



An Update from us on COVID-19

Dear Tutors,

We are writing to inform you that as of **Monday, March 14th, CFLC has decided to align with New Hanover county policies and make mask wearing optional in our buildings.**

Please keep in mind that "mask optional" does not mean that everyone will remove their masks. Many individuals will continue to wear a mask on campus, and there are a multitude of reasons, such as underlying health issues or immune-compromised family members, which may make this choice necessary.

We know the topic of mask use can be very personal and often polarizing, so we are asking for everyone's help to maintain a safe and respectful environment here at CFLC. One-on-one tutoring, in particular, is a very close-contact situation, and we know that many of our tutors and students are in high-risk categories and not everyone who uses the building is vaccinated. **Therefore, our policy is that if one person in a pair wants the sessions to be masked, the other will honor that request.**

For classes, we encourage teachers to discuss the situation with their students. While any participant is welcome to wear a mask/face shield if that is more comfortable, we will not be requiring the entire class to comply with a single person's wish, rather staff will work with that individual to provide another option – either in a one-on-one pair or online participation.

We are asking for your help in explaining these policy changes to our students, but staff is always willing to have a conversation with you or your student to help clarify and explain how this works. Please know that program staff and admin volunteers will continue to have masks available, and we are ALWAYS willing to wear one when we are interacting with tutors or students, just ask! If you have concerns or questions about your individual situation, please don't hesitate to reach out. We will do everything we can to make sure you have a safe and comfortable volunteering experience.

We will continue to monitor our case numbers - as well as New Hanover County metrics - carefully in the weeks and months to come, and may shift back to mandatory masking as a tool for responding to a significant uptick should we experience another COVID surge. **We also ask that if you or your student are experiencing any symptoms of sickness, you remain home** to help protect others. As always, we truly appreciate your patience and cooperation as we continue to navigate this ever-changing pandemic landscape!

Sincerely,

Nancy Woolley and Program Staff
