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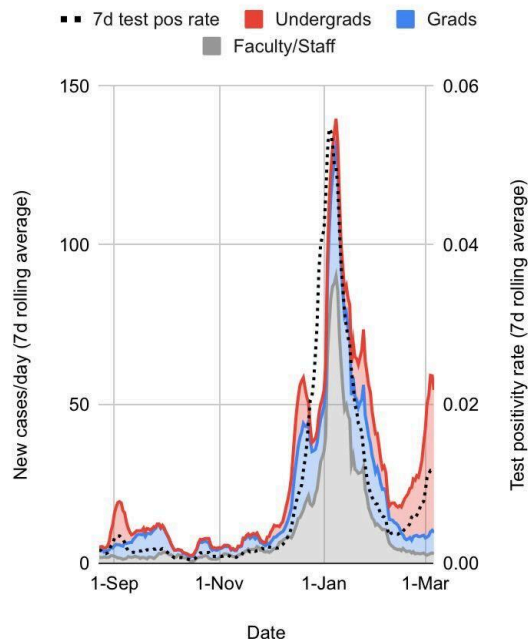
Dear President Bacow, Provost Garber, Executive Vice President Lapp, and Dr. Nguyen,

We are writing to request the reinstatement of Harvard's indoor mask mandate for classrooms and laboratories across the University while cases remain above baseline levels from Summer and Fall 2021.

In a January 12th COVID update, [Dr. Nguyen recommended that community members wear the best masks available to them](#), such as N95 or KN95 masks. Less than two months later, cases have dropped relatively to that peak, but are still significantly higher than they were this summer and fall, when masking was still required on-campus.

### Harvard COVID-19 history ('21-'22 year)

Source: Harvard University COVID-19 Testing...



This radical reorientation of COVID precautions amidst a Harvard College [surge in cases](#) and as students, faculty, and staff prepare to travel for spring break, is premature and dangerous. This reversal comes only three days after Provost Alan Garber asserted that [any rollback of masking policies would not apply to classrooms](#).

The change is not only internally inconsistent with Harvard's recent masking guidance, it's also bad public health policy that **puts the onus of protection on those who are most vulnerable**. No worker should be required to be in a mask-optional space as part of their job. Moreover, although instructors are able to require their classes to maintain a mask requirement, students and TFs are not--and, moreover, may feel social pressure not to mask as a result of power dynamics in the classroom. This presents added difficulties for community members who are at higher risk of severe outcomes from

COVID-19, or who live with people at high risk.

The University owes its students, staff, and faculty due respect for their health and well-being. Wishful thinking that Omicron is "mild" is speculative at best. **This is a novel strain of a novel virus, and we do not have the data to support a de facto policy of mass infection.** We know that vaccinated individuals can develop long COVID. We also know that COVID-19 affects nearly every organ system in the body, including the brain, and that these findings hold even for mild cases. And we do not know the long-term effects of COVID-19 infections, including mild/asymptomatic cases.

**Please uphold your responsibility to your students, faculty, and staff to ensure their continued health and safety: reinstate the indoor mask mandate for classrooms and laboratories** – this is a proven, low-cost, high-impact measure that could prevent scores from getting sick in super-spreader events.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Organizations:**

Harvard Graduate Student Union

Harvard Undergraduate Disability Justice Club

Harvard All Campus Coalition, Workers from Harvard's various unions

Harvard No Layoffs Campaign, Rank and file members of HUCTW/AFSCME 3650

Disability Law Students Association, Harvard Law School

Harvard Student Labor Action Movement

**Individuals:**

Chloe Reichel, AB '15, staff at HLS

Justin Feldman, research fellow, Harvard FXB Center

Matthew Noe, Countway Library, Harvard Medical School

Frehiwot Tesfaye, SEAS Staff

Mariana Beu Rae, MPH student, HSPH

Alyssa Kumler, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Emily Hoe, MPH student, HSPH

Tessa Green, Biophysics PhD Candidate, Harvard Medical School

Simge Topaloglu, PhD Candidate, Psychology

Brandon Woo, GSAS

Melanie Rucinski, GSAS

Kat Poje, GSAS, History of Science, doctoral candidate

Mark Wright, GSAS, OEB

Ericka Sanchez, GSAS Student

Marisa Borreggine, GSAS EPS Student

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Ashley Gonik, GSAS, History

Emily Wright, PhD candidate, Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health

Jack Cordes, PhD Student, Population Health Science

Dorit Stein, PHS PhD student - HSPH

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Emma Broder, PhD Candidate, History of Science

