

ELMIRA COLLEGE

September 10, 2021

Dear EC Community,

The College's senior leadership has continued to monitor the spread of the Delta, and other coronavirus variants, across the region and the nation. On Monday, New York [Governor Kathy Hochul announced](#) that the coronavirus has been designated a "*highly contagious communicable disease that presents risk of harm to the public health.*" This designation requires NYS employers to enact the NYS HERO Act, meaning NYS employers, including the College, must implement workplace safety plans to help prevent infection. This plan applies to all employees, including student workers, part-time workers, independent contractors, domestic workers, and other temporary and seasonal workers. 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 will implement a **mandatory indoor mask mandate for all students and employees, regardless of vaccination status as of Monday, September 13.**
- 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.

When Governor Hochul and the NYS Department of Health change this designation, the campus community will be notified.

An EC-branded indoor mask mandate sign is attached for anyone who would like to print and post one in their area. The sign is also posted to [MyEC](#) under "Coronavirus Resources."