

August 11, 2021

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FROM: Donald R. Bobbitt, President



SUBJECT: Resolution Concerning Face Coverings – Delta Variant, All Campuses and Units

At its meeting at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute on August 11, 2021, the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas has continued to monitor the impact of COVID-19 in Arkansas and to adhere to public health guidelines and directives from the state and federal governments; and

WHEREAS, having prepared for a full return to in-person activities, including face-to-face instruction, health education clinical rotations and regular athletic events, among others, for the 2021-22 academic year, UA System institutions are now facing a rapid rise in COVID-19 case counts and hospitalizations in their communities due to the highly infectious COVID-19 Delta variant; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that, based on the spread of the Delta variant, communities with high transmission of COVID-19 should require individuals, regardless of vaccination status, to wear face coverings in indoor public settings; and

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University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences / University of Arkansas at Monticello / Division of Agriculture / Criminal Justice Institute
Arkansas Archeological Survey / Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas / University of Arkansas Community College at Hope
University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville / Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas
University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton / University of Arkansas at Fort Smith
University of Arkansas – Pulaski Technical College / University of Arkansas Community College at Rich Mountain
Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts / University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service / University of Arkansas System eVersity

WHEREAS, the Board passed a resolution in May 2020 directing UA System institutions to adopt policies requiring face coverings in university facilities when physical distancing cannot be assured, and that such policies remain in effect as long as the use of face coverings is recommended by the CDC;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS THAT, consistent with its previous action, the Board directs each campus, division and unit to implement face covering policies for students, faculty, staff and guests, regardless of vaccination status, in indoor public settings where physical distancing cannot be assured in accordance with CDC guidance regarding the COVID-19 Delta variant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the policies include reasonable exceptions for certain settings and activities that follow guidance established by public health agencies and/or by external governing bodies such as athletics conferences and the NCAA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT such policies remain in effect as long as the use of face coverings continues to be recommended by the CDC and that the policies may be adjusted in accordance with future public health guidance.

You may proceed to implement these actions.