

ELMIRA COLLEGE

February 10, 2022

Dear EC Community,

New York State has updated the HERO Act, effective today, to remove the requirement for indoor face coverings. Per this new guidance, face coverings are *recommended*, but not required under the Policy. New York State and the State Department of Health continue to strongly recommend face coverings in all public indoor settings as an added layer of protection, even when not required.

The HERO Act designation and other components of the Policy, minus the indoors mask requirement, remain in place through Tuesday, Feb. 15, and may be extended at that time. The College's HERO Act Plan is available on [MyEC](#) under "Coronavirus Resources."

What this means for EC students and employees:

- Face coverings indoors are *recommended*, but not required.
- NYS recommends that face coverings be worn by unvaccinated individuals, including those with medical and religious exemptions, in accordance with federal CDC guidance.
- Those individuals who feel more comfortable wearing a face mask are certainly welcomed and encouraged to do so.

While this is positive news for many, continued vigilance on everyone's part is important to ensure a safe campus community. This includes good hand hygiene, staying home or in your room if you feel ill, and regular cleaning and disinfecting of your areas.

We look forward to a robust campus experience in the months ahead.