



## Syllabus Statement on Covid and Masking

This message is from the Wesleyan AAUP Executive Committee on behalf of the chapter, and in the service of all Wesleyan faculty. It emerged from members' concerns through careful deliberation and seeks to reinvigorate the habit of working together as faculty on long-term pandemic preparedness.

The AAUP's policy recommendations for shared governance invest the faculty with primary responsibility in all educational matters, including "methods of instruction," and this principle is codified in Wesleyan's by-laws (Chapter IV, section 3).

The arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic in Spring 2020 put this principle of shared governance to the test – the results were sobering. Now that the initial state of emergency has passed while the risk of Covid infection with potentially serious health and pedagogical consequences is once again on the rise, we affirm that matters of public health are matters of educational policy, and, moreover, that the faculty bear primary responsibility for such matters. No public health measure affecting classroom instruction ought to be decided without cooperation with the faculty and its elected bodies of shared governance. Faculty, for our part, must supply carefully considered collective plans of action to sustain our educational work during difficult times.

Wesleyan faculty want in-person instruction to proceed with as little disruption from the pandemic as possible. This semester, faculty have been asked to make our own individual decisions about classroom masking policies without knowing how many members of the campus community are currently infected. Moreover, the freedom of pre-tenure and non-tenure-track colleagues to make such decisions is curtailed by a lack of tenure protections.

The Wesleyan AAUP chapter supplies the following uniform statement in solidarity for colleagues to use and amend on our syllabi. It is in line with policies in place at a majority of our local peer institutions (including Smith College, Amherst College, Williams College, Wellesley College, and Trinity College). It is also in line with CDC recommendations.

**Covid Safety Syllabus / Moodle Statement:** Covid-19 remains a major public health crisis, and as such a threat to education. In line with peer institutions and CDC guidelines, to protect the particularly vulnerable among us, and to preserve our ability to meet in person, masking is the default for our classroom and lab instruction. Please wear N95, KN95, or KF94 masks. Your mask should fit properly over both your nose and mouth. If you need a mask, please let me know. After the first two weeks of instruction, and upon evidence of low community spread (as defined by the CDC), we may decide to make masking optional after an anonymous survey of the class. Please test yourself at any signs of Covid symptoms. If you have tested positive or have symptoms that you think are Covid related, please do not come to class. We will make arrangements for you.