

**From:** [LCOM Office of the Dean](#)  
**To:** [Gilwee, Vicki M](#)  
**Subject:** ON BEHALF OF DEAN PAGE AND DEAN CARNEY ~ Universal Masking  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 29, 2021 11:35:42 AM

---

Dear Larner Community,

We are writing to remind you of the importance of universal indoor masking while in LCOM facilities.

It has come to our attention that while most are following this UVM requirement, not everyone is masking up indoors all the time. More important than the rule is the science behind it. At a time of continued community spread of the highly contagious delta variant, our continued vigilance just makes sense. Of course, we remove our masks when actively eating and drinking, but we hope you will keep a distance of 3-6 or more feet and replace your mask as soon as possible.

Science strongly supports the effectiveness of mask wearing, used in addition to vaccination. CDC's [science brief](#) emphasizes that indoor mask wearing reduces new infections, protecting both the mask wearer and others indoors.

The length of the pandemic, with necessary restrictions, is challenging all of us. At the same time, our Larner community, more than any other group, understands the importance of doing all we can – and encouraging each other - to prevent this serious infection on our campus. We must all set an example for the rest of the campus.

Please keep up the positive momentum and redouble our efforts to control the spread of COVID-19 both on and off campus.

As always, thanks for all you do, and please stay well.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Page, M.D.  
Dean

Jan K. Carney, M.D., M.P.H.  
Associate Dean for Public Health & Health Policy