

06/01/2021

Today Milwaukee has dropped its mask mandate except in specific venues. Now it's up to individual businesses and institutions to determine how to proceed with safety protocols. I am very pleased that around 91% of our employees (staff, administrators, and faculty) are now fully vaccinated. In addition, the CDC has noted that fully vaccinated persons need not wear masks or practice social distancing indoors or outdoors. Therefore, after soliciting input from members of the President's Council and others this is how we will proceed here at SHSST:

Beginning Monday, 7 June, masks will be optional for all employees on campus. However, if an employee is uncomfortable meeting with others in a closed room-setting, then out of respect the others in the meeting should accommodate that employee if the employee so desires. In addition, please note that wearing a mask does not imply the employee is unvaccinated but feels safer or more comfortable with the mask on, due to a variety of reasons.

Capacity in the dining room and chapel will no longer be limited but individuals may want to continue social distancing due to comfort or other reasons. Individuals may wear masks in chapel or the dining room if they desire. Windows in the lobby, dining room, or offices (including doors) can be opened, weather permitting, to allow for good airflow and to mitigate viral transmission.

Food service will continue plating food as is currently the practice through the end of June. Food service employees will decide on an individual basis if they will wear a mask.

The employee gathering on Friday, 11 June will not require masks nor social distancing though individuals may opt to wear masks and social distance if desired. The meeting will take place in the lobby.

The building will be open for visitors beginning on Monday, 14 June; they will be asked to wear a mask while in the building. When they arrive, they are to stop at the reception desk to get their temperature taken and answer the COVID symptoms questionnaire. Employees who accompany them are encouraged to wear masks also to minimize any possible exposure. The same applies if and when outside groups are permitted to meet on campus.

ECSP students will begin arriving in later June – Kelly Kornacki will look into vaccinations for them. They will need Covid testing (prior to arrival) and will be required to wear masks in public areas until they are vaccinated.

I ask everyone to stay safe and to continue following good hygiene practices such as monitoring for symptoms, washing hands frequently, using hand sanitizer, and sanitizing work areas regularly. Housekeeping will continue to sanitize public areas until further notice.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or comments about this change.

I thank God that new Covid cases continue to decline and that so many of us have been vaccinated. I pray that our students who have not yet done so, will also get vaccinated prior to returning to campus in August.

In the heart of Christ,
Fr. Raúl

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