



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
VETERINARY MEDICAL CENTER

Dear Veterinary Medical Center Community,

While masking guidelines in Ohio have been relaxed for fully vaccinated individuals, the safety protocols within the College of Veterinary Medicine facilities, including the Veterinary Medical Center, remain unchanged for the time being.

In keeping with our commitment to safety, **we ask all customers of the VMC to please continue to wear medical facemasks (no cloth masks) while inside our hospitals, regardless of your vaccination status.** Because it is difficult to know if others around you have been vaccinated or if they're at increased risk for severe COVID-19, and given the close quarters of our exam rooms and clinical nature of the work we do, **we believe these enhanced measures remain necessary to ensure the health and safety of everyone and to ensure the maintenance of college and clinical operations.**

This approach is consistent with protocols continued at the Wexner Medical Center and other health science colleges across the Ohio State University campus. These protocols are also consistent with guidelines from the CDC for institutions of higher education and healthcare workers, and the American College Health Association and Department of Education guidelines for institutions of higher education, which emphasizes the importance of ensuring additional protective efforts like masking, distancing and testing in situations where a campus is not fully vaccinated.

As the situation evolves, we will continue to communicate any updates to our safety protocols. We know you have a choice when it comes to the care of your pets and appreciate the trust you place in us and your continued support of our teaching mission.

We thank you for your patience, understanding and cooperation.

References:

<https://wexnermedical.osu.edu/features/covid-resources/staff/masking>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/considerations.html?source=email#section3>

https://www.acha.org/documents/resources/guidelines/ACHA_Considerations_for_Reopening_HEs_for_Fall_2021_5.25.21.pdf

<https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/reopening-3.pdf>

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