



February 24, 2022

A message from President Wynes regarding mask mandate

To the Black Hawk College Community,

We are reaching out to advise you the College has adjusted its indoor mask mandate effective February 28, 2022. As you know Governor Pritzker's press conference earlier this month included a change in mask mandates. In response to that masks will ***no longer be required***, although they are ***highly encouraged***, on BHC campus locations and facilities.

There are a few exceptions.

- Faculty may require masks in classrooms and labs at their discretion.
- Faculty and staff who come in close proximity (3 feet or less) with students and others may professionally request a mask be worn. However, this is not a mandate, just professional courtesy.
- Face masks must be worn in all BHC SHIELD IL testing sites for testers, employees and students.

We understand members of our campus community may have different comfort levels and make different choices regarding wearing masks. We respect the rights of individual who choose to continue to wear a face mask while in any indoor space. Likewise, we ask that everyone respect the request of students, faculty and staff if they ask you to wear a face mask while meeting in an office, classroom or conference room.

Please note that Gov. Pritzker's announcement applies only to masking policy. His executive order requiring that all students, faculty and staff at educational institutions must either be vaccinated or submit to weekly testing remains in place and we will continue to follow that policy.

Lastly, thank you for your patience and support in the past 24 months. Together we can all maintain a safe learning environment.

Respectfully yours,

Tim Wynes, President