

Guidance on the Use of Face Coverings On-Campus in Non-Clinical Buildings

9/1/2020

University policy regarding the use of face coverings is that all individuals are required to follow state and local guidelines. State guidelines are that face coverings (e.g. a covering with two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric) should be worn in public settings when physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain.

Health and safety guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Therefore, individuals on campus must take personal responsibility to be informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support the mission of the university.

It is important to recognize that the primary purpose of wearing a face covering is to prevent the spread of the disease by those with the virus – they are not necessarily to protect you, but those around you and the environment.

The following guidelines are meant to minimize ambiguity and promote consistency across campus in complying with face covering expectations:

- Face coverings (coverings with two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric) are required in all common areas in campus buildings such as hallways, restrooms, lounge areas, classrooms, conference rooms, etc.
- Face coverings must cover both the nose and the mouth. Plastic face shields do not meet this requirement but may be worn in conjunction with a cloth mask.
- Masks with exhalation valves or vents do not meet the face covering requirement and should not be worn.
- Face coverings should be changed or laundered routinely.
- Face coverings are not required in office areas occupied by a single individual.
- Individuals working in an open office environment (e.g. cubicles) where multiple employees may be in proximity to one another for extended periods of time are required to wear face coverings while others are present.
- Face coverings are not required outside buildings if physical distancing is maintained (6 ft).
- While working with chemical, biological, or radioactive hazards or in animal holding areas, disposable surgical face masks are *preferred*. These should be disposed whenever they become contaminated, wet, soiled, or at the end of each work day. If reusable face



coverings are used in these areas, they should be dedicated to lab use only and laundered daily.

- Extra care must be taken to not touch face coverings while working in a lab to prevent contamination of the covering.
- For work in Biosafety Level 2 or higher laboratories, the face mask must not be removed from the laboratory and must be discarded with other disposable PPE as biohazardous waste.
- Face coverings are not expected in break room areas while eating, however, break periods should be rotated to minimize the number of people present in the break room area, physical distancing of 6 feet must be maintained, and all users should clean and sanitize the break room area after each use. Food and drink are not allowed in any University lab.
- In certain cases, use of a face covering is not advised, such as in the case of sufferers of extreme claustrophobia or people with breathing difficulties. These cases should be addressed on a case-by-case basis with the individual's supervisor and if necessary, with the Office of Equal Opportunity. Should the use of a face covering not be advised, individuals must maintain proper physical distancing of 6 feet or more at all times and follow all CDC guidelines.
- All personnel are required to complete the "Returning to Campus Safely" training that is available in Bridge at utah.bridgeapp.com/learner/courses/ff2bed4e/enroll.