



September 15, 2021

Dear Grace Students,

Following recommendations from the CDC, beginning Thursday, September 16, 2021, Grace Christian University is requiring the wearing of masks in public indoor spaces on campus. This decision is not made lightly. Here are factors we are facing which have moved the administration to make this decision:

- 1) Since the beginning of the semester, Grace has seen an increase in both cases of COVID as well as individuals in quarantine due to COVID exposure. This includes both students and employees.
- 2) Kent County currently (September 13, 2021) has a COVID positivity rate of over 12%.
- 3) The highest rate of COVID cases is currently within the age range of the majority of Grace's campus student population.
- 4) The University's educational effort as well as the community built by the student body are increasingly at risk as COVID continues to spread.

The University will continue to monitor the Kent County positivity rate. We will maintain our requirement for individuals to wear masks while the Community Transmission Risk remains high with a test positivity rate at 10% or greater averaged over a 7 day period.

On Grace's campus, public places include the Jack T. Dean Academic Center, Baker Chapel, Bultema Memorial Library, the Student Commons, Dining Hall and the Aldrich Athletic Center. Athletic Teams will have specific guidelines related to practice, competition and travel.

We know this affects you and your experience as a student at Grace. We have two time slots for you to come and be heard:

Wednesday, September 15, 12:30 PM in the President's Dining Room

Thursday, September 16, 12:30 PM in the President's Dining Room

Our hope and prayer (we are praying every day) is that this current COVID challenge will be short and that we will soon be able to release the mask requirement.

We thank you for understanding and ask for your cooperation during this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian P. Sherstad".

Brian Sherstad  
Executive Vice President