

Safe & Healthy Rams – Policy on Mask Use on Campus Update April 5, 2022

Given the current status of the on-going COVID-19 pandemic on campus and in our community, we are updating the campus masking policy in accordance with the [City of Austin Key Indicators for Staging](#), CDC [Community Levels](#), our rolling average of campus cases, and the guidance of the Campus Reactivation Committee. As always, we continue to follow a science-based approach to our campus Safe & Healthy Rams protocols.

Effective immediately, masks will be optional in all common spaces on campus. Masks are always recommended for unvaccinated individuals or those with conditions such as immunosuppression that may make vaccination less protective.

Classroom mask use will be determined by individual faculty members. Faculty may decide to require masks or make masks optional based on faculty and student needs. Students may request masking in class by making a private request to the faculty member. No individual's private health information will be disclosed when the mask requirement is communicated to class.

Individual office mask use will be determined by the individual whose office is being entered. The individual entering may request that the occupant wear a mask when entering a private office space as well. Individuals should inquire proactively.

Everyone is advised to carry a mask with them on campus at all times. Back-up masks are available throughout campus as needed. Building Managers can contact university facilities for replenishment of mask supplies.

Additionally, we will maintain our Safe & Healthy Rams layers of protection approach, including:

- Use of the HT Ram Check app for the daily health screening, campus pass, test uploads, and important notifications
- Use of HEPA air purifiers in all indoor spaces
- Contact Tracing for all campus probable and confirmed COVID-19 cases
- Routine testing for individuals not fully vaccinated and all student athletes

We will continue to evaluate our campus protocols based on the criteria listed above and aim to be more flexible and responsive based on the current conditions in our local and campus community. In general, if Austin/Travis County re-enters stage 4 or 5, masks will be required in all indoor spaces. These conditions override individual policy. If the Austin/Travis County test positivity rate exceeds 10% for a highly transmissible variant, masks may be required regardless of stage. This information is available on the [City of Austin's Staging Indicators Dashboard](#).

We continue to encourage vaccination for all. Vaccination is still the most effective tool we have to fight this virus. If you have any questions regarding campus COVID-19 protocols or COVID-19 vaccines, please reach out to the Safe and Healthy Rams Coordinator at safehealthyrams@htu.edu or 512.505.3019.