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## COVID-19 Update: Face Covering Change Effective February 28, 2022

1 message

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UCA President's Office <presidentsoffice@uca.edu>

Thu, Feb 24, 2022 at 10:30 AM

Reply-To: noreply@uca.edu

To: student@cub.uca.edu, FS <fs@uca.edu>

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff:

Today I am releasing new face-covering guidance for campus that will be **effective beginning Monday, February 28**. At that time, face coverings will be optional in all campus spaces. However, according to standard medical practices, you may be asked by medical staff in the Student Health Clinic and the Interprofessional Teaching Clinic to wear a mask based on your symptoms while in those spaces. This guidance will remain in effect until further notice, and updated signage will be posted throughout campus.

It is important to consider a variety of factors when formulating our response in this stage of the pandemic. This guidance takes into consideration several variables, such as trends in campus positivity rates and case numbers, local hospitalizations, and campus demand for isolation housing. These are the same metrics that were used from May 2020 through August 2021 to guide our weekly and monthly decision-making.

COVID-19 will continue to be with us, but as previously indicated, our campus approach to COVID-19 is shifting from a public health crisis to a time of individual responsibility regarding personal health care decisions. We now have a better understanding of how to protect ourselves individually, as well as the resources to do so. The wide availability of testing, vaccinations, isolation spaces, and various PPE options has ensured that individuals have the resources they need to make decisions about how to protect their personal health. Those tools will continue to be available to our campus community.

I know that this is welcome news for many of you and understand that others may be more hesitant. As a community, we will continue to respect the decisions of individuals on campus to wear a mask and will maintain appropriate inventories. Please remember, KN95 masks are freely available by [request](#), and other masks are available throughout all campus buildings. The Student Life office in the Ronnie Williams Student Center also has KN95 masks with other types of masks available throughout the building. See the information booth inside the center if you have questions.

As has been true since February of 2020, UCA will continue to monitor and respond to changing conditions, and the programs and mechanisms we have used to respond to the pandemic will stay available to us when required. Thank you for your continued commitment to the well-being of our campus.

Sincerely,

Houston Davis  
President