



# OFFICE OF THE *president*

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With the continued increase in COVID-19 cases, TTUHSC is requiring all students and team members to wear **face masks, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status, in our Abilene, Amarillo, and Lubbock clinics effective Monday, July 25. The face mask requirement will be in place until further notice. TTUHSC clinics in Odessa and Midland are not included at this time**, but your TTUHSC leadership continues to monitor cases in those communities and will provide communication if conditions change.

This temporary mask requirement will remain in effect as long as COVID-19 infection rates exceed 200 cases per 100,000 population (over seven days). This requirement comes from our Clinical Affairs Council's recommendation for infection prevention and control in our clinical settings. Team members may work with their campus [Human Resources director](#) and students may work with the [Office of Institutional Health](#) to facilitate exemption requests from this temporary mask requirement based on disability or religious reasons.

The BA-4 and BA-5 omicron variants, responsible for most current positive cases, are highly transmissible and are evading natural and some vaccine immunity. The temporary mask requirement provides an opportunity to prioritize the health of those in our clinical settings by decreasing infections and quarantine time periods among exposed students and team members.

Remember, the best defense against infection and illness severity with COVID-19 is being fully vaccinated, wearing a properly fitted face mask, and testing when you are aware of exposure to the virus or if you have symptoms. Please follow the process outlined on [TTUHSC SAFE](#) should you test positive for COVID-19 or have a known exposure. There also are excellent [resources for students](#) and [team members](#) on our Wellness websites.

Thank you for adhering to the temporary face mask requirement when you are in these designated clinics. **Your TTUHSC leadership will provide further communication on face mask requirements as COVID cases increase/decrease in our campus communities.**

Warmest regards,



**Lori Rice-Spearman, Ph.D.**

PRESIDENT

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center