



Good afternoon:

We are seeing an increase in the number of cases of COVID-19 in our communities, including on our campuses. The increase in the community has resulted in the CDC determining that both Albany and Oneida counties are in the Medium Risk category for COVID-19 transmission. This means that enhanced individual and community-wide risk reduction strategies are recommended and individuals may consider taking extra precautions, including wearing a well-fitting mask indoors when in public. The CDC suggests following [Medium Risk recommendations](#).

Our campuses remain mask optional at this time, however, faculty may require masks in their classroom. Faculty do not need to offer a justification, as discussion of such factors could raise privacy concerns; reasons could include health concerns of faculty or students in the class, or those who have vulnerable family members. Please note that current penalties for violations of the mask mandate will apply to violations of classroom mask mandates and other areas where masks are required.

At this time, efforts should be made by event and activity planners to ensure screening of attendees and participants, and all events should provide socially distant options or seating. Event and activity planners may request masks be worn during the event or activity.

While wearing a mask for all indoor activities is not currently being mandated by the College, it is important to remember that some members of the campus community (students, faculty, staff, and visitors/guests) may choose to continue wearing face masks for any number of reasons. For example, some people have found that masking reduces allergies. Other individuals value masking as a way to remain healthy and prevent other respiratory illnesses. Some may just feel more comfortable wearing a mask. In addition, a mask should not be interpreted as a symbol of vaccination status. Welcoming and accepting those who wear masks on campus is an important part of being a caring and respectful community. Please always be and remain respectful of others.

**If the CDC determines the risk level in our communities becomes at High-Risk for transmission, we will consider implementing a return to indoor masking in all locations and at all indoor events or activities as was in place prior to relaxing the mask mandate.**

Please note that disposable masks will continue to be provided, [KN95 masks may be requested](#) by faculty and staff, and hand sanitizer and disinfection materials remain stocked in public locations and classrooms.

Please be aware of your health status and react to [symptoms](#) appropriately (e.g., staying home, testing). If symptomatic, students should contact the Wellness Center at [WellnessCenter@sunypoly.edu](mailto:WellnessCenter@sunypoly.edu), and employees should contact Human Resources at [HR@sunypoly.edu](mailto:HR@sunypoly.edu) for guidance or information.

Masking on our campuses is still required:

- in an instructional setting when required by the instructor
- in an office where required
- in a healthcare setting (e.g., the Wellness Center)
- in an indoor gathering of 5,000 or more individuals
- if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms; in which case, you are required to wear a mask, get tested immediately and quarantine while you await results.
- following a period of quarantine or isolation (e.g., you are required to mask for five days after ending isolation, days 6-10).

Additional information regarding testing options and other COVID-19 issues can be found on our [FAQ page](#).

As always, please pay attention to campus updates and make sure you are up to date with vaccines and boosters and following all testing requirements.

Thank you for your continued cooperation with the ever-changing situation caused by COVID-19.

Sincerely,

The Office of Environmental Health & Safety

*As federal, state, local, and SUNY health guidance changes due to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, SUNY Poly's rules will also evolve as the institution receives new guidance and/or regulations are promulgated. SUNY Poly reserves the right to change its policy in regards to these matters and will provide updates as needed on the SUNY Poly website.*