

From: Office of the Chancellor <OfficeoftheChancellor@uscupstate.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 11:40 AM
Subject: Updated Health Guidelines: A Message From the Interim Chancellor
Importance: High



Dear Campus Community,

In accordance with CDC and DHEC guidance issued on May 13th, vaccinated individuals on USC Upstate's campus are no longer required to wear masks in indoor areas, due to the efficacy of COVID-19 immunizations to prevent illness and transmission.

However, South Carolina remains in the bottom 10 states for percentage of the overall population who are vaccinated, and most counties in our state still have a moderate rate of transmission. The majority of traditional college-age students remains unvaccinated.

If you are not vaccinated, continue wearing a mask in indoor areas and maintain social distancing. While we are not requiring you to submit proof of vaccination, we are relying upon you to do the right thing to protect yourself and your fellow Spartans. There is wide [vaccine availability](#) in our community, and if you have not yet been vaccinated, we strongly encourage you to do so. Please also see CDC guidance for [mask recommendations](#) in non-work activities and increased risk activities.

All USC Upstate employees and students are encouraged to continue wearing a mask and maintain a social distance of 6 feet in all campus buildings. However, if you are fully vaccinated, you may follow the new [CDC guidance](#). As a community that embraces equity, wellness and civility, we encourage you to keep a mask with you at all times, and put it on when approaching someone who is wearing a mask, even if you are vaccinated. There are individuals on campus with medical risk factors for severe illness, and some with contraindications who are not eligible for the vaccine. We want to respect their needs and protect them as well.

Crowded gatherings, especially those that occur indoors, are prone to COVID-19 transmission and outbreaks among unvaccinated individuals until the virus is in lower levels of circulation. For this reason, and due to the low level of vaccination in South Carolina, events held indoors, and in areas where 6 feet social distancing cannot readily be achieved, will have mask standards for those attending.

The virus is still in moderate circulation in South Carolina, and anyone displaying symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home and call Health Services at 864-503-5191. Same-day testing is available at Health Services and many [other locations](#). DHEC recommends testing for anyone with symptoms, and if you have traveled, attended large gatherings or been in crowded indoor settings. Health Services has submitted an application to become a vaccine site, and we will notify you when vaccines are again available on campus.

These revised USC Upstate guidelines have been updated in accordance with present health guidance and data effective until further notice. Guidelines for Fall 2021 will be re-evaluated and announced later in the summer, likely on or around August 1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Derham Cole, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

J. Derham Cole, Jr.
Interim Chancellor

University of South Carolina Upstate
800 University Way | Spartanburg, SC 29303

***Up* is where we live.**