



Wednesday, August 4, 2021

Greetings,

As you are aware, there has been a recent surge of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, primarily due to the Delta variant, with Louisiana being significantly affected in the last few weeks. On Tuesday, Governor John Bel Edwards temporarily reinstated Louisiana's statewide indoor mask mandate for all people age five and older, which will stay in place until at least September 1, but may be extended if necessary.

**As a result, LSUS will now require all students, faculty, staff and visitors to wear masks when indoors on campus until further notice.** The Governor's mandate provides an exception for those giving a speech for broadcast or to an audience. Consistent with this exception, LSUS will designate a limited number of classrooms as being *instructor mask-optional* for certified fully-vaccinated instructors. These classrooms will be designated based on size and the availability of protective barriers that provide separation between the faculty member and students. Provost Taylor is currently working with the deans and the Pandemic Action Team to coordinate the protocols for this initiative. **Vaccinated individuals may remove their masks in outdoor spaces on campus, but I am requesting that unvaccinated individuals wear masks in shared outdoor spaces.**

Research has shown that our best hope of defeating the virus is through vaccination. Approximately 90% of COVID-19 related hospitalizations in Louisiana are for unvaccinated individuals. COVID-19 vaccines are widely available at 1,437 locations in all of Louisiana's 64 parishes, including at pharmacies, hospitals, health care clinics, and doctor's offices, and those aged 12 and older are now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine in Louisiana.

- For a list of locations, you may visit LDH's vaccine directory at <https://ldh.la.gov/directory/vaccination>, or visit <https://vaccines.gov>.
- If you have had at least one COVID-19 vaccine shot, please report it at [https://lsucommunity.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_aXiuvOCUy0FVzxQ](https://lsucommunity.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aXiuvOCUy0FVzxQ). If you have already reported through this link, you do not need to do so again. Having accurate and up-to-date vaccine information will help our campus with planning and response in the coming months.

The COVID-19 pandemic is not over, and the current phase brings as much uncertainty as at any other point in the last year and a half. We will continue to plan for a robust fall semester with on-campus, online, and hybrid offerings, and will update you with additional safety guidelines and mandates as we draw closer to the start of the fall semester. If you have questions regarding

COVID-19 protocols or mandates, please contact the head of the LSUS Pandemic Action Team, Bill Wolfe, at [bill.wolfe@lsus.edu](mailto:bill.wolfe@lsus.edu).

The health and safety of our students, faculty, staff, and guests continues to be our top priority in our COVID-19 planning, and I urge you to remain diligent and resolute in our efforts to combat and defeat this virus. We can do this together if we all do our part.

Pilot Strong,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Clark". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Larry Clark

Chancellor