



August 18, 2021

Dear Spartan Community,

As you know, the health and safety of the campus community has been and continues to be USC Upstate's first priority. Given the increasing rates of COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations across the country, we will require all individuals to wear face coverings indoors in all campus facilities, effective today.

For now, wearing masks on campus will continue to be a key component of our strategy to keep our campus safe and to allow our students, faculty, and staff to remain on campus. Our reality as a university is that we must be up and operating — in the safest way possible. Like many other institutions of higher education, we hope that the use of masks will allow us all to experience as normal a school year as possible.

We must continue to work together to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. This means not only wearing a mask but, above all, getting vaccinated. We will be hosting regular vaccination clinics on campus. Please look for communication about our VAX UP campaign and check our website regularly for updates.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our campus safe. I remain confident that we can and will have a fun and productive academic year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bennie L. Harris". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Bennie L. Harris
Chancellor