

## Memorandum from the Office of the President

As an institution, and as leaders of the institution we look to prophets, seers, and revelators for guidance. We love them. We trust them. And we are committed to following them. In August the First Presidency issued the following statement to Church members around the world:

*Dear Brothers and Sisters:*

*We find ourselves fighting a war against the ravages of COVID-19 and its variants, an unrelenting pandemic. We want to do all we can to limit the spread of these viruses. We know that protection from the diseases they cause can only be achieved by immunizing a very high percentage of the population.*

*To limit exposure to these viruses, we urge the use of face masks in public meetings whenever social distancing is not possible. To provide personal protection from such severe infections, we urge individuals to be vaccinated. Available vaccines have proven to be both safe and effective.*

*We can win this war if everyone will follow the wise and thoughtful recommendations of medical experts and government leaders. Please know of our sincere love and great concern for all of God's children.*

I am sure you are also aware that, with a desire to keep temples open, the First Presidency has directed that temple patrons should wear face masks at all times while in the temple. They note these safety protocols are temporary, based on COVID-19 conditions, and will be rescinded as soon as circumstances permit. They again concluded this direction with a plea that members be vaccinated to protect themselves and others.

In the spirit of this guidance, and with a desire to keep our campus open, we determined that we would require all Ensign College students, faculty, staff, and visitors to wear face masks everywhere on campus as the semester began. We have held several on-site vaccination clinics. We have not rescinded this policy. As with the temple face mask requirement, we too hope this protocol is temporary and can be rescinded as COVID-19 conditions improve. In the meantime, please be diligent and obedient in wearing face coverings while on campus. They should only be removed when you are eating or drinking, or when you can safely practice responsible social distancing.

We love you. We pray for your safety and protection. And we pray for an end to this disease that has plagued so many in so many different and challenging ways.

~President Bruce C. Kusch