



# BENTLEY UNIVERSITY

September 20, 2021

Dear Members of Academic Affairs,

I hope you all enjoyed the beautiful weather this weekend, and that you were able to disconnect for a bit.

I'd like to once again thank you for your flexibility and understanding as we move through the first few weeks of the fall semester. After speaking with many of you, I have heard your concerns about some of our policies and protocols. And, from the overwhelming majority, I have heard how grateful you are to be back on campus and interacting with students and colleagues face-to-face. I continue to work with the academic leadership team, our emergency manager, and our "Return to Campus" planning groups to address your questions and comments. As I've said before, your feedback is invaluable as we examine and refine our practices.

I'd also like to remind all of us that, shortly before the start of the fall semester, we announced that face coverings are required in all administrative and academic buildings on Bentley's campus. Of course, this requirement holds true while our students and faculty are in the classroom. I recognize that this has been a point of frustration for many, as we've seen some of our students and colleagues not wear a face covering correctly – or at all – as they move through hallways, stairwells, and common areas.

I ask that all of us work together to keep our campus safe by role modeling [proper face covering etiquette](#), and by gently reminding members of our community of the face covering requirement. I understand how uncomfortable it may feel to address this in the moment, and I hope all of us can find kind but direct ways to tell others to "mask up." This is truly a collective effort, and I appreciate the work from each of us to maintain the health of our community.

Much thanks,

**Donna Maria Blencero, PhD**

*Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers