

January 21, 2022

Students,

Thank-you for your diligence in wearing your masks these first days of the school term.

Our current Covid-19 numbers are one student, and one staff member are in isolation and one resident is in quarantine. The highest percentage we have had since school started is seven (7) percent of our on-campus student population have been in isolation at any one time.

The Taskforce has made a recommendation to the President's Cabinet, which was accepted, that we will continue to wear masks through Friday, February 4, which is an eleven (11) day extension. The reasons for the extension are:

- The percentage of infections in the state of MA is still high, seventeen (17) percent.
- Our Chapel and classrooms are not social distanced so any positive cases would require more students to be in quarantine.
- We are not currently conducting weekly testing and we may have asymptomatic people in the community.

Two parameters have been established for when the requirement for masks will be dropped:

- The percentage of positive cases on campus at any one time does not rise above seven (7) percent.
- The infection rate for the state of MA reaches ten (10) percent.

In a recent meeting with the MA Department of Higher Education and the Department of Public Health, the facilitators of this meeting were optimistic that the positivity rate would soon peak and then start to decline. Since that meeting, the overall positivity rate in MA has begun to decline. We trust this trend will continue and that soon, we can lift the mask requirement.

The Northpoint students who are vaccinated and were in close contact with a positive person did not have to quarantine. If you are not yet vaccinated, we encourage you to make a prayerful and informed decision concerning vaccination.

The President's Cabinet and the Covid-19 Taskforce