

Office of the President

March 17, 2022

Dear Heidelberg Community,

Based on <u>new guidance</u> issued by the Centers for Disease Control late last month which places Seneca County at low risk for the spread of COVID-19, we are announcing today that Heidelberg University is lifting our masking requirement, effective Friday, March 18. This policy change applies to all students, faculty, staff and visitors and to indoor spaces across campus, including offices, classrooms and all other indoor facilities.

If you are more comfortable, you are welcome to wear a mask at any time. We will continue to make masks available across campus for those who would like one. It is up to your discretion whether you continue to wear a mask or you decide not to wear one. We encourage empathy and understanding, regardless of an individual's masking choice.

Also of note:

- As part of our protocol revision, we will no longer require distancing.
- Our current quarantine/isolation guidance remains unchanged.
- We encourage everyone to get vaccinated or boosted, if you haven't already.
- Please continue to notify <u>Stoner Health & Counseling Center</u> (students) or <u>Human Resources</u> (employees) if you are symptomatic, have a positive test or have been identified as a close contact, so that respective Health Center and HR personnel can direct your quarantine and/or isolation.

We are hopeful that in the coming weeks and months, we will continue to remain a low-risk county. But we have learned throughout the pandemic that we may have to adapt quickly if circumstances change. We will continue to monitor CDC guidance as well as local and state data, and we will communicate any further changes in protocol required to keep our community safe. If each of us stays vigilant, we will end the spring semester successfully on a positive note!

Sincerely,

Chris Abrams
Dean of Student Affairs

Janelle Baldosser Director of Stoner Health & Counseling Center

Leslie Erwin Chief Human Resources Officer

Rob Huntington President