

Lift of Mask Policy on Main Campus

President's Office <pres_office@emu.edu>

To: all-faculty@emu.edu, all-staff@emu.edu, harrisonburg-students@emu.edu

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Good Friday afternoon, EMU community!

I am pleased to announce that effective March 7, the university will no longer require masking in all buildings on its main campus in Harrisonburg, Va.

After careful consultation with the executive leadership team, CMPT, and area school and city officials, this welcome change in COVID mitigation follows the positive health trends and new relaxed safety protocols in the area. New guidelines released by the CDC are in alignment with this change.

Still, be advised that all students, faculty and staff are expected to have a mask with them at all times. Masks will still be available in all campus buildings.

Further, *instructors may require students to wear masks in their classes*. Instructors are responsible for notifying students if they will require masks before classes resume after spring break. Students are expected to comply with the instructor's mask direction as their decision is informed by what is best for them in maintaining a healthy classroom learning environment. Students and staff may ask the same of one another when meeting together.

Even as we will no longer require masks in public buildings, let us remember that any person who feels more comfortable wearing a mask is encouraged to do so. I sincerely hope you will continue to honor our COVID CARE practice: "Care for self, care for others, care for community." It has been nothing short of heroic in the ways you all have shown respect and compassion for each other in this long season of COVID. I am so proud of all of you!

Of course, we will continue to adapt our campus protocols as necessary as we monitor COVID trends on campus and in the Harrisonburg/Rockingham community.

Hope springs eternal. So, whether March "comes in like a lion or a lamb," we will greet the first month of spring with smiles that we can now all see!

Here's wishing all of you a restful and safe Spring Break!

Warmly, Susan

Susan Schultz Huxman, Ph.D. President Eastern Mennonite University

540-432-4100 www.emu.edu



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