

# Future COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies

BOV Executive Committee  
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WILLIAM & MARY

CHARTERED 1693

# W&M Phased Decision-Making

## Focus on Summer and Fall

- June 1: Selected reopening to the public
- July 1: Remote workers begin to return to campus
- Aug 1: Students begin return for Fall semester

## Mitigation Strategies: New Data and Science

- Physical distancing
- Masks
- Vaccines



# Physical Distancing Guidance Differs



- World Health Organization (1m)
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- Virginia Department of Education



- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (to the extent possible)
- Virginia Department of Health

To date, we lack studies directly comparing the impact of  $\geq 3$  ft. versus  $\geq 6$  ft. physical distancing policies in school settings

# Research: Masks are Most Effective

- Lower physical distancing requirements can be adopted in school settings with masking mandates without negatively affecting student or staff safety



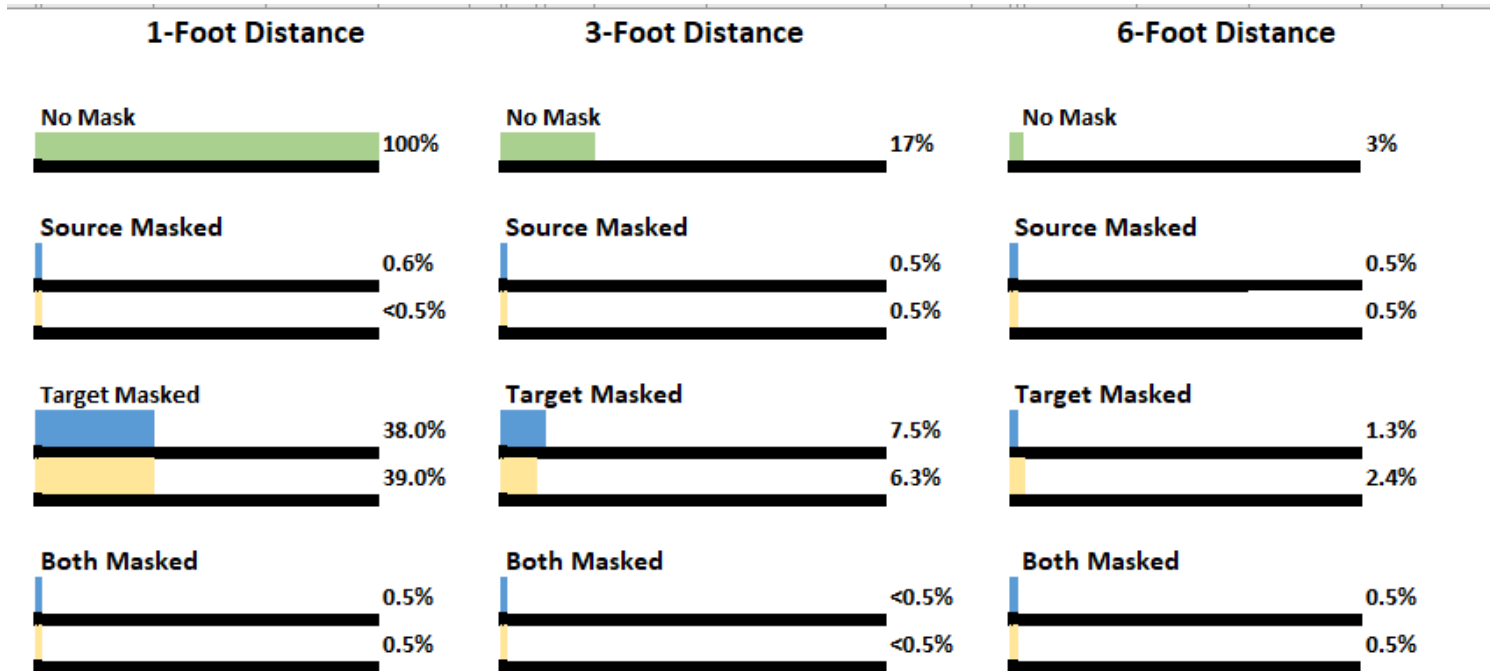
Polly van den Berg, Elissa M Schechter-Perkins, Rebecca S Jack, Isabella Epshtein, Richard Nelson, Emily Oster, Westyn Branch-Elliman, Effectiveness of 3 Versus 6 ft of Physical Distancing for Controlling Spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 Among Primary and Secondary Students and Staff: A Retrospective, Statewide Cohort Study, *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, 2021;, ciab230, <https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciab230>

# W&M Created a Culture of Masking

- Mask compliance on campus is high
- 97% of our sample wore a mask
  - 93% worn correctly
- MASCUP partnership with the CDC monitored adherence on campus
- 10 weeks of data collection at 21 campus locations resulting in an avg. of 500 observations / week



# Exposure Risk <0.5% with Masking



# Added Intervention: Vaccines

- The mRNA is best described as sending a message to our cells on how to make a specific protein
  - The message instructs our cells to detect COVID-19 as foreign
  - Prompts an immune response to reduce severity of illness
- Limited potential risk given similarities to autoimmune responses
  - No autoimmune effect has been detected so far
  - Anecdotal information that these vaccines may ameliorate symptoms of autoimmune disease



# COVID-19 Vaccines Really Work

Efficacy for preventing disease and infection

	Disease Prevention	Infection Prevention	Disease Prevention	Infection Prevention
	(D614G & B.1.1.7)		(B.1.351 & P.1)	
Pfizer/BioNTech	91%	86%	69%	45%
Moderna	94%	85%	72%	47%
J&J	72%	72%	64%	42%

B.1.1.7 commonly referred to as UK variant

B.1351 commonly referred to as South African variant

P.1. commonly referred to as Brazilian variant

Source: [COVID-19 vaccine efficacy summary | Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation \(healthdata.org\)](#)

\*Gold boxes indicate modeled estimates



# W&M Student Survey

- 67% response rate among 8,628 students
- 85% of respondents w/ at least 1 dose
- ***Of 5,781 responding:***
  - 47% or 2,728 fully vaccinated
  - 38% or 2,190 with one dose
  - 12% or 710 plan to be vaccinated
  - <3% or 153 indicate no plans of being vaccinated
- 2,847 students have not responded

# W&M Employee Survey

- 76% response rate from 2,558 employees
- >90% of respondents w/ at least 1 dose
- ***Of 1,949 responding:***
  - 70.3% or 1,371 fully vaccinated
  - 22.0% or 430 have received 1 dose
  - 4.2% is planning to get vaccinated
  - 3.4% do not plan to be vaccinated
- 608 employees have not responded

# Fall Planning

- Masking continues to be an important mitigation strategy, based on data and science
- W&M community self-reports high vaccine uptake and growing
- Plan to return to normal classroom occupancy

## **Public Health Advisory Team**

- David Dafashy, MD
- Carrie Dolan, PhD
- Iyabo Obasanjo, PhD
- Corinne Picataggi, MS
- Virginia Wells, MD
- Cortney Will
- Amy Sebring, MPP

# Phased Decision-Making Continues

## **Students & Employees**

- Mandated testing anticipated through fall for unvaccinated or symptomatic persons
- Mandated masks until widespread vaccination in the population
- Policies and practices evolve to reflect local conditions, science, state and national guidance
- Standard pre-pandemic health and safety requirements