



# News Release

Contacts: Janelle Toman, Director of Communications  
[janelle.toman@sdbor.edu](mailto:janelle.toman@sdbor.edu)  
Tracy Mercer, Information Research Analyst  
[tracy.mercer@sdbor.edu](mailto:tracy.mercer@sdbor.edu)

Telephone: (605) 773-3455  
Fax: (605) 773-5320  
[www.sdbor.edu](http://www.sdbor.edu)

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## **Public Universities Mask Optional as of May 10**

PIERRE, S.D. – As South Dakota’s public universities close out spring semester this week and transition to summer operations, operational adjustments are underway. These activities coincide with the Board of Regents’ plans for a return to normal campus operations this fall.

At the recommendation of university presidents, a system-level protocol that required face coverings in all public indoor spaces on campus since last fall will end. Brian L. Maher, the regents’ executive director and CEO, said South Dakota’s six public universities become “mask optional” environments as of Monday, May 10.

“Our system has continuously responded to changing circumstances caused by the pandemic,” Maher said. “With vaccines now widely available, our institutions are eager to adjust as we look forward to the fall semester. Administrators will continue to monitor conditions, making the best decisions possible with information available to them.”

Fall semester planning is underway on all campuses. University news releases and websites will have up-to-date information on campus operations.