

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

Dear Students and Employees:

Last week, Mayor Baldwin of Raleigh and NC Governor Cooper announced upcoming changes to citywide and state masking requirements and recommendations, assuming trends continue improving.

Like Governor Cooper and Mayor Baldwin, we are optimistic about the continued decline in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations across the state and the city.

Given that we are a vaccinated campus and our test positivity rates are declining, beginning Friday, February 25, 2022, we are making the following changes to the College's community standards:

- **Masks will be optional for all outdoor activities, including athletic events and ceremonies.**
- **Food and beverages can be served at outdoor events and in events held in areas designated for food.**
- **6-ft distancing will no longer be required for indoor and outdoor events and activities. Three feet distancing will still be in effect for classes.**

As an institution with a congregate living population, we remain concerned about the high rates of transmission in Wake County and across the state. **Our indoor masking requirement remains in effect.** We continue to monitor the test positivity rate and transmission rates, and once they reach a lower threshold, we expect to allow guests in the residence halls and campus apartments. We will continue to monitor rates and let you know when we can resume having normal guest policies for campus residential spaces.

We remain optimistic that conditions on campus, in the county and in the state will continue to improve and allow us to further relax community standards.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in protecting the health and safety of the Meredith community. Look for further changes in the weeks ahead.

– Executive Leadership Team