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# UAMS HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START

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## Memorandum

To: Employees and Families  
From: Tyra Larkin  
CC: Dr. Eddie Ochoa

We are happy to announce that because of the decrease in numbers of COVID-19 cases and transmission in Arkansas, consistent with public health guidance, UAMS has changed our mask guidelines for UAMS employees, effective Monday 4/18/2022. Here are the details.

- **Non-patient care/non-health care areas** - classroom, research, business, administration and support areas that are separate and/or removed from patient care areas.
  - Masking **is not** required for those UAMS employees **who are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine series AND flu vaccination for the 2021-22 flu season.**
    - Fully vaccinated against COVID-19 means receipt of at least two doses of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or at least one dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine, or as approved by UAMS Student and Employee Health Services.
  - Employees who **are not up-to-date** with their COVID-19 vaccination series **OR** flu vaccination for the 2021-22 season (including those with approved medical or religious exemptions) **are required** to continue to mask in all campus areas.

At this time, children will be required to continue to wear masks while at school (until vaccination is available), as well as visitors, therapist, vendors etc. In the event an enrolled child/children is fully vaccinated, with documentation on file, we will consider a change to the mask guidelines.

Eyewear and gowns are also optional. All other procedures will remain the same.

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As a reminder, UAMS requires all employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and influenza or have an approved medical or religious exemption on file. We encourage families that are eligible to get vaccinated including all recommended booster doses.

As we enter this next phase, we ask to respect the personal decision of others who may choose to continue to mask in areas where masking is not required. UAMS is not a place for coercion, intimidation, harassment or bullying about decisions to mask or vaccination status. We are hopeful that next school year will bring us closer to normalcy; we miss our parents in our buildings/classrooms and in person family activities. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your Educational Leads/Assistants, Deputy Directors or myself.

Wishing Everyone Well!

Tyra Larkin  
Program Director