Sebastian Rowe, GSAS

Denish Jaswal, GSAS PhD Student

Juliana E. Morris, Instructor, Harvard Medical School

Avik Chatterjee, Harvard Medical School  
Julia Koehler, MD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, HMS  
Elizabeth Ross, GSAS PhD student  
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Laura Chong, HLS staff  
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Danylo Lavrentovich, PhD student, SSQBio  
Kevin Mizes, GSAS  
Sunny Kung, HMS/Mass General Hospital  
Ali Gentry, Harvard Law School student  
Erin Erhart. IACS at SEAS  
Koby Ljunggren, GSAS/HMS, Biophysics PhD Program  
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Colin Killick, HKS MPP '18  
Rose Orenbuch, HMS  
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Ruihua Fan, PhD student  
Tal Scully, PhD student  
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Hania Marien, HGSE  
Marten Dondorp, GSAS  
Sharan Rai, PhD Student, Population Health Sciences  
Seokweon Jeon, GSAS  
Boryana Hadzhiyska, GSAS, Astronomy  
Katherine Miller MD, HMS  
Ana Laura Malmaceda, Grad Student  
Andrew Ntapalis, PhD Student  
Melissa Shang, Student at Harvard College  
Daniel Kassler, GSAS, Bioinformatics  
Rachel Auslander, Harvard College  
Iris Cong, G5, Physics  
Genevieve Butler, Staff  
Courtney Henderson, HLS Employee  
Geoff Carens, HUCTW Union Rep [personal capacity]  
Matthew Zahnzinger, SEAS  
Carol Tierney, Staff

Kisha James, HLS employee  
Doris Landaverde, Custodial  
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Mary Hopkins, staff  
Gwen Speeth, Staff  
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Fiona Riley, GSD  
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Joey Francoeur-Krzyzek, Staff  
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Amanda Dynak, Harvard College, Student  
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Anuksha Wickramasinghe, Harvard College  
Karina Halevy, College '23  
Elvira Masterson, College '22  
Ben Elwy, Harvard College  
Saul Glist, Harvard College '23  
Raquel Rivera, Harvard College  
Maribel Cervantes, Harvard College '23  
Abia S. Khan, Harvard College, '24  
Marco Joven Domínguez, Harvard College  
Kian Moretz, Harvard College student  
Massiel Torres, GSAS  
Raymond Whitney, Harvard College  
Milo Benedict, Harvard College  
Alex Benoit, Harvard College First Year  
Mataya Philbrick, FAS  
Rebecca Araten, Harvard College  
Olivia Oldham, Harvard College  
Mirian Vargas, Harvard College Student  
Andrea Fernandez, Harvard College Student  
Ananí Morales, Harvard College Student  
Ellie Corbus, Harvard College  
Marcus Knoke, Harvard College  
Matilda Scheftel, Harvard College Student  
Araceli Meza, Harvard College '22  
Sophie Kim, Harvard College  
Giselle Chiprez, Harvard College Student  
Mahan Moalemi, PhD student, Film and Visual Studies  
Jordan Sanchez, Harvard College Student  
Josh Freund, Harvard College Student  
Hannah Kim, Harvard College  
Liz Hoveland, College '22

Ben Freudenberg, Harvard College Student  
Abby Yoon, Harvard College student  
Barisere Tuka, Harvard College Student  
Caroline Choi, Class of 2024  
Maria Cheriyan, Harvard College  
Amal Yazeji, College  
Autumn Johnson, Harvard College Student  
Sydney Vach, Harvard College  
Sedona Farber, Harvard College Student  
Ezra Lebovitz, Harvard College  
Helen Dai, Harvard College Student  
Rosa Flores, Harvard College  
Faith Rounds, Harvard College Student  
Mira Becker, Harvard College  
Steven Portillo, Harvard College Student  
Yireny Cordero, Harvard College Student  
Laura Hartnett, Staff  
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Alice Wu, Harvard College  
Rothsaida Sylvaince, Harvard College '24  
Brooke Livingston, Harvard College  
Ester M., Harvard College  
Amina Yousry, Harvard College  
Dylan DeMarco, Harvard College  
Aisha Abdelhamid, Harvard College '23  
Liam Keohane, Alum, Harvard College class of 2019  
Millie Mae Healy, Harvard College  
Amina Sanogo, Harvard College  
Rachel Zhou, Harvard College, Class of 2024  
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Uday Schultz, Harvard College '23  
Sophie Webster, Harvard College  
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Evelyn Gonzalez, Harvard College  
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Guillaume Bouchard, Harvard College '24  
Claire Pryor, Harvard College '23  
Kris King, Harvard College Student  
Anne Fletcher, Harvard College student  
Daniela Betancourt, Harvard College student

Polina Whitehouse, Harvard College, Class of 2023  
Nicole Fintel, Harvard College  
Klara Kuemmerle, Harvard College  
Abigail Mejia, Harvard College  
Michelle Lara, Harvard College  
Alex Grayson, Harvard College, Class of 2022  
Minjue Wu, Harvard College  
Nichole Gutierrez, Harvard College '25  
Brit Shrader, Harvard College, 2024  
Chelsea Asare, Harvard College  
Toochi Uradu, Harvard College  
Jaidyn Probst, Harvard College Student  
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Audrey Kang, Harvard College  
Noreen Bowden, HKS MPA '12  
Henry Lear, College '24

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