
COVID-19 Update: Response to CDC Mask and Social Distancing Guidance Changes

1 message

UCA President's Office <presidentsoffice@uca.edu>
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To: FS <fs@uca.edu>

Fri, May 14, 2021 at 1:54 PM

Dear Faculty and Staff:

As all of you have heard, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [eased](#) mask-wearing and social distancing guidance for fully vaccinated people, allowing vaccinated people to stop wearing masks outside, in crowds, and in most indoor settings. This announcement regarding what the science is telling CDC regarding the efficacy of the vaccines was surprising in its timing and has predictably created a flurry of questions regarding what this means to the state of Arkansas and to UCA.

We anticipate receiving guidance and interpretation from the Governor's Office and the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) and do not plan to act on changes to the university's policies until receipt of that information. ADH has consistently followed CDC guidance from the earliest days of the pandemic, so it is safe to predict that the latest CDC guidance and flexibility will be implemented.

As a publicly-funded entity, UCA is subject to recent changes in state law and regulations impacting our response to the pandemic. As you all know, an act was passed this legislative session that eliminates mask mandates by public bodies effective in late July, so any reaction to the CDC change regarding masks is about bridging the current period through that point in July when masks can no longer be required in Arkansas. Additionally, public entities in Arkansas are prohibited from implementing any form of "vaccine passport," so there will be no verification system or required documentation of vaccination to participate in university activities, including employment or enrollment.

Please pay attention in the coming days (including over the weekend) to your emails for updates regarding changes and further information.

Sincerely,

Houston Davis
President