

**From:** [Zehle, Christa H](#)  
**To:** [Zehle, Christa H](#)  
**Subject:** Masks now optional on UVM campus - sent on behalf of the Medical Education Team  
**Date:** Sunday, March 20, 2022 5:08:33 PM

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Dear students,

Provost Prelock announced that as of Saturday, March 19, masks are now optional in most indoor locations at UVM. The policy change announcement acknowledged the ways in which students, faculty, and staff have repeatedly adapted to the pandemic. As we think about coming to campus on Monday for the first classes that will occur with this new guidance, we enter a new period of adjustment. Faculty, staff, and students no doubt have a range of thoughts and feelings about studying, living, and working amid COVID, and that will affect our classrooms.

For two years now, every aspect of our lives have been affected by the pandemic and becoming a mask-optional campus is another milestone in this journey. While our campus policy now emphasizes individual choices about masking, we encourage everyone to consider their individual choices in context. We will all be navigating the ways our individual choices affect the people around us. When working in small close groups, please be thoughtful when making masking choices, and support your classmates who may be more comfortable in a masked environment for these interactions.

Face-coverings will still be required at the UVM Medical Center and clinical sites as well as in the Clinical Simulation Lab and some laboratory sessions. All clinical students on the Vermont and Connecticut campuses should follow the expected guidelines of their clinical sites. If you are on campus and need new KN95 masks, stop by the Testing Center in the Davis Center and pick up two new masks. Please have a face-covering available with you at all times in the event that one is needed.

For Vermont campus students we encourage you to continue taking advantage of asymptomatic testing at the Davis Center. If you have symptoms, stay home—do not come to campus or attend class/educational activities. Students, faculty, and staff should contact Student Health Services (656-3350) to arrange for symptomatic testing.

This message contains excerpts from: <https://blog.uvm.edu/ctl/2022/03/18/adjusting-to-mask-optional-teaching/>. Please reach out with any questions or concerns.

With appreciation and gratitude,  
Christa Zehle and the Office of Medical Education Team

I may at times send an email message after/outside work hours based on my schedule. I value your work-life boundaries and rhythm. Please do not feel any pressure to respond outside of your normal work or school hours unless it is convenient for you. Thank you!

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MEDICAL STUDENT EDUCATION OFFICE

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Pronouns: she/her [[Why include pronouns?](#)]

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