

From: [LCOM Office of the Dean](#)
To: [Gilwee, Vicki M](#)
Subject: ON BEHALF OF DEANS PAGE AND CARNEY - Protect Yourself and Others: Please Join Us in Wearing a Mask Indoors
Date: Thursday, May 12, 2022 8:30:08 AM

Dear LCOM Community,

The United States, New England, and Vermont continue to experience rising COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations from the spread of contagious Omicron subvariants. As a community that includes health care professionals who are both exposed to populations with illnesses and have vulnerable patients under our care, it is essential for us to continue to be mindful of strategies that will help keep patients safe and keep us healthy as we carry out our educational and clinical duties. Because of this, we are inviting the LCOM community to join us in protecting yourself, your patients, and others in our community by wearing masks indoors.

While community levels are high, wearing a mask indoors is a simple and effective public health measure to protect ourselves and others. A study published in the February 11, 2022 [MMWR](#) concluded that – in addition to up to date vaccinations – people who reported always wearing a well-fitting mask in indoor public settings were less likely to test positive for COVID-19 than people not masking. Further, there were differences in mask types and degree of protection, with KN95s and N95s affording the best protection, followed by surgical, and cloth masks.

Please note that this is not a change from the UVM policy that masks are optional for indoor spaces. But while our community levels are high, we encourage you to protect yourself and others. We invite you to join us in wearing a mask indoors in public.

Sincerely,

Rick and Jan

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