

Subject: Spring Semester Requirement for Facial Coverings on Campus

Date: Monday, April 5, 2021 at 10:09:21 AM Central Daylight Time

From: UWA President

To: All Faculty and Staff, All Students

Attachments: image001.gif, image002.png, image003.png, image004.png, image005.png, image006.png



Spring Semester Requirement for Facial Coverings on Campus

Dear UWA Family,

Now in the final month of the spring 2021 semester's in-person class meetings on campus, we can look back over the last 12 months and be thankful to have reached this point as a considerably healthy campus experiencing relatively few disruptions. We have reached this point through steadfast cooperation and commitment to each other's health and safety and by adhering to the [Operational Plan for Spring Semester 2021](#).

The plan requires that facial coverings be worn at all times on campus when social distancing cannot be maintained. Although the State of Alabama's mask mandate is set to expire April 9, **requirement of facial coverings will continue for the UWA campus**. See [Gov. Kay Ivey encourages use of masks after the mandate ends April 9](#)

In addition to continued use of facial coverings, UWA will continue its multi-component strategies of social distancing where possible, enhanced cleaning efforts, caution in event scheduling, and other protocols outlined in the [operational plan](#).

While many employees have been fully vaccinated, the majority of college-aged students have not and have not yet become eligible. College campuses are communities within themselves, with significant populations of residential students, classes with close seating, and employees who work in spaces where social distancing cannot always be achieved. Continued use of face masks or coverings may be frustrating and uncomfortable, but we must consider our circumstances and environment and recognize the need to continue wearing these through the end of the semester.

Wearing a face mask is quite arguably a better option than the disruption we would experience should lifting this requirement on our campus lead to an outbreak. We wish to avoid immediate shifts in operations and schedules, particularly for classes this near the end of the semester, that could result with unexpected community spread. We can all agree that we have experienced enough disruptions in the last year.

I thank you for your continued cooperation as we strive to complete this spring semester safely.

Take care and be safe,



Ken Tucker, Ph.D.

President

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[Operational Plan for Spring Semester 2021](#)

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