

Dear Students,

As we kickoff the spring semester, and with the omicron variant of the coronavirus surging nationally and across Pennsylvania, we wanted to remind everyone to be ***especially vigilant with masking***. The vast majority of you don't need this reminder because you are cooperating diligently with the requirement to wear a well-fitting, multi-layered mask in Katz and the clinics. Thank you for your effort in this regard.

In case you missed it, here's a good, recent article on the topic in the Penn State News: [Proper masks and mask-wearing are critical as semester begins | Penn State University \(psu.edu\)](#).

Masks must be worn in all Penn State buildings, including Katz and the law library. Multi-layered, procedure masks (such as disposal surgical masks) or respirators (such as KN95 masks) are preferred; cloth masks made of multi-layered, washable, breathable fabric are sufficient. **Masks should fit snugly over your mouth and nose with no gaps**, cover both your mouth and nose completely, have nose wire to prevent air from leaking, and should be dry. Avoid masks with valves, and single layer coverings, including most neck gaiters.

Eating is not permitted in Katz, *except* in the Panera dining area and the designated eating area just outside the auditorium. If you're eating in either the Panera dining area or in the designated eating area, you may remove your mask *while you're seated and actively eating*. Please put your mask back on when you're done eating. Those areas are not mask-free zones. Masks must be worn in those areas unless you're actively eating. **Drinking** is permitted throughout Katz. If you're taking a drink in the building, you may lower your mask long enough to take the drink, and then put it back on.

We would also like to remind you that faculty and staff are authorized to take the names of those who are not complying and report them to the dean's office. We hope we don't have to do this. But everyone should be very aware of the mask requirement by now due to the various emails, announcements, and signage posted throughout the building. If you're not wearing a mask properly, we will ask you to wear the mask properly, but we may also ask for your name. If anyone refuses to give their name, or if we record your name more than once, we will follow the proscribed Penn State process for accountability.

Please comply with the masking requirement and help us keep our community safe and healthy.

Thank you for your continued cooperation during this challenging time.

Best,

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