

From: [SMSU-President](#)
Subject: Student Welcome and COVID Update
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Dear Students,

Welcome back for the start of a great new year. We are excited to see everyone and hope that your first day of classes has you excited to be back as well. As we plan for a more normal year, we are quickly reminded that the pandemic is not yet over. I would like to share with you a few recent updates.

Mask requirements

As of August 11, face coverings are required for all indoor public spaces at SMSU. All Minnesota State system institutions that reside in a county with substantial or high transmission of the COVID-19 virus are required to have a face covering requirement in place until transmission levels return to low or moderate for 14 consecutive days. We continue to monitor the data daily and will notify the campus when we are able to lift this requirement.

Vaccination and Testing Requirements

SMSU is not requiring proof of vaccination for all students. However, we learned late last week that the Minnesota State system will require students who live in on-campus housing (including the Foundation Residence Apartments) or participate in select campus programs or activities to provide proof of vaccination or be tested weekly. This requirement does not go in to effect until October 4, so we will share more details as we learn them. A reminder that if you have already been vaccinated, you can share proof of your vaccination at the Mustang Card Center in the Student Center and receive \$25 on your Mustang Card. Online students may also receive this incentive by contacting us via email at covid19@smsu.

I would like to encourage everyone to get vaccinated if you haven't already. We have another free clinic on campus this week on August 26, and all who get vaccinated will receive the \$25 incentive. You can learn more here [Free Vaccination Clinic](#). Pre-registration is encouraged but not required.

Registration Information

If you have further questions about the pandemic changes, please visit the [COVID News Page](#).

Best of luck for a great fall semester,

Kumara Jayasuriya

President

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