



September 30, 2022

Dear Students,

Please pay close attention to this important message.

As we have throughout the pandemic, we continue to follow CDC guidance and the latest scientific data to help inform the best way to care for our campus community. In light of the CDC's recent updates to its [Infection Control Guidance](#), the Bon Secours Mercy Health system has also revised the ministry's [COVID-19 Focused Infection Control Plan](#). **As part of this update, effective immediately, masks will be strongly recommended but no longer required in the Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing.**

Students, staff, and faculty will have the option of wearing masks on campus, with limited exception. Students will be required to wear masks during simulation where personal protective equipment would be used in the scenario or when otherwise designated. Anyone that is exempt from the COVID-19 vaccine or is at high risk for severe illness is encouraged to continue to wear a mask. In addition, other mitigation efforts will continue. Please continue to clean before and after use of an area, practice social distancing when possible, and utilize outdoor gathering tables when weather permits. You will need to continue to monitor for symptoms and plan not to be around others if you are sick. Many of us are used to ignoring or pushing through signs of illness; however, we need to intentionally make different decisions to keep our campus and community safe. I would like to remind you that if you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, you should not come to campus, practicum setting or be near others even if vaccinated. If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, you should report this to your course faculty and to our COVID tracking team. To report a positive case of COVID-19 and/or seek guidance, please complete [this form](#)

We will continue to monitor COVID-19 community transmission levels regularly, and if warranted, we will communicate to you if mitigation strategies need to change. If individuals choose to wear or not wear masks, please respect their personal decision. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me.

Sincerely,
Dr. Perkins

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