

# ELMIRA COLLEGE

February 9, 2022

Dear EC Community,

Earlier today, New York Governor Kathy Hochul announced that she is lifting the statewide mask or vaccine mandate requirement for most indoor businesses, effective tomorrow – Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. Individual businesses, cities and counties still have the option to choose to require masks.

However, **the NYS HERO Act is still in place**, meaning NYS employers, including the College, must continue to follow the workplace safety plans put into place to help prevent infection. The College's HERO Act Plan is available on [MyEC](#) under "Coronavirus Resources."

## What this means for EC students and employees:

- As part of its NYS HERO Act plan, the College has a **mandatory indoor mask mandate for all students and employees, regardless of vaccination status, and that indoor mask mandate remains in effect on campus.**
- This applies to all indoor situations when physical distance cannot be maintained. Masks do not need to be worn indoors when employees are working alone at their physically distanced desk or when students are in their residence hall room.
- Virtual meetings are encouraged whenever possible.
- At this time, and following [current CDC guidance](#), wearing a mask outdoors is optional for everyone, but strongly encouraged when in crowded outdoor settings and for activities where you may have close contact with others who are not fully vaccinated.

Getting vaccinated, continued vigilance with good hand hygiene, staying home or in your room if you feel ill, and regular cleaning and disinfecting of your areas are also ways to help minimize the spread of the virus and to ensure that the College can continue to offer a robust campus experience this academic year.

Governor Hochul is expected to review the HERO Act Policy by February 15, 2022. If there are changes to the implementation of the policy, the campus community will be notified.