

Health and Safety Directive: Face Coverings

Effective Date: July 31, 2021

A. Requirements:

1. All students, faculty, staff, contract workers, and visitors, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated against COVID-19, are required to wear face coverings while indoors on University Property, 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 who are less than two years old;
 - d. Anyone who is unable to wear a face covering due to a bona fide medical condition or disability, has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or physically unable to remove the mask without assistance, faculty, students and staff who wish to be granted an exemption under this section must request an accommodation;
 - e. Anyone who is speaking to a person who 1) is deaf or hard of hearing and 2) needs to read the lips of the speaker;
 - f. Anyone who is wearing equipment required for a job and wearing that equipment precludes the wearing of a mask or wearing a mask 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;
 - i. Anyone while eating or drinking; however, no eating will be permitted in classrooms during designated class periods;
 - j. Anyone who is in the water at the pool in the Reeves Aquatic Center; and
 - k. Anyone receiving services requiring access to the face, mouth or head, including without limitation, dental care, shaving, and facial treatments.

2. All students, faculty, staff, contract workers, and visitors, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated against COVID-19, are required to wear face coverings while outdoors on University Property in groups of 25 people or more.
3. 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.
4. The university reserves the right to designate any location or activity as requiring face coverings under certain circumstances or as conditions change.

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 at the Mary Graydon Center Information Desk. For more information, including hours of operation, contact 202-885-1000.
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 at its discretion and in accordance with best practices as set forth by the Center for Disease Control and the DC Department of Health. Employees may contact their supervisors with any questions.
3. Face coverings include cloth face coverings, such as homemade cloth masks or purchased fabric masks; medical masks; and surgical masks. Masks must cover the mouth and nose. To qualify as a mask, a gaiter must have at least two layers and also must completely cover the mouth and nose. Plastic face shields may supplement masks but do not replace the need for 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 Personnel Manual, 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.