Dear visitors to the HCHC campus:

The proliferation of the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus - globally, regionally, and locally - has been dramatic, and even exponential. It is now the dominant strain nationwide. Thankfully, while Omicron has proven to be vastly more transmissible than prior strains, its impacts generally have been less severe. This is especially the case for vaccinated individuals who have received a booster.

That said, this is not the time to let our guard down as the COVID-19 pandemic remains a serious threat to public health. Keeping everyone as safe as possible during this ongoing pandemic, especially on a college campus, requires a high degree of vigilance and a collective commitment from everyone in our community to a variety of health and safety protocols. In making these determinations, we have consulted extensively with public health experts and officials at the federal, state, county, and local levels. We also remained mindful of the need to balance measures to guard against COVID-19 with a focus on mental health and wellbeing and optimization of learning outcomes.

All visitors to our campus are required to adhere to the following guidelines:

- **Proof of completed COVID-19 vaccination series and Booster:**
  All visitors to our campus who are [eligible per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance](https://www.cdc.gov), obtain a COVID-19 booster prior to visiting. Medical exemptions are accepted. Proof of vaccination or medical exemption, as well as a recent COVID-19 test, no longer than 48hrs prior to arrival, will need to be displayed to the tour/event coordinator upon arrival. Failure to do so will prevent the visitor from participating in any scheduled activities.

- **Mandatory and Enhanced Masking Requirements:**
  Mask wearing continues to be one of the most effective ways to reduce transmission of COVID-19. For this reason, and pursuant to Massachusetts regulations, all visitors to the
HCHC are required to wear masks at all times while indoors. Where possible, individuals are encouraged to double mask (we recommend a surgical mask covered with a cloth mask), wear a KN-95 mask, or if appropriate, an N95 respirator. Single-layer cloth masks are not as effective at preventing transmission and should be avoided.

*Masks may only be removed in the following circumstances:*

- While eating or drinking and seated. If eating with others, put your mask back on immediately when done eating, and maintain physical distance while socializing at the table, if possible.
- Events and special programs where outside guests may be present, such as performances, lectures and OSL events, will operate at 50% capacity. Physical distancing may be required.
- No food or drink may be served at campus events.
- *Visitors will not be permitted in the Halki, Dendrinos, or the Dormitory (with the exception of brief forms of approved assistance during move-in that will be tracked by the RD). This includes guests in married housing.*
- **Chapel guidelines:**
  The chapel will follow the campus wide policy, with the exception of permitting guests for services. ALL attendees, within the HCHC community and outside, are expected to follow mask guidelines, regardless of vaccination status. Failure to comply will result in not being permitted to participate in future services. We understand that the chapel is a house of God, however, it is the only GOA chapel or church that resides on a college/graduate school campus. Only age permissions and medical necessity apply to not being masked. Individuals may unmask ONLY for the receiving of the Holy Eucharist. Please do not keep your mask off to consume the antidoro in a relaxed fashion. Additionally, except for the presiding clergy, all serving i.e altar groups and chanters, must be masked throughout the service. The chant stand/psaltirion is a high-risk region, and masks must cover one’s nose and mouth in accordance with CDC guidelines.

*Omicron is a fast-moving situation, and there is some evidence globally that cases eventually decline after initial spikes. We are eager to return to a greater degree of normalcy and will continue to watch caseloads and patterns closely. When the situation allows, we will ease these restrictions to the greatest degree possible. We look forward to welcoming you to campus for your visit.*