

2022-23 Syllabus Statement on Pandemic Protocols

The CDC recommends that all individuals, even vaccinated individuals, wear proper and well-fitting masks in public indoor spaces, like classrooms, especially where social distancing is not possible and virus rates are high. The CDC assesses the infection rate in Leon County as **High**.

Florida is experiencing a surge of the Omicron BA.5 variant, the most easily transmissible Covid variant to date, which is able to evade previous immunity from infection and vaccination. It is a much more transmissible variant than the original virus, the Delta variant, or even the earlier Omicron variants. It can infect even vaccinated individuals and can be spread by them to others. It poses a special threat to members of the community with underlying health conditions and family members vulnerable to the virus. The best way to protect against serious illness is to be fully vaccinated, but not everyone among us can be.

For these reasons, FSU expects each of us to continue cooperating with common-sense [public health protocols](#), including (1) getting vaccinated and boosted, (2) testing for the virus if you have symptoms, (3) staying home and away from others if you are sick, and (4) masking in public indoor spaces to protect yourself and others whenever there is reason for concern. In our classroom together, I will wear a proper, well-fitting mask, and I invite you to join me in order to reduce the spread of BA.5 and protect the vulnerable among us. Please remember that you should NOT attend class in person if you have tested positive for Covid-19 or are in quarantine.