

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Southeast Arkansas College has continued to monitor the impact of COVID-19 in Arkansas and to adhere to public health guidelines and directives from the state and federal governments; and

WHEREAS, having prepared for a full return to in-person activities, including face-to-face instruction, health education clinical rotations, and regular campus events, among others, for the 2021-22 academic year, we are now facing a rapid rise in COVID-19 case counts and hospitalizations in Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, and surrounding areas, due to the highly infectious COVID-19 Delta variant; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that, based on the spread of the Delta variant, communities with high transmission of COVID-19 should require individuals, regardless of vaccination status, to wear face coverings in indoor public settings; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS COLLEGE THAT the Board directs the college to implement face covering policies for students, faculty, staff and guests, regardless of vaccination status, in indoor public settings where physical distancing cannot be assured in accordance with CDC guidance regarding the COVID-19 Delta variant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the policies include reasonable exceptions for certain settings and activities that follow guidance established by public health agencies and/or by external governing bodies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT such policies remain in effect as long as the use of face coverings continues to be recommended by the CDC and that the policies may be adjusted in accordance with future public health guidance. Southeast Arkansas College will monitor the current pandemic situation and reassess the mandatory use of face coverings on a reasonable basis.