

Greetings, TTUHSC Students and Team Members,

To protect the safety of our students, team members, and patients, TTUHSC is reinstating the temporary face mask requirement for students and team members in our clinics where COVID-19 infection rates exceed 200 cases per 100,000 population over a 14-day period.

Effective Tuesday, December 27, until further notification, based on the stated COVID-19 infection rate, **all students and team members are required to wear face masks, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status, in our Lubbock clinics.**

TTUHSC clinics in Abilene, Amarillo, Midland, and Odessa are not included at this time; however, our team members and students on these campuses are still encouraged to wear face masks while in these clinics to prevent the further spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The temporary face mask requirement comes at the recommendation of our Clinical Affairs Council subcommittee for COVID-19 infection prevention and control. I will continue to monitor cases in our campus communities and will provide communication if conditions change or if other campuses need to implement the face mask requirement.

The variants responsible for most of the current positive COVID-19 cases are highly transmissible and evade natural and some vaccine immunity. The temporary mask requirement helps to decrease infections and quarantine time periods among exposed students and team members.

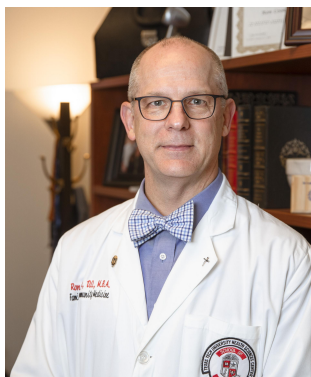
In addition to COVID-19, case counts of the flu and RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) have increased over the last few months, as demonstrated in higher community levels and transmission. Remember, the best defense against infection with COVID-19 and to reduce illness severity is to be fully vaccinated, wear a properly fitted mask, and test when you are aware of exposure to the virus or if you have symptoms. Wearing a face mask can also help reduce the spread of other respiratory viruses.

Please follow the process outlined on [TTUHSC SAFE](#) should you test positive for COVID-19 or have a known exposure. Our Wellness websites also offer excellent [resources for students](#) and [team members](#).

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 medical or religious reasons.

Should you have any questions or concerns outside of the information provided in this email, please feel free to contact me at ron.cook@ttuhsc.edu.

Regards,



Ronald L. Cook, D.O., MBA, FAAFP

CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER

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