

# Nevada System of Higher Education

System Administration  
4300 South Maryland Parkway  
Las Vegas, NV 89119-7530  
Phone: 702-889-8426  
Fax: 702-889-8492



System Administration  
2601 Enterprise Road  
Reno, NV 89512-1666  
Phone: 775-784-4901  
Fax: 775-784-1127

## MEMORANDUM

To: NSHE Presidents  
Fr: Melody Rose, Chancellor  
Dt: February 10, 2022  
Re: COVID-19 Updated Guidance On Face Coverings  
Cc: Board of Regents

---

Earlier today, Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak announced that the mandate in effect pursuant to Executive Order No. 47 issued on July 27, 2021, which required all individuals in indoor spaces in Nevada, including all buildings owned, leased or rented by NSHE, wear face coverings irrespective of their COVID-19 vaccination status has been lifted **effective immediately**. Accordingly, pursuant to Nevada law, NSHE employees, students, and members of the public are no longer required to wear face coverings while inside NSHE buildings, irrespective of their COVID-19 vaccination status. This includes classrooms and workspaces.

Based upon medical advice and the new directive, NSHE employees who have received a religious or medical condition waiver from the Emergency COVID-19 Employee Vaccination Policy as set forth in Title 2, Chapter 12 of the Code are also no longer required to wear a face covering as a condition of their waiver approval. Please note that unvaccinated NSHE employees, as all State of Nevada employees, will still be required to complete weekly COVID-19 testing pursuant to directions from the State of Nevada that remain in effect. Additional information on this testing requirement will be provided in the coming weeks.

While the face covering mandate has been removed, all NSHE employees, students, and members of the public retain the option of personally deciding to continue wearing a face covering on NSHE property, including inside classrooms and workspaces. Those members of our campus community who choose to continue wearing a face covering, or who chose not to, should be permitted to do so free of any criticism, judgment, or retaliation. It is a personal choice that must be respected.

All members of the NSHE community who have not already done so should continue to be encouraged to receive a COVID-19 vaccination, as it remains the most proven path to mitigate the impact of the virus. NSHE employees and students who test positive for COVID-19 or experience COVID-19 symptoms must continue to self-isolate and/or quarantine consistent with guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Individual NSHE institutions do not currently retain the authority to unilaterally impose more stringent face covering requirements beyond Nevada law. Stricter face covering requirements involve systemwide policy decisions that fall outside of a President's discretion.

Lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic are that short-term steps forward have resulted in longer-term steps backward if we let our guard down. We must remain diligent as an NSHE community in our response to this historic health crisis. Today's decision represents progress. Working together we can continue to move forward.

Additional information will be provided in supplemental memorandum as it becomes available.