



SAFETY GUIDE

Environmental Health & Safety

August 2020

Face Coverings and Masks for COVID-19

In accordance with our University [P626: COVID-19 Pandemic Health & Safety Policy](#) face coverings must be worn at all times in all buildings and when using campus transit.

This requirement helps us to protect one another - especially in instances where it is not possible to maintain social distancing (i.e.: in bathrooms, stairwells, elevators, buses, etc.).

When outdoors, individuals should maintain a distance of at least six feet from other individuals and use a facial covering when social distancing is not possible.

Limited exemptions for wearing a mask are as follows:

- Medical Reasons - employees who are unable to wear facial coverings due to a medical or other health condition should consult with the Office of Equity and Access (OEA). Students should contact the Student Accessibility Support Center (SASC).
- Eating/Drinking - you do not have to wear a facial covering when actively eating or drinking while seated in areas with appropriate social distancing.
- Individual Space - facial coverings can only be removed when alone in a cubicle, office, or other designated areas when following social distancing (includes residence hall rooms/apartments).
- Research Laboratory Space - facial coverings can be removed in controlled laboratory settings provided that the lab has an approved operating plan and all laboratory personnel comply with the plan's safeguards, including social distancing. Facial coverings must be worn when lab personnel cannot maintain a separation of 6 feet or when a procedure requires the use of a particular type of mask or other personal protective equipment (PPE).

Face Covering Types and Considerations

Facial Covering (mask): means a cloth/fabric material of multiple layers that snugly covers a person's nose and mouth.

Other masks, such as surgical-style masks, are also acceptable facial coverings.

Face shields or other coverings that do not fit snugly against the face do not meet the definition of a facial covering.

Masks with exhalation valves or vents allow air to be exhaled through the opening are not recommended. They can result in expelled respiratory droplets to reach others and potentially spread the COVID-19 virus.



Wear your Mask Correctly



- Wash your hands before putting on your mask
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin, so that it fits snugly against the sides of your face
- Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth when removing and wash hands immediately after removing.

Maintain Social Distancing



Social Distancing: 6 feet of distance must be maintained between individuals at all times, even when wearing a mask. However, in rare instances when social distancing cannot be maintained, interactions should be limited to the shortest time possible (15 minutes or less).

Information Links:

[CDC - Use of Masks to Help Slow the Spread](#)

[SBU - Coming Back Safe and Strong](#)

[NYS - Information on Novel Coronavirus](#)