

Whereas multiple COVID variants are circulating nationally, including the XBB.1.5 variant, which has rapidly increased since November and currently accounts for 43% of COVID cases in the US¹,

Whereas health care experts have deemed us to be in a “tridemic” due to the simultaneous surges of COVID, RSV, and influenza over the past month²,

Whereas COVID was the third leading cause of death in the United States in 2022 killing over 235,000 people in 2022 alone,

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) nearly one in five adults in the United State who had COVID are still experiencing long COVID symptoms (lasting more than three months after initial infection)³,

Whereas COVID infections can have life-threatening effects beyond the acute phase such as heart attacks and strokes^{4,5},

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control’s Household Pulse Survey individuals age 18-29 are experiencing long COVID at similar rates as other age groups and are more likely to experience significant disruption to their daily activities due to long COVID⁶,

Whereas repeated infections of COVID can lead to increasing organ system damage and an increase risk of developing long COVID⁷,

Whereas common symptoms of long COVID including fatigue, and difficulty thinking and concentration can interfere with school and work, directly impeding on the mission of the University of Wisconsin - Madison “to provide a learning environment in which faculty, staff and students can discover, examine critically,

¹ <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#variant-proportions>

² <https://stories.camden.rutgers.edu/tridemic/index.html>

³ https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs_press_releases/2022/20220622.htm

⁴ <https://www.cedars-sinai.org/newsroom/covid-19-surges-linked-to-spike-in-heart-attacks/>

⁵ https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/if-youve-had-covid-watch-out-for-stroke-symptoms/2022/11/03/9fa3317a-5b80-11ed-bc40-b5a130f95ee7_story.html

⁶ <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/covid19/pulse/long-covid.htm>

⁷ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-022-02051-3>

preserve and transmit the knowledge, wisdom and values that will help ensure the survival of this and future generations and improve quality of life for all”⁸⁹,

Whereas UW-Madison plays an integral role within the wider Madison community, thus policies addressing COVID on campus directly impact the health and safety of individuals who are not affiliated with the university,

Whereas COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted marginalized communities especially communities of color and inadequate COVID response runs counter to UW-Madison’s commitment to diversity and inclusion to “fulfill its public mission by creating a welcoming and inclusive community for people from every background - people who as students, faculty, and staff serve Wisconsin and the world”¹⁰¹¹¹²,

Whereas the current “vaccine-only” approaches do not stop viral spread, and on our current path we can expect the emergence of new variants now and in the future.

Whereas the Lancet COVID Commission - a commission of 28 global experts in public policy, international cooperation, epidemiology and vaccinology, economic and financial systems, sustainability sciences, and mental health - and other scientific bodies advocate for effective multilayer protections¹³¹⁴,

Whereas effective COVID mitigation strategies can increase work productivity by reducing sick time and improving access to campus activities for all people, including disabled people and those at high risk for COVID complications.

The Associated Students of Madison acting in Student Council do enact as follows:

⁸ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/long-term-effects/index.html>

⁹ <https://www.wisc.edu/about/mission/>

¹⁰ <https://www.fammed.wisc.edu/community/covid19/#89a1b25b651c23472>

¹¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/investigations-discovery/hospitalization-death-by-race-ethnicity.html>

¹² <https://diversity.wisc.edu/>

¹³ [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(22\)01585-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(22)01585-9/fulltext)

¹⁴ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-022-05398-2>

Therefore, be it resolved, the ASM supports the COVID Spring 2023 Policy Asks put forth by the UW Workers' COVID Response Working Group. Which includes the following measures:

- Allow individuals to request masking requirements in shared spaces that they are required to be in for employment or education purposes through an accommodation through workplace accommodations and the McBurney Disability Resource Center.
- Allow individuals to request online attendance to events required for employment or education purposes through an accommodation through workplace accommodations and the McBurney Disability Resource Center.
- Make high-quality masks available at locations across campus that are heavily trafficked including the unions, the first floor of 333 East Campus Mall, and campus libraries.
- Continue to offer free COVID and flu vaccinations to all members of the campus community.
- Increase vaccine clinic access for staff working second and third shifts.
- Reinstate PCR testing for members of the campus community.
- Provide a mechanism for campus community members to report at-home test results.
- Reinstate contact tracing on campus and increase available hours for the University Housing COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation Housing Team to include week nights and more than the 8 hours currently available on the weekend
- Reinstate the campus COVID data dashboard, showing testing and vaccination rates.
- Provide support, flexibility, and sufficient paid leave for students, staff, and faculty affected by COVID infection, long COVID, and other personal and family medical and caregiving impacts of the pandemic.
- Reaffirm flexible course attendance policies so that students are not penalized if they miss class due to illness, quarantine, or isolation.
- Provide and prioritize virtual options for classes, university events, and work meetings to increase accessibility for all and to improve accommodations for disabled students and workers.

- Provide clear communication and effective education to the campus community about how to stop the spread of COVID as well as the risks of infection, reinfection, and long COVID.
- Conduct studies on the ventilation and filtration of air in all campus spaces and make reports easily available to potential occupants.
- Improve ventilation and filtration in classrooms, living spaces, and offices spaces on campus.

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Be it further resolved, the ASM calls upon UW Administration to involve students, faculty, and staff in further im decisions making around COVID-19 policies, including utilizing institutional shared governance procedures as outlined in Wisconsin State Statue 36.09(4), 36.09(4m), and 36.09(5).

Be it further resolved, ASM will appoint students to the COVID-19 Student Advisory Board.