

April 5, 2022

MSU Campus Community:

As you are likely aware, the Covid case count in our service region has been dramatically reduced, and our region is now at the lowest level according to the KY Department of Public Health, April 1 map shown below.

As part of our phased reduction of masking on campus, we wanted to wait two weeks after Spring Break before making any decisions. Additionally, and in order to get input, we surveyed numerous students and sought input from over fifty faculty members across campus. A large majority of the individuals were supportive of initiating the steps below to further reduce the use of masks on campus.

Beginning Friday, April 8 our main campus will transition to:

- Mask optional in all classrooms and laboratories. Each student and employee may make their own individual decision as to whether they wear a mask or not. Please be supportive of any individual who chooses to continue wearing their personal mask as they or someone they provide care for may have a compromised immune system or other health conditions.
- Faculty and staff may request that students and other employees visiting their personal office be required to wear a mask while meeting in their office.
- Masking will still be required by students and employees who are engaged in off-campus clinicals, internships, and other assignments in which the local site requires masking.
- Masks will be required for anyone visiting our campus Health Center in Allie Young Hall.

We acknowledge that some individuals expressed concern that they had immunocompromised situations and/or other health considerations. In each case, we certainly respect those situations and support any individual who wishes to continue wearing their own personal mask.

Should any employee or student not feel well, please be respectful and notify your supervisor or instructor and remain at home. Also, if you feel like you have been exposed, please be courteous and wear a mask and get tested.

Thank you to everyone for being patient. We have been cautious and used a phased approach to mask reduction so that we could stay close to CDC recommendations.

We will continue to watch the Covid environment, and should cases begin to rise significantly on our campus, we will strive to work with public health officials to make any modifications needed.

Dr. Jay Morgan

