

ELMIRA COLLEGE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 19, 2021

Dear EC Community,

As many of you know, last week the Centers for Disease Control released new guidance related to masks and the coronavirus. As of May 19th, New York State will adopt the CDC's "[Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#)" for most business and public settings. It is important to note that there are some differences between the CDC and NYS guidelines, and that the EC campus community must follow the NYS guidelines.

What this means for the remainder of Term III:

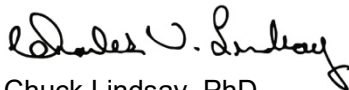
- Those who are fully vaccinated may remove their masks while outside. Full vaccination means it has been two weeks since the second dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine or the single dose of the J&J vaccine.
- Masks are still required for indoor settings where the vaccination status of individuals is unknown, including indoor classes and meetings. The current EC guidelines for residence halls remain in place.
- Masks will be required for Commencement as it is a large event with vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals in attendance. Students and their guests may remove their masks while seated as a family unit during the ceremony and for post-ceremony photos with their family unit.

In addition, the College has confirmed with the Chemung County Department of Health, that, per updated NYS guidelines, there is no longer a requirement to ask Commencement attendees to show proof of vaccination, recent negative test result, or positive test within the past 90 days. The [Commencement web page](#) has been updated.

I am also pleased to share that we have been able to update our Commencement plan to allow students to walk in front of the stage and receive their diploma. Students may "elbow bump" President Lindsay as they pause for a photo, but per NYS guidelines will not shake hands. Guests must remain seated throughout the ceremony, but a photo of each graduate accepting their diploma will be made available to graduates. Graduating students should continue to check their email and the [Commencement web page](#) for updates in the coming weeks.

Governor Cuomo has stated that NYS guidelines will adjust as more New Yorkers are vaccinated. I strongly encourage everyone, students and employees, to consider the vaccination as we look towards the fall and a return to a more "normal" campus life experience for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Sincerely,



Chuck Lindsay, PhD
President