



**Faculty Senate Resolution on COVID-19 Guidelines for Fall 2021  
August 9, 2021**

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control is recommending that areas of high transmission of COVID-19 resume mask-wearing indoors;

Whereas experts estimate the new Delta variant may be a thousand times more transmissible than the original COVID-19 virus;

Whereas the county data provided by the CDC places Brazos County in the highest risk category for transmission of COVID-19;

Whereas according to Texas Health Department data, the fully vaccinated rate for Brazos County is barely above 40 percent;

Whereas forecasters at the University of Texas at Austin COVID-19 Modeling Consortium concluded recently that most regions of the state are headed back to the capacity-busting hospitalization rates of January 2021 if people do not resume masking and social distancing;

Whereas Texas A&M University is prohibited from requiring masks or vaccinations for faculty, staff, and students who are in face-to-face classes and meetings on campus;

Whereas many classrooms and other facilities used for academic purposes such as advising do not permit proper social distancing for faculty, staff, students, and visitors;

Whereas Texas A&M University has built a rich academic history based on the study of scientific principles; and

Whereas the University is being constrained in its protective and preventive measures by forces outside its control; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the Faculty Senate of Texas A&M University:

1. urges that institutions of higher education be allowed to follow the science in their efforts to combat COVID-19 and its spread, and
2. believes all decisions involving the pandemic should be left to the individual institutions to make based on sound scientific evidence, local health conditions, and public health standards.