

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Masking Protocol</b>
<b>REVIEWED/REVISED:</b>	7/2020; 9/2020; 5/2021
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	To communicate College masking protocols during COVID-19 pandemic.
<b>POLICY OWNER:</b>	President & CEO

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**CDC Masking Guidance:**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced new masking guidelines for the public on May 13, 2021. The announcement from the CDC states:

*“Fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a masks or physically distancing except where required by federal, state, local, tribal or territorial laws, rules and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.”*

People are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their second dose in a two-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s vaccine.

NMC employees and students should note that this guidance does **NOT** apply to health care settings.

**What This Means for Nebraska Methodist College:**

- All NMC employees and students, regardless of vaccination status, should continue to wear eye protection and procedural masks for source control while in public health care settings, labs, simulations, clinical or fieldwork due to the close proximity necessary between patients, students and/or instructors for learning and skills development.
- NMC employees and students in nonclinical settings may work or study on campus in work/office/study room spaces without masks. However, masks should be applied before entering public/common spaces such as Clark Lobby and Dining, Student Engagement Center, student housing laundry areas, elevators, etc.
- Faculty may remove their face covering while delivering in class instruction.
- Fully vaccinated employees and students may gather and conduct in-person class, meetings, studying and student groups activities in classrooms, study rooms or meeting rooms without masks as long as:
  1. The number of employees and students present is 10 or less  
**AND**
  2. Everyone in the room has been fully vaccinated. If unvaccinated people are present, everyone should wear a mask and unvaccinated individuals should physically distance from others.