



Cleveland Institute of Art
College of Art + Design

Memorandum

Cleveland Institute of Art | 11610 Euclid Avenue | Cleveland, Ohio
44106

To: CIA Students, Faculty and Staff
From: COVID Task Force
Date: July 27, 2022
Subject: Update to CIA masking policy

Students, Faculty and Staff:

Since the beginning of the pandemic, CIA's mask-wearing policy has served our community well. Especially during the early stages of the pandemic, before vaccines were readily available, we believe that remaining masked at all times helped stave off serious outbreaks at CIA.

However, given the prevalence and effectiveness of vaccines and boosters, the COVID Task Force believes it's time for a new approach to mask-wearing—an approach that continues to prioritize our community's safety and incorporate objective, data-driven guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Effective this Friday, July 29, CIA's masking policy will align with the [CDC's COVID-19 Community Level](#) for [Cuyahoga County](#).

This CDC assessment factors in hospital beds being used, hospital admissions and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area, and using that information, classifies a county's community level as LOW, MEDIUM or HIGH. Currently, Cuyahoga County is classified as MEDIUM.

Based on the community level, the following protocols will be in place at CIA:

- **LOW (green)**: Masks will be optional in all indoor settings. Those who prefer to wear a mask are encouraged to do so. Please recognize that our classmates, colleagues and visitors who are immune-compromised or who live with someone who has a high-risk medical condition may choose to mask regardless of community risk level.
- **MEDIUM (yellow)**: Masks will be required during scheduled class and class-related activities in classrooms, computer labs, studios, meeting rooms and other spaces where multiple students, faculty or staff are working together.

Masks will be recommended but optional in common spaces such as hallways, restrooms, elevators, lounges and the Jessica R. Gund Memorial Library as well as public spaces such as the Peter B. Lewis Theater (including during Cinematheque screenings) and Reinberger Gallery (and smaller CIA galleries). Campus tours for prospective students and others will also be mask-optional.

- **HIGH** (red): Masks will be required in all indoor settings, including classrooms, computer labs, hallways, galleries, restrooms, elevators, lounges, general common areas, the Library and in the Peter B. Lewis Theater. In private offices, cubicles and studios, mask must be worn when multiple people are working together. However, masks may be removed in those personal spaces when a student or employee is working alone. Masks may also be removed when a person is actively eating or drinking.

When at MEDIUM or HIGH, life-drawing models who are fully vaccinated will be allowed to remove their masks during modeling sessions only (and if they feel comfortable doing so). Students and faculty in those classes must remain masked.

Please note that if you have classes or appointments at Case Western Reserve University, you must still adhere to its masking policy. CWRU's current prevention measures (including masking) can be reviewed [here](#).

As for timing and communication, below is an outline of when and how the CIA community and visitors to our campus can learn our current masking policy:

Every Friday, members of the COVID Task Force will check the CDC's assessment of Cuyahoga County and use that community level to determine whether there will be a change to the current mask-wearing protocols for the following week. For example, if Cuyahoga County's risk level is MEDIUM on Friday, July 29, then CIA's MEDIUM protocols will be in effect from Monday, August 1 through Sunday, August 7.

If a change in masking protocols is necessary due to an increased or decreased community level, a message will be sent that Friday to CIA email addresses for students, faculty and staff. Publicly, it will be communicated via updates to CIA's website, including on the homepage and at cia.edu/covid, and updates to the monitors throughout the academic building. In addition, signage at all five of CIA's entrances will reflect that week's community level and mask-wearing requirements. If a community level changes from the previous week, signage updates will be made as early as possible Monday morning.

If there's no increase or decrease in Cuyahoga County's community level, no email will be sent but the current status will remain visible publicly on the website, on monitors and at the entrances.

We understand this new approach represents a number of shifts from our previous masking policy, but again, the COVID Task Force believes it strikes the right balance for our community at this stage of the pandemic.

As always, if you have questions or concerns about masking or any other CIA COVID policy, you're invited to submit them via the [COVID portal on myCIA](#). As a reminder, many other COVID-related questions—like what steps to take at CIA if you test positive or what the College's vaccination/booster requirements are—can be answered by visiting cia.edu/covid.

Please note that fall semester policies regarding testing, vaccines and boosters will be communicated at a later date.

On behalf of the COVID Task Force, I want to express my gratitude for your enduring adaptability as the pandemic landscape continues to change. Thanks for all that you have done to help keep our community safe.

Kathryn Heidemann
President + CEO