

**From:** [Ventura County Community College District](#)  
**Subject:** Update: Mask Requirement Protocols  
**Date:** Thursday, March 17, 2022 10:36:50 AM

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Dear VCCCD Colleagues,

We are fortunate to be at a point where [COVID-19 seven-day PCR testing positivity rates and COVID hospitalizations in Ventura County](#) have continued a steady decline. The [CDC COVID-19 guidelines](#) and state and local public health orders have modified the wearing of face masks indoors from mandatory to highly recommended. Ventura County is currently categorized in the “Low” COVID-19 community level according to CDC parameters. The wearing of face masks indoors is optional in counties at this level and the Ventura County Public Health orders align with this change. The K-12 system and other higher education institutions in the county have already or will soon make the wearing of face masks indoors optional.

Throughout the pandemic, VCCCD has made adjustments in protocols based upon current data and guidelines, orders, and regulations from appropriate agencies. We are now able to consider a change to the requirement to wear a face mask indoors at all VCCCD locations. We have set a target date of Monday, April 11, 2022, to lift the mask mandate and move towards highly recommending the use of masks indoors at all VCCCD locations for all employees, students, and visitors. Communications and signage will strongly recommend the wearing of face masks indoors for everyone. The District will continue to have face masks available upon request. Individuals who have received an exemption from the vaccine mandate should continue to follow the required safety provisions according to their exemption.

There will be a range of feelings and perspectives regarding this change and I would ask that you accept individual decisions regarding the wearing of face masks indoors.

We will continue to monitor COVID-19 rates and will reinstate the mask mandate if we return to unsafe levels - though we remain hopeful that COVID-19 rates remain low.

Students will be sent this information along with a survey to help us understand how to support them through this change in protocol and to learn their perspectives from the last two years.

Please contact your supervisor or Human Resources with any questions.

Best regards,

Greg

Greg Gillespie, Ph.D.

Chancellor

Ventura County Community College District

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