



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

October 01, 2020

*Blue Mountain College will continue to expect students, faculty, and staff to wear personal protective equipment (PPEs) that include face masks even though Mississippi's statewide mask mandate expired yesterday.*

We are mid-way through the semester and want everyone to stay healthy so we can finish strong by November 24<sup>th</sup>. The wearing of PPEs has proven to be an effective tool in protecting individuals from exposure to the coronavirus. Let's stay the course and stay well.

Gov. Tate Reeves announced yesterday (9.30.20) that the state's mask mandate would not be extended. However, the governor stated, "I want to be clear: I still believe that masks work. I think the facts and the data in our state and across this country bear that out. I still plan to wear one, and I expect that most people in our state will still wear them often. It is the smart, it is the prudent and it is the wise thing to do. But there is a difference between something being wise and something being a government mandate."

Dr. Thomas Dobbs, the state's top health expert, at the Wednesday press conference did not directly address whether he thought Reeves' decision to end the mask mandate was the correct decision. He still encouraged people to wear masks, but said he understands people's beliefs about personal liberties.

A new [executive order \(1525\)](#) has been issued and is set to expire Wednesday, November 11 at 5:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara C. McMillin".

Barbara C. McMillin  
President