

Title: COVID-19 Update from Acting President Dr. Tod A. Laursen

March 7, 2022

To the SUNY Poly Community:

I write to you today to share my gratitude with each student, faculty, and staff member whose diligence in following our robust COVID-19 mitigation efforts has helped support our campuses'— and New York's—ability to begin transitioning away from a full slate of health strategies that have served us well during the pandemic. Simply put, the collective attentiveness of our SUNY Poly community to vaccination, boosting, regular testing, and the many distancing and masking requirements implemented over the past two years has made possible the relaxation of masking guidelines that we begin today.

Even in the context provided by a SUNY System that has responded effectively to the pandemic, SUNY Poly's COVID-19 positivity rates have decreased in a manner that is remarkable. With more than 42,500 tests administered, SUNY Poly's percent of positive cases to-date is currently around .06%. Because of your efforts, SUNY Poly can now implement its updated [mask-optional policy, which also includes several exceptions that you may review here](#).

As a number of faculty, staff, and students may now choose to transition from wearing masks, I want to stress the importance of civility and kindness. Please respect another's decision to wear or not wear a face covering, especially as the masking policy is subject to change based on updated caseload or transmissibility information. All other protocols remain in place until further notice. I have really been touched by the level of mutual respect members of our community have shown to each other throughout the pandemic—and I have every confidence this collective spirit will continue to guide our response to this next, hopefully happier and healthier, phase.

Only a few days ago, New York State marked two years since its first confirmed COVID-19 case. From that time, many of us have known people who were directly impacted by this virus, including the loss of friends and family members. While we hold tight to the memory of each one of these loved ones, I am inspired by how we all continue to persevere, together, so that we can also hold fast to hope that the worst of the pandemic may be behind us.

I wish all of you and your families continued health in the weeks and months ahead.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tod A. Laursen
Acting President
SUNY Polytechnic Institute