



President Office <presoff@fredonia.edu>

Message from President Stephen H. Kolison, Jr., Mar. 3, 2022

President's Office <President.Office@fredonia.edu>

Thu, Mar 3, 2022 at 10:00 AM

To: Faculty/Staff group <facultystaff@fredonia.edu>, All Registered students <students@fredonia.edu>



March 3, 2022

Dear Fredonia community:

Happy Thursday!

It has been almost two years since the COVID-19 pandemic started altering our lives. It has been one of the most challenging times globally in human history. So, to begin to see declines in hospital admissions and deaths in many parts of our country and the world is truly remarkable. Thus, today, I am cautiously glad to share with you this piece of news below.

Moving to Masks Optional

Effective tomorrow (Friday, March 4), the wearing of masks at SUNY Fredonia will be **optional for fully vaccinated and boosted individuals**. Please note, however, that **SUNY strongly recommends masks indoors for anyone who has not submitted documentation showing that they are fully vaccinated (including those with approved exemptions) or for anyone not boosted**. Individuals who are completing quarantine and isolation must also wear a mask under the New York State Department of Health's [guidelines](#). In addition, masks will continue to be required in the following areas:

- Student Health Center - LoGrasso Hall
- COVID-19 Testing Center - Jewett Hall

The updated masking policy was developed in consultation with the Chautauqua County Health Department and is in alignment with current [CDC guidelines](#), including the downgrading of Chautauqua County's [community-level transmission](#) to medium. Thanks to the vigilance exhibited by our entire campus, we have maintained low positive test rates and high vaccination rates for both students and employees. We will continue to monitor campus, local, and state conditions and make adjustments as needed in consultation with the Chautauqua County Health Department.

As we become mask optional, please be aware that many individuals may choose to continue to wear masks for a variety of reasons. They should be able to do so freely and be treated with respect. There should be no shaming, ridiculing, or harassment of individuals who choose to continue to wear masks. This is essential to our value of being an inclusive campus.

Free COVID-19 Test Kits

Free COVID-19 test kits are available (while supplies last) for all students and employees. Bring your [FREDcard](#) to pick one up at any of the following locations:

- Campus Life Office (G113 Williams Center) Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Williams Center Information Desk (evenings and weekends)

Thank You for Reading

My first day as President of SUNY Fredonia was August 17, 2020, in the middle of the pandemic. Shortly after I arrived, I indicated that I would send the campus community a message every Thursday during the school year until the threat that COVID-19 posed to our institution became less intense. With this change concerning masks and our high rate of vaccination among students, faculty, and staff, my hope is that we have reached that point. Hence, over a year-and-a-half after I started these weekly updates, this will be my last scheduled weekly message. Thank you for taking the time to read these weekly messages. I will remain in touch once a month going forward.

I am very pleased and relieved that, as a campus, we took all the steps necessary to ensure safety and continuation of instruction and operations. I am very proud that we did not have to close down the campus or pause instruction for a single day throughout this period. You made it happen and I am grateful to you for being cooperative, conscientious and careful. Thanks also to all the FREDheroes who we recognized throughout this time. Let's look forward to this spring with hope that, as a community, and as a nation, we will not face a resurgence of the virus. I hope you will remain careful and continue to protect each other.

Students, I wish you all the best for the remainder of the semester. I am very proud of how you conducted yourselves during this extraordinary time. Cheers!

Very truly yours,

Dr. K

President and Professor

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