

Health and Safety Directive: Face Coverings

Effective Date: July 24, 2020

A. Requirements:

1. All students, faculty, staff, contract workers, and visitors are required to wear face coverings at all times while on University Property, whether indoors or outdoors, with the following exceptions:
 - a. Students who are in their own residence hall rooms;
 - b. Faculty and staff who are alone in their private offices;
 - c. Children aged two years and younger;
 - d. Anyone who is unable to wear a face covering due to a medical condition or disability, has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance;
 - e. Anyone who is deaf or hard of hearing and needs to read the lips of a speaker;
 - f. Anyone who is wearing equipment required for a job and wearing that equipment while wearing a face covering would endanger public safety;
 - g. Anyone who is giving a speech for broadcast or an audience, provided no one is within six feet of the speaker;
 - h. Anyone who has been lawfully asked to remove the mask for facial recognition purposes; and
 - i. Anyone while eating, so long as social distancing standards can be maintained as required under a separate Directive; however, no eating will be permitted in classrooms during designated class periods.
2. Disposable face coverings may only be worn for one day and then must be placed in the trash. Reusable face coverings must be cleaned between uses and may not be worn for two consecutive days.

B. Obtaining and Managing Face Coverings:

1. If any student, faculty or staff member needs assistance obtaining appropriate face

coverings, the university will provide them upon request. Faculty and staff may submit requests to Employee Relations by emailing employeerelations@american.edu. Students may submit requests to the Office of the Dean of Students by emailing dos@american.edu.

2. In addition to ensuring that all employees have access to standard face coverings who need them, the university will provide enhanced Personal Protective Equipment to certain employees whose job function limits their ability to maintain social distancing requirements. Employees may contact their supervisors with any questions.
3. Face coverings include cloth face coverings, such as homemade cloth masks, store-bought fabric masks, bandanas or other cloth wrapped around the head that covers the mouth and nose, as well as medical or surgical masks.
4. Faculty, students and staff are expected to follow best practices when using face masks and other coverings, including:
 - a. Washing hands or using hand sanitizer before and after handling a face covering;
 - b. Ensuring that the face-covering fits over the nose and under the chin; and
 - c. Avoiding touching the front of the face covering/disposable mask.
5. For more details regarding cloth face coverings, including how to create, wear and care for home-made face coverings, visit the CDC website <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>.

C. Enforcement

1. Failure to comply with this Health and Safety Directive constitutes misconduct that is actionable under the Student Conduct Code, the Staff Disciplinary Policy, and the Faculty Manual. Repeated violations by students may result in disciplinary action, up to and including removal from University housing, as well as suspension or dismissal from the University. Repeated violations by employees may result in disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or termination. Any individual on University Property who fails to follow this Directive may be restricted from the premises.