



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
Office of the Provost

**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: October 18, 2021  
TO: Faculty and Instructors of Record  
FROM: Ronald Hendrick, Provost  
RE: COVID-19 Update

Thank you for the steps you have taken to protect one another and reduce the spread of [COVID-19](#) on campus. Your efforts to increase masking and vaccination rates, temporarily postpone or move meetings online, and switch modalities in a limited number of courses have led to a [steady and dramatic decrease in case numbers and positivity rates](#).

Being [vaccinated](#) and wearing a mask indoors is our best defense against the virus and our best strategy to continue our traditional campus activities.

We plan to continue with face-to-face instruction through the remainder of the academic year, with course modalities and capacities as we've had this fall. Along with our medical colleagues, we will continue to monitor the number of active infections on campus and in our local community. Should conditions warrant, we anticipate taking a measured, localized approach, as we did this fall, leaving decisions to change modalities to the unit level whenever possible.

The University's COVID-19 Response Team remains in place to look at additional options should we see a dramatic increase in case numbers due to a post-holiday surge, a new variant, or other developments. As we have learned during this pandemic, we must balance the COVID-related health risks with those related to [mental](#) and social health and academic success. Recognizing the pandemic's impact on our faculty and staff, President Schovanec will soon be announcing the formation of a new committee to identify additional resources to address these needs.

Thank you for your input and commitment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronald L. Hendrick'.

Ronald Hendrick  
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs/Provost

