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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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September, 9 2021

Dear UNE Community,

As indicated in my message on August 20, the COVID-19 Response Committee has re-evaluated the policy to wear masks indoors regardless of vaccination status. The committee, including UNE's own medical experts, has looked carefully at case rates in our local communities and across the state. Given the continued prevalence of the Delta variant, the committee has recommended that we continue our indoor masking policy for the time being, and I concur with the recommendation. The policy will, therefore, remain in place for the time being.

Over the past three weeks, we have seen excellent compliance with the indoor masking policy as well as very low numbers of positive cases among our UNE community. While we know that wearing masks indoors is not ideal, we have heard positive feedback from students and employees about the policy, and we are confident that, at this stage, indoor masking is an important tool to prevent viral transmission among our population.

It continues to be my hope that we will experience a significant enough reduction in cases in Maine that we will be able to remove this mask requirement for those who are vaccinated. I am extremely grateful to you for wearing your masks and adhering to our vaccination policy. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and provide updates as things change.

Sincerely,

James D. Herbert  
*President*