

July 16, 2020

TO: Leadership Council

FROM: Devinder Malhotra, Chancellor

RE: Updated COVID-19 safety requirements

Over the past five months, our focus has been and remains the safety of our students, faculty, and staff. Local, statewide, and national guidance and information regarding the use and efficacy of face coverings and use of screening tools has accelerated in recent weeks. Recently the CDC shared [new information](#) regarding the wearing of face coverings to prevent COVID spread.

Many of our campuses, through their own consultative structures made the decision to require mandatory use of face coverings. In addition, the bargaining unit leaders and several employees have advocated for a consistent systemwide guidance on the use of face coverings. In response to the additional public health guidance and feedback from employees, I have decided that **no later than August 3, 2020, all Minnesota State employees, students, and visitors, to include contractors and vendors, are required to wear a face covering when inside college or university facilities and enclosed places such as tunnels and skyways, and leased spaces, to include the system office, when physical distancing is not possible.**

In addition, we shared earlier this week that a screening tool is currently being developed and should be available by the end of July for campuses and the system office to begin implementing. **Therefore, no later than August 3, 2020, all Minnesota State employees, students, and visitors, to include contractors and vendors, will be required to complete the screening tool (or alternative format if technology is not available) prior to entering any college, university, or system office facilities.**

As shared with you earlier this week, the screening tool will provide campuses and the system office with the ability for students, faculty, staff and visitors to take a COVID assessment questionnaire. The questionnaire will give advice/guidance to the respondent based on department of health guidelines and other guidelines as to whether they are “cleared to come to work/school” or should remain at home and seek assistance based on guidelines.

I have charged Vice Chancellors Maki, Davis, and Padilla to develop more detailed associated guidelines and FAQs around the use of face coverings and screening tool. A draft will be shared with you by Tuesday, July 21 to collect your feedback, questions, and concerns.

Thank you for your understanding and your leadership as we continue to navigate our colleges and universities through this difficult time.