

SUNY College of Optometry Revised Mask Policy – Effective 7 March 2022

Masks: With ongoing changes in masking guidance, we are further modifying our on-campus mask policy effective, 7 March 2022, as follows:

1. For those individuals who are fully vaccinated and boosted, or fully vaccinated and not yet eligible for a booster, **the wearing of a mask on campus will be optional except in those areas listed below.**
2. Individuals who are eligible for their booster but have not received it, or who have a temporary medical exemption, must continue to wear ASTM level-2 masks or above at all times while on campus. These individuals may only remove their mask indoors:
 - a. while socially distanced, seated, and actively eating/drinking *or*
 - b. while working at their workstation as long as they remain socially distanced from others

ASTM level-2 face masks or better remain as the required standard on campus regardless of area and regardless as to whether it is mandated or a matter of choice. (Cloth masks may not be used on campus.)

In effect - those who are fully vaccinated & boosted or are fully vaccinated but not yet eligible for a booster AND have submitted documentation are not required to wear masks except as noted below. All other individuals should wear their masks in all areas of the College unless otherwise specified.

Areas in which all individuals regardless of vaccination status are required to wear ASTM level-2 surgical masks or better are:

- **UEC** - All students, residents, faculty, staff and patients (and other visitors) are **required to wear masks at all times when in UEC patient-care areas**, (floors 5, 6, 7, 8 and the Barbara Saltzman Center for Pediatric Eye Care on the 10th floor). Additional precautions may be advised as communicated by the UEC administration (e.g., providers wearing N95 respirators in certain situations).
- **Lobby and Elevators** – Masks must be worn on the lobby level, while riding the elevators and transitioning between elevators on the 5th floor. These are spaces with heavy patient traffic and patients will continue to be expected to wear masks while here.
- **Clinical Teaching Laboratories** – Masks will continue to be required in all clinical teaching laboratories both during formal instruction and when practicing.

Visitors: Visitors to non-patient care spaces or clinical teaching laboratories (masks required at all times) must comply with this policy. Such visitors are expected to provide documentation to establish their vaccination status.

Monitoring of Mask Protocols: The College will be monitoring internal and external conditions on a regular basis and will be using the CDC’s new tracking program to determine if a reimposition of a mask mandate is needed. The CDC now classifies the NY Metropolitan area as “Low” risk. Should the classification shift to “High” the more restrictive mask mandate will be reinstated. To assess our overall risk level, we are monitoring the CDC COVID Tracker for the 5 boroughs of NYC. The link to the CDC COVID-19 Community Levels tool is below.

Policy Review: We will review this policy on a regular basis, particularly as it pertains to requiring masks in instructional settings.

Please note that this policy is in no way intended to discourage mask wearing. If you feel more comfortable keeping a mask on in areas identified as optional, please do!

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html>



[COVID-19 Community Levels | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html)

Overview. More tools than ever before are available to prevent COVID-19 from placing strain on communities and healthcare systems.. With current high levels of vaccination and high levels of population immunity from both vaccination and infections, the risk of medically significant disease, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 is greatly reduced for most people.

www.cdc.gov

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy!