

A Resolution to Encourage Wearing Masks on Public Transportation

WHEREAS the Residence Hall Association (RHA) is the governing body for all on-campus students at the University of Maryland (UMD), and

WHEREAS the Department of Transportation Services (DOTS) operates as UMD’s primary mechanism for the transport of students throughout the greater College Park area, and

WHEREAS UMD has required every student to be vaccinated against COVID-19 save for religious and medical exemptions, resulting in a 98% vaccination rate ([Addendum A](#)), and

WHEREAS the campus’ high vaccination rate may confer to students a false sense of immunity against COVID-19 infection, and

WHEREAS COVID-19 has mutated into variants that are more likely to be carried by vaccinated individuals ([Addendum B](#)), and

WHEREAS a study by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences has found masks to be 79% effective in protecting against COVID-19 infections, stating that “face mask use could result in a large reduction in risk of infection” ([Addendum C](#)), and

WHEREAS UMD and DOTS’ shuttle bus system follow Prince George’s County’s indoor mask mandate that is tentatively in place until Thursday, Dec. 9, 2021, given its geographic location in the jurisdiction ([Addendum D](#)), and

WHEREAS buses are considered an indoor environment, and

WHEREAS these buses are driven by paid DOTS employees, and

WHEREAS drivers and passengers are often subjected to unsafe conditions due to mask mandate non-compliant bus-riders according to DOTS, and

WHEREAS UMD has shown no sign of lifting the mask mandate despite its high vaccination rate due to new variants and cases continuing to spike across the nation, and

WHEREAS students habitually board shuttle buses without a mask on, and risk exposing others exposing others to the virus if they are an asymptomatic COVID-19 carrier, and

43 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that RHA fully support and encourage the continued
44 wearing of masks when using campus transportation until the Centers for Disease Control
45 declares COVID-19 as an endemic and UMD has lifted mask restrictions for the vaccinated
46 ([Addendum E](#)).

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58 Addendums:

59 Addendum A: <https://umd.edu/4Maryland/health/covid-19-vaccine>

60 Addendum B: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>

61 Addendum C: <https://www.pnas.org/content/118/4/e2014564118>

62 Addendum D: <https://wtop.com/prince-georges-county/2021/10/prince-georges-co-extendsindoor-mask-mandate/>

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64 Addendum E: <https://www.wncn.com/article/news/health/coronavirus/covid-19-move-pandemicendemic/275-50d6abdd-e5c1-44b5-93b1-f204079b3ee2> Addendum G:

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66 <https://www.pnas.org/content/118/4/e2014564118>