

September 15, 2021



Dear faculty, staff, and students:

We are writing to remind everyone of two important topics from the Return to Classes Policies shared earlier this semester.

- I. **Properly fitting face coverings that cover the nose and mouth must be worn in classrooms, as well as in all public indoor spaces on campus until further notice.**
 - Several faculty have reported that students are not complying with the masking policies in the hallways or in the classroom.
 - If a student does not comply or is disrespectful to the faculty member, the faculty member has the responsibility to release the student from class that day and ask them to return when they are ready to wear a mask.
 - If a student refuses to wear a mask in class, the faculty member may choose to drop the student from their class.
 - Any Hiram student, staff, or faculty member may take the name of a student not following masking policies and report concerns to Student Affairs (330.569.5233).

- II. **Hiram's standard approach for the year is face-to-face learning. Hiram will not hold classes with some students in Zoom and others in the classroom *except* in very rare situations where advance accommodations are made by individual faculty members.**
 - The fact that one student attends class in Zoom *does not mean that* others will be allowed to do so.
 - Each faculty member may determine how to set expectations and accommodations for their classes because areas of study and teaching modalities differ.
 - Faculty members trust that their students are honest about their illness status. However, a faculty member will not be able to make accommodations for students unless the health center informs them of the health status of the student.
 - Students should not expect every faculty member to follow the same procedures.

Faculty or students who have questions or concerns should call the Office of Academic Affairs with questions (330.569.5125) or the Office of the Dean of Students (330.569.5233). Staff members should contact Human Resources (330.569.5109).

There have been very few instances where students have contracted COVID through the classroom. It is important that group work allow enough distance among and between groups during class time. By continuing to mask, remaining at least 3 feet apart, and washing hands, we will continue the great record in class.

- If a student begins experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, they should immediately separate themselves from other people. All students should contact the Julia Church Health Center at 330.569.5418. If a student tests positive on campus, the health center will have them sign a release so faculty can be notified. If a student tests positive off-campus, they often call the health center and someone from the health center offers to notify faculty.

- Please remember that it takes about 15 minutes of contact closer than 6 feet to become compromised. If a student has been exposed only briefly, they should check themselves for any symptoms--fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell. If the student has no symptoms, they should come to class wearing a mask and very intentionally distancing at least 6 feet from others.
- Any student who has been exposed should immediately put on a mask, separate themselves from others, and contact the health center for further instructions.

We look forward to a very successful fall semester.

Sincerely, Deans Muyskens and Okuma

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