

*Office of Student Affairs
Office of Student Health Services*
October 4, 2021



Dear Students,

We are writing with an update about UNE's ongoing management of the pandemic on our campuses.

UNE's COVID-19 Response Committee continues to meet at least weekly, as it has done since the beginning of the pandemic. That group, which is chaired by President Herbert and which includes UNE's own medical experts as well as representatives from Student Affairs, the deans of each college, Human Resources, Athletics, and University leadership, considers our current policies and whether any changes need to be made. Among other factors, we review the latest data on transmission of the virus, the seven-day average of cases in Maine, the number of positive cases in the UNE community, community vaccination rates, and the strain on our health care system, including the number of available beds at local hospitals.

While we have seen only a few cases this semester among the UNE community, the current trends across the state have led us to the decision to maintain our policy to wear masks indoors for the time being. We will continue to evaluate the latest data, and we will change the policy as soon as we are confident that it is safe to do so. We also know that, like us, you are eager to be able to remove your masks when indoors, and please know that we will relax our requirements as soon as we can do so safely. But for now, masking indoors remains a critical and necessary piece of our COVID-19 mitigation strategy. We appreciate the efforts you are all making to wear your masks and keep one another safe and we encourage you to exercise thoughtfulness about when and where masks may be appropriate when you are not on campus.

Sincerely,

Jennifer DeBurro
Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students

Paul Berkner, D.O.,
FAAP Medical Director, Student Health Services