

### **6.31.05 COVID-19 Pandemic Face Covering Policy**

A. **Policy Statement.** This policy is issued to contribute to the health and safety of the University community during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and to align with federal and state laws and regulations, the governor’s executive orders, and applicable guidance from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. This policy may be revised to align with federal, state, and local guidance as the public health response evolves.

B. **Applicability.** This policy applies to all persons (such as University employees, students, volunteers, and visitors) at all campus locations, and during all University sponsored events and activities.

C. **Scope.** This policy sets the minimum standards for the use of general-purpose face coverings for controlling the spread of COVID-19 in public settings. Use of face masks in specialized professional or educational settings or to address hazards other than the virus that causes COVID-19 is outside the scope of this policy.

D. **Definitions.**

1. “Face covering” means a cloth, paper, or disposable face covering that covers the nose and the mouth.

2. “Face shield” means a clear plastic shield that covers the forehead, extends below the chin, and wraps around the sides of the face.

3. “Face mask” means a medical grade mask, N95 mask, or other specialized mask for use in specific professional settings or to protect from hazards other than the virus that causes COVID-19.

E. **Categories of Face Coverings.**

1. **Impermissible Face Coverings.** Face shields, neck gaiters, and face coverings with exhalation valves are not permissible face coverings (except when a specific accommodation or exception has been granted by a person authorized to make such decisions under the President’s Delegation of Authority to the Pandemic Response Officer and Others).

2. **Permissible Face Coverings.**

a. **Fit.** To be permissible, a face covering must completely cover the wearer’s nose and mouth, wrap around the chin, and fit snugly against the sides of the wearer’s face without gaps.

b. **Construction.** Disposable three-ply paper face coverings and reusable face coverings

made of two or more layers of washable, breathable cloth are acceptable.

3. Face Mask in Lieu of Face Covering. In settings where use of a face covering is required, individuals may wear a face mask instead of a face covering. Face masks shall be used instead of face coverings when a person in authority determines that use of face masks is necessary for a specific professional or educational setting, consistent with the President's Delegation of Authority to the Pandemic Response Officer and Others.

F. Proper Wearing, Cleaning, and Disposal. Persons should wash their hands before putting on their face covering. Once placed upon the wearer's face, a face covering should be treated as if it is a contaminated surface. Persons should avoid touching the face covering and should wash their hands after doing so. The face covering should be removed by handling the straps, not the fabric or paper itself. Reusable cloth face coverings shall be washed after each day's wearing. Disposable face coverings shall be disposed of at the conclusion of each day's use.

#### G. Use of Face Coverings in Various Settings

1. The University requires all persons to use face coverings in enclosed public and common areas, except as described in subsections 3-6, below.

2. Examples of settings that require the use of face coverings include:

- a. Common areas within University-owned and -leased buildings (such as, hallways, doorways, elevators, stairwells, etc.);
- b. In-person classroom settings;
- c. Shared lab spaces, including computer labs;
- d. The bookstore, library, dining areas (except as described below) and similar settings;  
and
- e. University owned, rented, or leased vehicles with more than one occupant.

3. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the use of face coverings is prohibited in the following circumstances:

- a. By an individual under the age of two;
- b. By an individual who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the covering without assistance;
- c. In other settings as determined by persons authorized under the President's

Delegation of Authority to the Pandemic Response Officer and Others. Examples of settings in which an exemption might be granted include:

1. Settings where the use of a face covering places the wearer at risk of heat related illness,
  2. Settings where a face covering may become saturated or otherwise interfere with proper respiration,
  3. Settings where a face covering might get caught in machinery, or
  4. As an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act.
4. Use of face coverings is optional:
- a. When working alone in a private individual workspace ;
  - b. When the sole occupant of a vehicle owned, rented, or leased by the University;
  - c. When seated in a group dining setting where physical distancing standards have been maintained; and
  - d. When outdoors.
5. For fully vaccinated persons participating in small meetings, as follows.
- a. When eight or fewer persons are in an enclosed space (such as an office or meeting room), with all door(s) closed, and each person presents proof of vaccination status, those persons may agree to remove their face coverings and are not required to observe physical distancing.
  - b. If any person present does not present proof of vaccination status, all persons present must continue using face coverings and complying with physical distancing standards.
  - c. If, after persons have presented proof of vaccination status and have removed their face covering any person subsequently enters the enclosed space who has not presented proof of vaccination status, all persons present must resume using face coverings and complying with physical distancing standards until the newcomer either leaves or presents proof of vaccination status to a supervisor or manager.
  - d. "Proof of vaccination status" means documentation provided by a tribal, federal, state, or local government, or a health care provider, that includes an individual's name, date of birth, type of COVID-19 vaccination given, date or dates given, depending on whether it is a

one-dose or two-dose vaccine, and the name/location of the health care provider or site where the vaccine was administered. Documentation may include, but is not limited to, COVID-19 vaccination record card, or a copy or digital picture of the vaccination record card.

e. This exception is not applicable to instructional activities.

#### H. Enforcement

1. The COVID-19 pandemic threatens the lives, health, and prosperity of people within the University community and of people in contact with members of our community. It also threatens our very ability to live and work together as a community and a place of learning. Compliance with this policy is essential to allowing in-person instruction and other on campus activities to take place safely.

2. Persons who observe apparent violations of this policy should promptly direct their concerns to a person of authority in the area where the apparently non-compliant conduct is occurring. Such persons include managers of public spaces, classroom instructors, direct supervisors, student affairs staff and public safety officers. As always, employee or student conduct which is bullying, harassing, or otherwise violates law or university policy is subject to discipline.

3. Official responses to initial violations of this policy shall focus on education. Persons who have neglected to bring a required face covering (or who were unaware of the requirement to have one) will be provided with one by the University or will be required to relocate to a place where a face covering is not required by this policy.

4. Persons who engage in knowing, willful, or repeated, violation of this policy are subject to discipline (in the case of employees or students) or exclusion from campus (in the case of visitors).

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#### Approval History:

1. Adopted on an interim basis by the President on 07-02-2020.
2. Revision approved on an interim basis by the President on 07-14-2020.
3. Revision approved on an interim basis by the President on 09-02-2020.

4. Revision approved by the President on 12-16-2020.
  - a. University Council recommended approval on 12-08-2020.
  - b. President's Cabinet recommended approval on 12-15-2020.
  
5. Revision approved on an interim basis by the President on 05-24-2021.