



FACE COVERING POLICY

Policy:

In accordance with state and CDC recommendations as well as best practices, all faculty, staff, students and visitors must wear a face covering in all public spaces, including classrooms and offices. Face coverings are not required in the following situations:

- When fully vaccinated university members are meeting with other fully vaccinated university members.
- When eating; however, physical distancing practices must be observed.
- When alone in a university vehicle that is not shared.
- While in your assigned university apartment or room.
- Outdoors when physical distancing is practiced.
- If the individual has received an exemption.

For the purposes of this policy, a face covering is a material that covers the nose and mouth and is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears, or is wrapped around the lower face. It can be made of a variety of materials, including cotton, silk, or linen, and ideally has two or more layers. Face coverings may be factory-made, homemade, or improvised from household items such as scarfs, bandanas, and t-shirts.

For the purposes of this policy, physical distancing is defined as maintaining a six-foot distance between other people in all directions.

BACKGROUND:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the use of face coverings which help to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. A face covering can reduce the trajectory of expelled respiratory droplets, which pose risk to those around you. When you wear a face covering, you demonstrate care about the health and safety of those in our campus community.

Masking will serve to:

- Act as a barrier to prevent touching of one's face in the event one's hands have become contaminated.
- Protect others from someone who is pre-symptomatic or has an asymptomatic COVID-19 infection.
- Limit the risk of the wearer exposing others to undetected illnesses or infections, including COVID-19.

To succeed at reopening our university fully, we all need to respect and practice the recommended infection control procedures. Masking is just one component of the University's overall plan to reopen the University which includes:

- Strict adherence to the use of face coverings or masks.
- Meticulous adherence to hand hygiene (including before and after removing masks).
- Wearing a face covering properly so that it covers the nose and mouth.
- Avoiding touching the outside of masks to reduce the risk of contamination and self-inoculation.
- Avoiding travel to high-risk destinations.
- Self-monitoring for symptoms.
- Early isolation and testing if you have symptoms.

Procedure:

1. All faculty, staff and students will be supplied with one washable cloth-type face covering for their use.
2. Departments and units should obtain a supply of face coverings or masks from central supply for visitors and guests.
3. Face coverings or masks are to be worn in all public areas in campus buildings including hallways and bathrooms where you could run into other faculty, staff, or students.
4. Face coverings or masks are to be worn in shared university vehicles regardless of the number of passengers.
5. Face masks are required in university housing public spaces but not in suites, rooms, or apartments.

Accommodations:

Faculty, staff, or students may request an accommodation from the face mask policy by submitting an ADA accommodation request through Faculty Affairs, Human Resources or the Disability Resource Center, respectively. Submission of a request for accommodations is not a guarantee that the University will be able to provide an accommodation. Under ADA the University must provide reasonable accommodation, and, given the nature of the current public health emergency, no reasonable accommodation may be available.

Compliance:

Any employee, student or visitor who fails to abide by these guidelines may be asked or directed to leave the campus space. Employees and students who are directed to leave a campus space for failure to comply with these guidelines may be subject to disciplinary action.

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