

Dear UNOH Family,

For two years, University administration has closely followed all guidance and mandates handed down by the Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Governor's Office, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Closely following these recommendations and protocols has allowed our campus to contain cases and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 on our campus and within our university community.

Newly released COVID-19 Community Levels from the CDC (Low, Medium, and High) consider community hospitalization rates, new cases over the previous 7 days, as well as potential strain on local health systems. Based on these rates, CDC makes recommendations on how institutions of higher education should respond.

Cases in Allen County have trended downward since the end of January, and University cases have done the same. This sustained downward trend, paired with the new CDC guidelines, gives University Administration the confidence to relax some of our policies on the UNOH campus.

The following changes are in effect effective immediately (3/9/2022).

- Face Coverings and masks are now optional on campus. This applies to both indoor and outdoor environments.
- Individuals that are symptomatic, test positive, or are exposed to someone with COVID-19, should wear a face covering. If individuals feel unwell, they should stay home. Students should contact the Student Success office and employees should contact Human Resources for guidance if they are symptomatic.

The University fully supports the use of face masks for anyone who feels they want to wear one and masks will continue to be available at campus front desks for students or staff members who request one.

Mitigation efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 remain in effect at UNOH including frequent disinfection and hand washing, providing sanitizing stations all over campus, and using barriers and shields as needed.

If case numbers on the UNOH campus begin to rise again, or there is significant evidence of higher levels of community transmission, face coverings may become necessary again. The university will continue to communicate any changes or updates as needed.

For up-to-date information about COVID-19 protocols at the University of Northwestern Ohio, visit: www.unoh.edu/coronavirus. If you have any questions or concerns relating to this policy update, please contact your instructor, professor, or supervisor accordingly.

Sincerely,

UNOH Administration