

# **William Paterson University**

## **Masking Policy**

**Fall 2021**

### **Purpose**

To ensure the health, safety, and well-being of staff, faculty, students, and visitors on the William Paterson University campus and all owned facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Policy**

It shall be the policy of William Paterson University to require masks as discussed below. This policy shall remain in effect until notice of its suspension/cancellation is provided by the WP President or his designee.

William Paterson University is committed to following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the NJ Department of Health and the COVID-19 data available in the state of New Jersey and in our local community to make informed decisions related to masking policies.

A person's risk for COVID-19 infection is directly related to the risk for exposure to infectious persons, which is largely determined by the extent of COVID-19 circulation in the surrounding community. The CDC recommends assessing the level of community transmission using, at a minimum, two metrics: new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 persons in the last 7 days and the percentage of positive SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic nucleic acid amplification tests in the last 7 days. For each of these metrics, CDC classifies transmission values as low, moderate, substantial, or high. Based upon these classifications, we have adapted WP's masking policies to reflect the conditions in our community.

Classifications for community transmission are based upon tracking data from the CDC found at <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>. Data is obtained from surrounding counties and the state of New Jersey.

The four tiers of the campus masking framework are color coded and correlate to specific masking requirements applicable to students, faculty, and staff. Since we are not able to verify the vaccination status of visitors, they are required to wear masks while in the presence of others.

The **four tiers** of this framework are as follows:

**LOW—BLUE:** Indicates a low level of transmission risk on our campus. Masking policy for this level is:

Vaccinated: Masking optional

Unvaccinated: Masking required indoors; outdoors in large group settings

**MODERATE—YELLOW:** Indicates a moderate level of transmission risk on campus. Masking policy for this level is:

Vaccinated: Masking recommended indoors; outdoors in large groups

Unvaccinated: Masking required indoors; outdoors in large groups

**SUBSTANTIAL— ORANGE:** Indicates a substantial level of transmission risk on campus. Masking policy for this level is:

Vaccinated: Masking recommended indoors; outdoors in large groups; required for academic instruction

Unvaccinated: Masking required indoors; outdoors in large groups

**HIGH—RED:** Indicates a high risk of transmission risk on campus. Masking policy for this level is:

Vaccinated: Masking required indoors; outdoors in large groups

Unvaccinated: Masking required indoors; outdoors in large groups

The **Mask Status Chart** can be found at: <https://www.wpunj.edu/reopening/policies/Mask-Status.pdf>

There are certain departments, due to the nature of their work, where all individuals are required to adhere to wearing masks at all times (except when alone in private office space). This includes the Counseling, Health and Wellness Center, the Athletic Training Room, nursing clinical or lab settings, the Speech and Hearing Clinic and Cheng Library.

Face masks will be required for all persons, even if fully vaccinated, in all common/public areas in the residence halls, including, but not limited to lobbies, lounges, bathrooms, hallways, stairways, elevators, offices, etc.

Persons are not required to wear masks or N95 face masks/respirators while alone in their office, residential room, or workspace, and if not within the presence of others.

Any employee who has an identified health reason prohibiting the wearing of a mask must contact Human Resources to discuss possible accommodations. Any student who has an identified health reason prohibiting the wearing of a mask must contact the Accessibility Resource Center to discuss possible accommodations.

All staff, faculty, students, and visitors shall abide by this policy. If faculty, staff, and/or students do not abide by this policy, they will be subject to disciplinary action, consistent with the progressive discipline procedures. Visitors who do not abide by this policy will be required to leave campus.