the use of face coverings. Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated their guidance for individuals who are fully vaccinated. The University's Emergency Response Team (ERT) is closely monitoring and evaluating these changes.

Many of you have been asking, how does this impact me? Have updates been made to the Protect the Nest (PTN) plan? Here is what you need to know.

What Remains the Same

- Face covering and social distancing guidelines are still in place, with some exceptions noted below.
- Face coverings are not required when you are outside alone or able to maintain social distance from others. That has always been in the PTN plan and we recently updated the language to make that clearer.
- [Spring 2021 Face-to-Face Instructional Guidelines](#), as outlined in the PTN plan, will remain in place through the rest of the semester.

Earlier this semester, in consultation with the Emergency Response Team, Residence Life and the Student Government Association, a few changes were made to the Protect the Nest Plan to

provide more flexibility in the residence halls and at campus events.

What Has Been Updated

- Students can now host two guests in residence hall rooms and common areas, and the guests do not need to be immediate family members or SEMO students.
- Guest hours in residence halls have been extended.
- Community gaming equipment and kitchen supplies are once again available.
- The Campus Events and Meetings guidance applies to on campus events. Individuals or groups hosting off-campus events should refer to the CDC for recommended guidance.
- Indoors or outdoors, an event speaker can remove their face covering if they can keep and maintain at least 12 feet of distance from others.
- For outdoor events only, when participants are with their group in their designated area, face coverings can be removed. It is strongly recommended that participants within a group wear masks and maintain social distance.

We will continue to monitor federal, state and local guidance, and we will update you as campus guidelines are adjusted. We have come so far this year and I can't thank you enough for your courage, flexibility and patience as we have adjusted to life in a pandemic.

Let's keep moving forward together.

Best,

