



**Faculty Senate
Resolution on COVID-19 Guidelines for Fall 2021
August 11, 2021**

WHEREAS the Centers for Disease Control is recommending that areas of substantial and high transmission of COVID-19 resume mask-wearing indoors in public;

WHEREAS the Centers for Disease Control has determined that the Delta variant is substantially more contagious than previous variants;

WHEREAS data provided by the CDC places the nine-county greater Houston area in the highest risk category for transmission of COVID-19;

WHEREAS according to the Texas Medical Center, the effective spread of COVID-19 for the Greater Houston Area is increasing, and the region's ICU capacity is at eighty-four percent full;

WHEREAS according to the Department of State Health Services data, the 12+ average fully vaccinated rate for the greater Houston area is less than fifty percent, below herd immunity standards;

WHEREAS the University of Houston is prohibited from requiring masks or vaccinations for faculty, staff, and students who are in face-to-face classes and meetings on campus;

WHEREAS many classrooms and other facilities used for academic purposes such as advising do not permit proper social distancing for faculty, staff, students, and visitors;

WHEREAS the University of Houston is being constrained in its protective and preventive measures by forces outside its control;

WHEREAS to ensure a safe face-to-face educational experience for our students and provide a safe work environment for faculty and staff;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate of the University of Houston urges that Texas public institutions of higher education be allowed to implement reasonable and appropriate protective and preventive measures based on scientific evidence, local health conditions, and public health standards to slow the spread of COVID-19.